



Islamabad POST

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Turkish Foreign Minister in Pak for trilateral meeting

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Anti-govt movement to continue

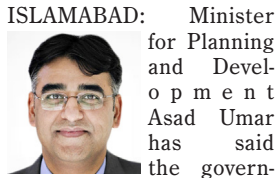
DNA



QUETTA: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said that despite difficulties, our struggle to remove the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government will continue. Talking to media in Quetta, Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that although claims were made that terrorism has been eradicated, the country is still facing terrorist incidents, such as the killings in Machh. "Why was it claimed that terrorism has ended when target killings are occurring on a daily basis", he asked. Talking about his movement, Fazlur Rehman said that we are gaining traction throughout the country.

Govt taking decisions to procure vaccine

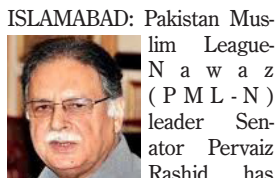
DNA



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar has said the government is promptly taking decisions to procure the Anti Covid vaccine. Briefing the media persons in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said talks are being held with a Chinese company for the procurement of the vaccine. The Minister said initially the vaccine will be administered to the health-care staff which will be followed by other people.

Taxpayers' money wasted for revenge

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Senator Pervaiz Rashid has said that the tax money of poor Pakistanis has been sacrificed for political revenge, who will take account of it. If not today, then tomorrow it will be taken into account. Senator Pervaiz Rashid said this while addressing the Senate session. He said that due to the stupidity of former President Pervez Musharraf and baseless allegations of Imran Khan, Pak had to pay a fine of Rs7b to the British company.



ISLAMABAD: Ustad Karim Khalili, Leader of Hezb-e-Wahdat-e-Islami, Afghanistan calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan. – DNA

Pak, Turkey and Azerbaijan to hold trilateral meeting

The 1st round of Trilateral Meeting was held in Baku in Nov 2017



ABID RAZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Tuesday that Pakistan, Turkey, and Azerbaijan's foreign ministers are set to hold the second trilateral meeting on 13 January in Islamabad. Per the statement issued, the first round of the trilateral meeting was held in Baku in November 2017. For

the upcoming meeting, the three sides will exchange views on several pressing matters and how to achieve development targets. The three countries are set to discuss "global and regional issues, including new and emerging threats to regional peace and security, address challenges faced by the COVID-19 pandemic, environment, and climate change and to achieve economic development targets."

The foreign ministers would also explore possibilities of deepening trilateral cooperation in all areas of common interest, including peace and security, trade and investment, science and technology, education, and cultural cooperation. It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan, Azerbaijan, and Turkey enjoy close fraternal relations based on common faith, values, culture, and history – deeply embedded in mutual trust and understanding. Meanwhile, Azerbaijan FM Jeyhun Bayramov will arrive in Islamabad for a two-day visit on Jan 13, according to Foreign Office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri. The visit holds importance as it is the first since 2010 by an Azeri foreign minister. Bayramov is set to meet Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Arif Alvi during his visit. Moreover, Turkish FM Mevlut Cavusoglu due to pay a visit to Pakistan today, according to the Foreign Office. The visit of the Turkish official to Pakistan will help deepen bilateral ties and enhance cooperation in multiple areas, the Foreign Office added.

Peace in Afghanistan means peace in Pakistan: COAS

Mohammad Karim Khalili, Chairman Hizb-e-Wahadat Islami Afghanistan called on COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa



NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Mohammad Karim Khalili, Chairman Hizb-e-Wahadat Islami Afghanistan & former Chairman Afghan High Peace Council called on General Qamar

Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ. Matters of mutual interest, peace and stability in the region, connectivity and current developments in Afghan Peace Process were discussed during the meeting. COAS said that "Peace in Afghanistan means Peace in Pakistan", a stable and prosperous Afghanistan at peace with itself and its neighbours is in Pakistan's national interest. The Visiting dignitary appreciated the positive role played by Pakistan and the COAS vision on future of Pak-Afghan relations.

Pakistan exports to Indonesia surged by 151 %

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood has said exports to the USA surged by 27.2%, the UK 47%, Germany 37.6%, Netherlands 37.5%, and to Indonesia by 151.6%. He said this during his latest interview. The PM adviser said the massive increase to Indonesia is the result of a decision taken by the Indonesian government, which unilaterally facilitated Pakistan and extended reduction in duty on 20 items. "Indonesia has been fair to Pakistan."

Pak earnestly wants peace in Afghanistan

Prime Minister conveys Pakistan's commitment to strengthen the bilateral relationship with Afghanistan

ANSAR BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ustad Karim Khalili, Leader of the Hezb-e-Wahdat-e-Islami Afghanistan, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday. The exchange of views covered progress in the Afghan peace process and bilateral relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Prime Minister conveyed Pakistan's commitment to strengthen the bilateral relationship with Afghanistan, including trade and economic ties and people-to-people linkages. The Prime Minister underscored his longstanding position that there was no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan and that a negotiated political settlement was the only way forward. Noting that the Afghan people had suffered gravely due to prolonged conflict in the country, the Prime Minister stressed that after the Afghan people, Pakistan was most desirous of peace and stability in Afghanistan. Reiterating Pakistan's consistent support to the Afghan peace process, the Prime Minister underscored that the Intra-Afghan Negotiations process must be pursued with perseverance and patience for an inclusive and broad-based solution.

FM assures support for Afghan peace

NAVEED MIRAJ / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to continue its efforts for peace and stability in Afghanistan. He was talking to an Afghan delegation led by Chairman of Hizb-e-Wahdat-e-Islami Muhammad Karim Khalili in Islamabad on Tuesday. The Foreign Minister expressed satisfaction over the progress in intra Afghan dialogue saying it provides a unique opportunity to the Afghan leadership which must be seized for peace in Afghanistan. Shah Mahmood Qureshi regretted that India is acting as a spoiler in Afghanistan and we have presented irrefutable evidence in this regard before the world community. Referring to historic relations, the Foreign Minister said we are taking concrete steps for promotion of bilateral relations between the two countries.

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Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad presenting a souvenir to Ambassador of Japan, Kuninori Matsuda. – DNA

Senior Indian diplomat summoned

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: A senior Indian diplomat was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today to register Pakistan's strong protest over ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC) on 11th January 2021, resulting in serious injuries to a 10 year old boy. Due to indiscriminate and

unprovoked firing by the Indian occupation forces in Nezapir Sectors of the LoC on 11th January 2021, 10 year old Muhammad Zaheer s/o Muhammad Rafique, residents of Mohri village, sustained serious injuries. The Indian occupation forces along the LoC and the WB have been continuously targeting civilian populated areas with artillery fire, heavy-caliber mortars and automatic weapons.

FBI warns of armed protests on Jan 20

WASHINGTON: An internal FBI News Bulletin has revealed that armed protests are being planned at all 50 state capitols and at the US Capitol which is expected to start this week and run through at least Inauguration Day. According to a news report published in ABC News, the FBI has also received information in recent days on a group calling for "storming" state, local, and federal government courthouses and administrative buildings in the event President Donald Trump is removed from office prior to Inauguration Day. Regardless of whether the state-certified electoral votes for Biden or Trump, the group is chalking out plans to "storm" government offices in every state the day President-elect Joe Biden will be inaugurated. "The FBI received information about an identified armed group intending to travel to Washington, DC on 16 January," the bulletin read. "They have warned that if Congress attempts to remove POTUS via the 25th Amendment, a huge uprising will occur." Keeping all guards alert, federal law enforcement officials have advised police agencies to increase their security posture at statehouses around the country. – APP

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Committee to probe Broadsheet scandal: Shibli

Syed Shibli Faraz said the PTI government is vigorously working on institutional reforms and the cabinet decided to make these reforms public soon

RANA FARRUKH / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The cabinet has decided to reveal facts to expose individuals involved money laundering and making fun of country's institutions in light of the findings of UK Law firm Broadsheet. Briefing media in Islamabad on Tuesday about decisions taken by the cabinet, the Minister for Information and Broadcasting Syed Shibli Faraz said the cabinet has formed an inter-ministerial committee, which will reveal the individuals, mentioned in the Broadsheet scandal. He said former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and others influenced that inquiry to save their own skin and now the

government under Prime Minister Imran Khan has decided to make those names public, after thorough scrutiny of the available material. The Minister said the cabinet also approved a bill to enhance powers of the auditor general of Pakistan to ensure transparency. He said automation and digitization are being introduced in the working of the office of auditor general of Pakistan. He said issuance of cheques will be automated to prevent any kind of delay and fraud. Syed Shibli Faraz said the PTI government is vigorously working on institutional reforms and the cabinet decided to make these reforms public soon. Talking about negative impact of the sale of smuggled petrol in Pa-

kistan, the Minister said a crackdown has started against petrol pumps involved in selling substandard smuggled petrol which poses hazards not only to the environment, but also adversely impacts functionality of the vehicles. He said the sale of smuggled petrol is inflicting a loss of around 180 billion rupees to the national exchequer. He said so far 192 petrol pumps have been sealed for selling substandard smuggled oil. He said such petrol pumps have been directed to furnish record of their sale and purchase within one week. He said 2090 petrol pumps have been identified across Pakistan that are involved in selling smuggled petrol. The Minister said Planning Minister Asad Umar raised the incident of the death of Osama Satti in police firing for which Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed his strong displeasure and annoyance over opening of fire by the police on a youth.



Briefs

APNS
condoles
demise of
Malik Liaquat

DNA

LAHORE: "Hameed Hareem, President and Sarmad Ali, Secretary General of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society have expressed profound grief on behalf of APNS Office Bearers and members of the Executive Committee over the sad demise of Mr. Malik Liaquat Hussain, Director Marketing, Daily Din Lahore. The APNS Office Bearers have offered condolence to the bereaved family and have prayed that Almighty Allah rest the departed soul in eternal peace and give them courage and patience to bear the loss.

Railways earn
over Rs12
billion from
freight business

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has earned around Rs12.276 billion from the freight trains during last two years, making a leap towards transformation of the organization into a profitable entity. "The freight train service suffered no loss during the last two years due to prudent policies introduced by the incumbent government," an official in the Ministry of Railways said during a media interview. Giving detail of the earnings, he said the department had generated Rs18.853 billion against the expenditures of Rs12.950 billion, posting a profit of Rs5.903 billion during 2018-19. In 2019-20, the official said Pakistan earned Rs19.208 billion against the expenditures of worth Rs12.835 billion, saving a profit Rs6.373 billion.

To a question, he said that at present as many as 18 trains were operational from Karachi to Hyderabad, while no train was operational from Karachi to Mirpur Khas. He said the trains plying between the two major cities of Sindh province were included Shalimar Express, Hazara Express, Awam Express, Rehman Baba Express, Pakistan Express, Alama Iqbal Express, Karakoram Express, Pak Business Express, Millat Express, Karachi Express, Tezgam, Bahauddin Zakria Express, Shah Hussain Express, Fareed Express, Sir Syed Express, Green Line, Khyber Mail and Sukkur Express.

'Govt, MQM-P
plundered
rights of
Karachi'

DNA

KARACHI: Pak Sarzameen Party Chairman Syed Mustafa Kamal, while announcing a new date for the protest rally and demonstration from Nursery Shahra-e-Faisal to Karachi Press Club on Sunday (January 17) at 2 pm against the approval of the controversial census, said that Imran Khan's government together with the MQM-Pakistan has plundered the rights of Karachi - the economic lifeline of Pakistan and its people. By approving the wrong census of Karachi, the government is paving the way for terrorism by promoting a sense of deprivation among the people. If the enemy does this, it makes sense, but if the government of Pakistan commits economic and political genocide of masses, then who should we complain to? Only the enemies of the country will benefit by damaging the economic lifeline of the country. Karachi is everything, now everyone should owe Karachi. It is the duty of every citizen to protest against oppression of Karachi. "We have written a letter to the Honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan requesting him to take notice against the wrong census and their approval. If the Chief Justice only asks for NADRA data, the truth will become clear. There are more people on the voters' list, but far less has been mentioned the census. Kamal said that efforts are being made to repeal the 18th Amendment, but the people are indifferent because the provincial governments, which have the power and resources, have never developed them to the grass root level which is against the essence of the 18th amendment, and now the people say that if we don't have the authority then why do chief ministers have?



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs the meeting of Federal Cabinet. - DNA

Dr Sania Nishtar inaugurates
Ehsaas Delivery Unit

The unit's overall mandate is folded into four key functions including programme's strategic roll out, monitoring and evaluation, data analytics, advisory support, and communications and stakeholder engagement, among others

DNA

ISLAMABAD: SAPM Dr. Sania Nishtar inaugurated the Ehsaas Delivery Unit (EDU) in Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division (PASSD) today that has been established to track the cadence of delivery across several components of Ehsaas programme. The unit was formally opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Secretary of the Division, Muhammad Ali Shahzada together with EDU team was also present at the ceremony to kick off the newly opened unit.

"The EDU will also track implementation of the goals and targets established under the "Performance Agreement" recently signed with the Prime Minister", said Dr. Sania. Within Ehsaas, multi-sectoral collaboration and coordination is critical for the success of programme. EDU is a dedicated unit to lead delivery of Ehsaas strategy. The unit's overall mandate is folded into four key functions including programme's strategic roll out, monitoring and evaluation, data analytics, advisory support, and communications and stakeholder engagement, among others. Following Government of

Pakistan's policies and procedures, relevant team has been hired in the unit to coordinate cross ministerial, interprovincial and intersectoral implementation of Ehsaas. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of EDU, Dr. Sania said, "The distinctive role and objective of EDU is to oversee implementation and assess progress of the Ehsaas programme; coordinate, strategize and support delivery of over 140 Ehsaas initiatives. The charge for end-to-end delivery of programmes, policies and initiatives ultimately rests with the respective ministries, divisions and

agencies and, EDU has been mandated to coordinate and track the performance and progress." Overall, implementation of Ehsaas is the responsibility of several federal ministries, divisions, and agencies. Under the Ehsaas framework, implementation actions are underway and progress towards these is being made with an integrated, multi-sectoral and whole-of-the-government approach. The EDU will also monitor, track, evaluate and analyse results and will institutionalize the culture of learning for course correction. An important task of EDU will be to

ensure compliance with the Ehsaas Governance and Integrity Policy that is binding on PASSD and its ancillary organizations. "Most importantly, the Ehsaas Governance Observatory has been housed in EDU to ensure that all PASSD agencies tasked with implementation of Ehsaas programme abide by Ehsaas Governance and Integrity Policy", commented Dr. Sania. Secretary PASSD, Muhammad Ali Shahzada said, "Ehsaas is unique because of its scale, multisectoral character, breadth and depth, process of formulation, institutional arrangements and funding.

NAVTTTC asked
to design special
training modules

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi has stressed the need for providing marketable skills to persons with disabilities (PWDs) and asked National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) to design special training modules. Chairing a meeting on vocational training for differently-abled persons here at Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President stressed providing these people skilled-based training so that they could contribute to the development of society. The President emphasized the need for financial inclusion of PWDs as well as bringing them into mainstream of education system. He said that the financial and educational inclusion

of PWDs, who constitute almost 15 percent of the country's population, was a major challenge and it was the shared responsibility of society to play its role for their welfare by providing them skills and jobs to make them productive citizens of the country. He also stressed the need for collaborative efforts by the federal and provincial governments as well as the civil society to work for the skills development of differently-abled persons. Chairman NAVTTTC, Syed Javed Hassan gave a presentation on the initiatives, taken by NAVTTTC to create an enabling environment for PWDs. He highlighted that plans were afoot to provide marketable skills, high-technical training and assistive technology to differently-abled persons.

Sindh Baitul Mal
Chief inaugurates
free medical camp

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Sindh Baitul Mal Chief and PTI leader Hunaid Lakhani under the banner "The Hussain Lakhani Trust" jointly by Hussain Lakhani Hospital organized one-day free medical camp for Jail inmates here at Landhi Malir Jail Karachi on Monday. Jail Superintendent Malik Muhammad Aslam briefed

Sindh Bait-ul-Mal Chief about contagious diseases among the jail inmates and precautions during the covid-19 pandemic, he also told that strict SOPs are followed in the Landhi prison as well as Jail manual strictly maintained under the guidelines. PTI leader Hunaid Lakhani, visited one day free medical camp and the smooth operations organized by hospital staff and volunteers of The Hussain Lakhani Trust.

PPMA delegation visits
FPCCI regional office

TCF has been declared the winner of the "Best Presented Annual Report" for the fourth time. Previously, it has received the Runner-up award and Certificate of Merit multiple times



ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Vice President FPCCI Khawaja Shahzeb Akram Lahore (PR): A delegation of Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) led by Chairman (North) Muhammad Khalid Munir called on Khawaja Shahzeb Akram, Senior Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) here at FPCCI Regional Office Lahore. The members of the PPMA delegation briefed the Senior Vice

President FPCCI on the issues facing the pharmaceutical industry. The meeting discussed Common Technical Dossier, Pricing, and other issues faced by the Pharmaceutical industry. Shahzeb Akram assured the leadership of PPMA full support of FPCCI in resolving the issues. He said that the FPCCI delegation would meet Dr. Faisal Sultan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Health in next week and present the recommendations regarding the solution of the problems. He further said that FPCCI has

played its full role in bringing interest rates to the lowest level in the history. The issues of Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) will be taken up with the government promptly. In the current scenario, the services and textile sector has grown tremendously and is expected to grow further in the future. He added, Hamid Raza, Khalid Munir, Saleem Iqbal, Dr Muhammad Tahir, Nasir Khan, Zeeshan Haider, Muhammad Asif Siddique, Haseeb Khan, Adnan Ghani, Uzair Nagra, Ahmad Shuja were also attended the meeting.

Moot on "US-India tech alliance: opt for Pak" held

This tech alliance would be one of the key components of a broader US agenda to keep India "as a key focal point" for the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue. India and the US have signed multiple agreements

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) held an in-house discussion on "US-India Strategic Tech Alliance: Options for Pakistan" on Tuesday. Ms. Aamna Rafiq, Research Associate ACDC-ISSI, presented on the topic followed by an interactive discussion. The in-house meeting was attended by the members of the ISSI research faculty and ACDC advisory board. Ms. Aamna Rafiq said that the United States' National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence (NSCAI) in its recent report proposed the creation of a US-India Strategic Tech-Alliance (UISTA). She

said that UISTA will be composed of regular working groups and high-level dialogues between the two states in seven key areas: promotion of technological innovation; expert human resource exchanges; strengthen joint research and development (R&D); accelerate security and defense cooperation; improve data-sharing ecosystem; counteroffensive information operations; technological standardization and norm building



for AI; and any other technical aspect of a broader strategic landscape. This tech alliance would be one of the key components of a broader US agenda to keep India "as a key focal point" for the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue. India and the US have signed multiple agreements. The three US-India bilateral agreements namely "the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)," "Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)" and "Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)" hints towards a bigger tech alliance in the form of UISTA between two major Quad members in the coming years. The US is also encouraging such cooperation between India and Japan and Australia. She highlighted that following the same

model of "mini-lateral relationships," the US has established a new trilateral partnership around emerging technologies with India and Israel, known as "T3" which is outside of Quad and would center on will ensure the reliability, openness, and interoperability of 5G technology. The US and India are also members of a new tech alliance named "D10" conceived by the United Kingdom which aspires to bring together ten democracies of the world - US, UK, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, Australia, India, Canada, and South Korea for the global technology supply chain management. She said that these initiatives are setting the ground for greater technological cooperation with India on one hand, and the US, Australia, and Japan on the other hand.

Innovative
ideas
presented at
'Eureka Fair'

DNA

KARACHI: The students of the Institute of Business Management (IoBM), Karachi recently organized the virtual "Eureka Fair - Online Project Showcase (Fall 2020)." The MBA students of 'Technology, Operations, and Innovation' of the Management and HRM Department presented their projects. They applied their learning to develop innovative products and applications to bring social change and evolution in various domains of life. Twelve best student projects out of thirty were demonstrated online. The Eureka Fair was held under the mentorship of Dr. Shagufta Ghouri, HoD Management & HRM Department, IoBM. The idea was to motivate students to develop practical business ventures based on innovative technologies. Eminent corporate guests and academicians were invited to watch the Eureka Fair. Those who attended this virtual event were Dr. Shujaat Mubarak (Dean CBM, IoBM), Dr. Samra Javed (HoD ORIC, IoBM) Syed Azfar Hussain (Program Manager, National Incubation Center), Muhammad Zain (Manager IT and Security Audit, BankIslami Pakistan Limited), Muhammad Yasir (CEO, Creative Chaos), Syed Naseh (CEO Diya Interactive), among others.

CPWB
organises
campaign
against child
abuse

LAHORE: The Child Protection & Welfare Bureau (CP&WB) Tuesday organised an awareness campaign to curb the rising incidents of child sexual and physical abuse. Special Assistant to Chief Minister Punjab on Information, Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan was the chief guest while Punjab Minister for Social Welfare and Baitul Maal Syed Yawar Abbass Bukhari and Provincial Minister for Human Rights and Minorities Affairs Ejaz Alam Augustine, parliamentarians, CPWB Director General Shuja Bhatti participated in the campaign.

Talking to the media, CP&WB Chairperson Sarah Ahmad said that the bureau had taken action on more than 300 cases of abuse in Punjab during the last two years and rehabilitated the victims. She said that most of the cases of abuse take place in homes and the easiest solution to prevention was creating awareness among parents, children and teachers. Sarah Ahmad said that children must be taught about the difference between 'good touch and bad touch' while the parents should build confidence and trust in their children and encourage them to speak up. She lauded the important role of police and media in preventing incidents of violence against children. She advised citizens to report child abuse cases on the CPWB Helpline 1121. - APP

Uzair Baloch
acquitted in
another case

DNA

KARACHI: Sessions Court on Tuesday acquitted Lyari gangster Uzair Baloch in a criminal case for want of evidence. Uzair Baloch, who was booked in kidnapping and murder case of a citizen, was brought to the court in tight security. During the hearing of the case, defense lawyer argued that no eyewitness appeared before the court. The police found the dead body and didn't identify the slain person, he added. The counsel further said that police nominated his client in the case on political grounds, who didn't commit it. Earlier on January 7, a local court also acquitted Lyari gang warlord Uzair Baloch in two cases of police encounter and attempted murder. Additional District and Sessions Judge South in the jail complex heard two cases of police encounter and attempted murder against Lyari gang warlord Uzair Baloch. The court granted Uzair Baloch's plea for acquittal in two cases as prosecution could not present evidence against Uzair Baloch.

Briefs

IESCO to hold online katchery today

DNA

ISLAMABAD: IESCO Spokesman said that our maximum efforts are to provide best and speedy services to our valued customers. Continuing the same line, online Katcharies are being conducted regularly and successfully. General Manager (operations) IESCO will hold online katchery on Wednesday dated 13th January 2021 at 11:00 AM to 12: 00 Noon on Telephone Number 051-9253105. IESCO requested valued customers to participate in open katchery for immediate solution of their complaints and for submission of their valuable suggestions.

PNCA to hold second episode of "Seen Studio"

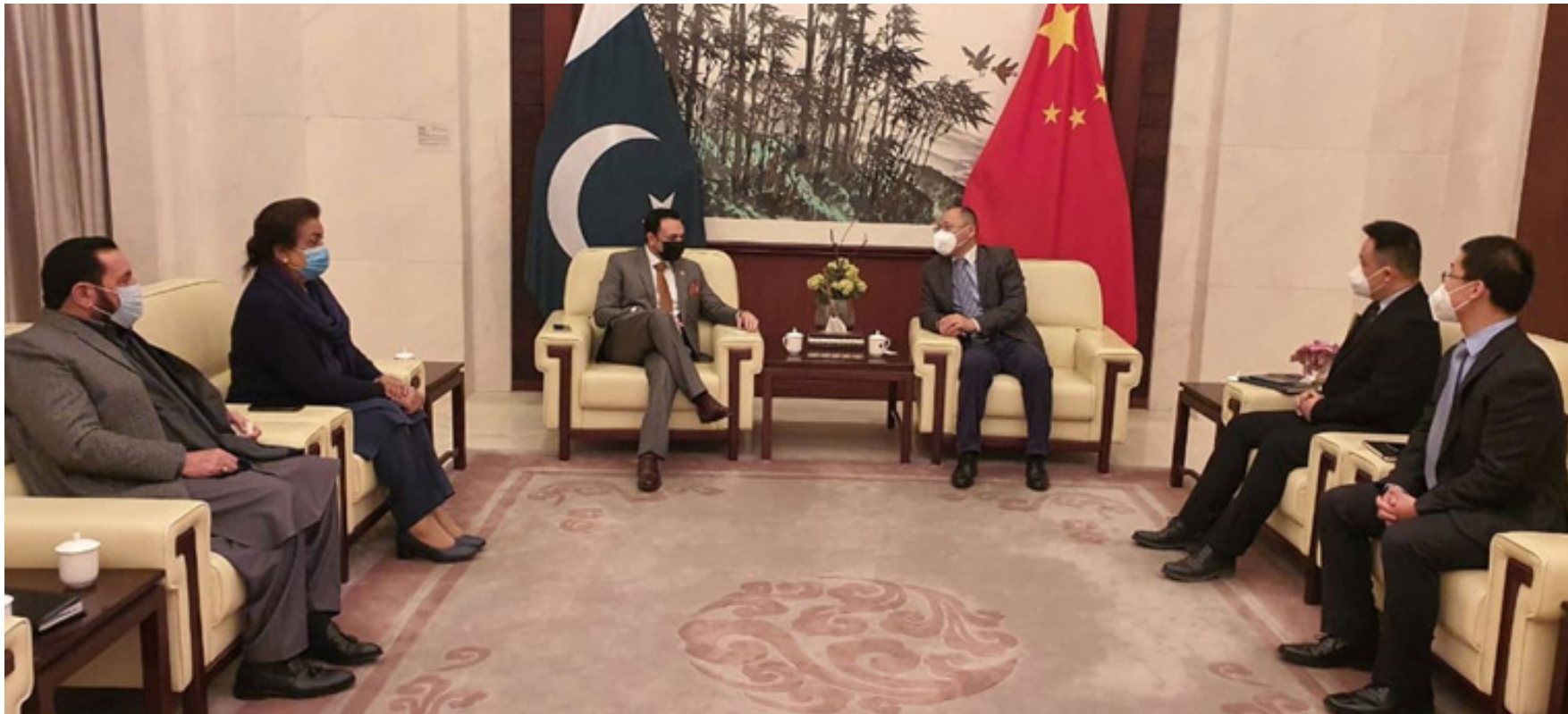
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) will hold second episode of musical series titled "Seen Studio" on January 16. In second episode PNCA will feature one of the leading singer Bano Rehmat who will remix old songs with modern tunes. The series named "Sur Sargam Sangeet" aimed to medley old song into modern tunes like all kinds of musical genres like pop, classical, folk and fusion. This opportunity would provide a platform to new singers to show and discover their hidden talent in appropriate way. Different recording sessions would be held with limited audience, an official said on Tuesday. He said that the trend of remixing old classics is a way of keeping the songs relevant and remixing them in a way to make them popular for the youth who have not heard them before. He said that this musical sequel will provide a recreational platform to the audience. - APP

Authorities urged to ease traffic flow

RAWALPINDI: Traffic congestion is a severe problem creating difficulties for the citizens particularly in congested areas of the town as the number of vehicles and motorcycles are increasing day by day in the city. Long queues of vehicles can be seen on different city roads including Murree Road, Raja Bazaar, Jamia Masjid Road, Saidpur Road, Rehmanad, Sadiqabad, Tench Bhatta, Chungi Number 22, Car Chowk to Scheme-III road especially during rush hours. Citizens have urged the authorities concerned to take solid steps to solve the problem of traffic jams and asked for increasing fine amount on the traffic rules violators. They called on the authorities concerned to outline a plan for permanent solution of frequent traffic jams on roads, including road from Center Hospital to Marrir Chowk, Benazir Bhutto Road, Raja Bazar Road, Bank Road, Kutchery Chowk, Saidpur Road, Pirwadhai Road, Tench Bhatta Road, Chungi Road and Murree Road. - APP

IRSA releases 44,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: IRSA on Tuesday released 44,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 51,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1470.73 feet, which was 78.73 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 16,900 cusecs each. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1168.30 feet, which was 128.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 12,800 cusecs and 5,800 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 32,600, 15,400 and 6,000 cusecs respectively. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President ICCI exchanging views with Xie Guoxiang, Minister Counsellor (Economic and Commercial) Embassy of China on further improving bilateral economic ties. - DNA

Chinese companies asked to invest in Pakistan

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that Pakistan and China enjoyed strategic friendship which could be further strengthened by developing strong trade and economic relations between the two countries

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President leading a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) visited the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Islamabad and held a meeting with XieGuoxiang, Minister Counsellor (Economic and Commercial) to discuss possibilities of further improving bilateral trade and investment relations between Pakistan and China. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President and Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI were in the delegation. She Hua Shiang, Gong Dahui and others were also present at the occasion.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that Pakistan and China enjoyed strategic

friendship which could be further strengthened by developing strong trade and economic relations between the two countries. He said that Pakistan was a growing market for business activities and it was the right time for Chinese companies to transfer technology to Pakistan and set up JVs and industrial units in our country. This way, Chinese investors could export their products to many markets of the world including South Asia, Middle East, Europe and Africa. He said that China was the world's second largest economy with annual trade of trillions of dollars, but Pakistan's exports to China were around \$2 billion. He said that Pakistan's exports to China could increase to \$23 billion only if China provided one percent share in its supply chain through

importing raw materials and intermediate goods from Pakistan. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that Pakistan's automobile, IT & telecom, industry, agriculture and construction sectors possessed tremendous potential for Chinese investors.

He said that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) of Pakistan offered tax holiday for many years, zero duty on import of machinery and plants and 4-year payment plan to investors, therefore, he stressed that Chinese investors should explore JVs and investment in these SEZs to earn lucrative returns. He said that China was quite advanced in the agriculture sector and it should help Pakistan in improving its per acre yield by sharing its agro machinery and technology with our country.

He said that the Embassy should streamline its visa policy for Pakistani business community so that they could easily visit China to explore business collaborations with Chinese counterparts. He said that ICCI was working with the government for One Window facility for investors and assured that ICCI would fully facilitate Chinese investors in connecting them with right partners in Pakistan.

Speaking at the occasion, XieGuoxiang, Minister Counsellor (Economic and Commercial), Embassy of the People's Republic of China said that 2nd phase of CPEC has started cooperation in industrial and agriculture sectors, health and digital technology between China and Pakistan that would boost its economy. He emphasized that Pakistan should fo-

cus on improving its infrastructure that would attract more Chinese investors to Pakistani market. He informed that the Department of Commerce of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China intended to hold an online conference on January 22, 2021 to promote trade cooperation between China and Pakistan that would focus on garment and textile industry, textile machinery & equipment, agricultural products and urged that Pakistani business community should attend it to explore business collaboration with Chinese counterparts. Both sides also discussed signing of an MoU of cooperation between ICCI and Chinese Capital Chamber of Commerce & Industry to promote business linkages between the two countries.



ISLAMABAD: Federal minister for information and broadcasting, Senator Shibli Faraz offering fateha at grave of his father, renowned poet, Ahmad Faraz. - DNA

Ahmed Faraz asset of the nation: Shibli

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz has said on Tuesday renowned Urdu poet Ahmad Faraz was an asset of the nation and the love and affection he received from the people had no parallel in the country's literary history. He was talking to the media persons at H-8/1 graveyard on the occasion of 90th birth anniversary of his fa-

ther Ahmad Faraz where he had come to offer Fateha. He said that Faraz had a distinct style and he advocated the cause of oppressed people of the society. Shibli Faraz said that the late poet had great expectations from the new generation and there was need to publicize his message which could prove helpful in moving forward.

Saying that work of great poets and literary figures such as Ahmad Faraz was a source of guidance for the

nation which should celebrate the anniversaries of great literary figures to acquaint the new generation about their achievements. The 90th birth anniversary of renowned and progressive poet Ahmad Faraz was observed on Tuesday. He was considered as one of the greatest modern Urdu poets of his time. He was born on January 12, 1931 in Kohat. His real name was Syed Ahmed Shah. Faraz was his pseudonym 'takhallus'. He moved to Peshawar with his

family, where he studied in famous Edwardes College and also received Masters in Urdu and Persian from Peshawar University. The progressive poets Faiz Ahmad Faiz and Ali Sardar Jafri were his friends during college days and were his role models. Faraz, who has been compared often with Faiz Ahmad Faiz, holds a unique position as one of the best poets of present era, with a fine but simple style of writing easily understood by common people.

Over 54 allottees get possession letters in G-14 sector

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Housing and Works (MoHW) has so far given final possession letters to over 54 allottees in Sector G-14/1, 2 and 3 for construction of houses. Around eight allottees have applied for issuance of NOC for approval of building plans in the G-14, an official in the Ministry of Housing and Works told APP. Out of eight, only four allottees have started construction of houses on their plots in Sector G-14/3 till date, the official said. To a question, he said it was a fact that federal cabinet in its meeting held on March 1995 imposed ban on the construction of new government accommodations for federal government employees and granted them rental ceiling with salaries. However, he said the cabinet decision was partially implemented to the extent that no new construction of government accommodations was being made after the decision. The official said that however, rental ceiling could not be granted with salaries of federal government employees due to involvement of heavy additional burden on government exchequer. He said that there was no such proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Housing and Works to pay rental ceiling to federal government employees. - APP

FDE issues guidelines for schools reopening

ISLAMABAD: Federal Directorate of Education has issued special guidelines for the public sector schools, colleges of Islamabad Capital Territory to operate in ways to counteract COVID-19 spread. According to a notification issued by the FDE on Tuesday, it was stated that Saturday shall remain working day during this academic session for all educational institutions. In the notification, every Head of the institution has been asked to reach the institution half an hour before the timings. The total number of periods per day will be 07, while every Head of the institution shall use the given template to design indigenous timetables, it added. The Institution has been directed to ensure density management by calling students in groups as earlier during the schools closure in first phase of COVID-19. - DNA

NHMP reunites 3 boys with their families

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Highways Motorway Police (NHMP) have reunited three boys with their respective families out of which two were run away boys and one was five-year old child. According to details, patrol of officers found a child, five to six years old, alone near Peshawar Toll Plaza, who looked distraught. When asked, the child, whose name was Rehan, could not provide any information about his family members. The Motorway Police contacted various police stations in Peshawar and successfully traced the family of the child and handed him over to them.

In another incident, a man named Marjan informed the Motorway Police at Peshawar Toll Plaza that his nephew Masood, 13, son of Ismail and his friend Sajid, 14, son of Shahzada Omar have been missing from home after-noon. The search for the children started eventually, the two children were recovered from a bus and handed over to their families who thanked the National Highways Motorway Police.

Out of order ATMs irk residents

RAWALPINDI: Despite clear directives of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to ensure uninterrupted working of automated teller machines (ATMs), majority of the ATMs of National Bank of Pakistan were found closed or out of order on Tuesday in various parts of the city. A number of clients were seen visiting one ATM to other in desperate search for a working machine to withdraw cash as they had come to the markets along with their families for shopping. Branches of almost all public sector bank at Bank Road, Main Saddar branch, Committee Chowk, Banni Chowk and Bara market frustrated their consumers as they returned empty handed after seeing the message of regret displayed on ATM screens. "ATMs are considered to be a big relief for consumers in need of hard cash but they have in fact become a pain in the neck, particularly after the salary," said Yousaf Khan, a government employee. Khan, who visited various ATM's in search of urgently needed cash, said he tried his luck at several ATM machines in the city but to his utter dismay, failed to draw cash. Raja Usman, another bank client, said people especially salaried class is among the worst sufferers of frequent closure of ATM's. - APP

COVID-19 affects insurance sector: SECP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has said that the lockdown situation and economic disruptions during the COVID-19 affected the insurance sector indiscriminately.

According to the annual report issued by SECP, the SECP taking cognizance of its responsibility, has facilitated the insurance industry to prepare for corona virus impact by providing relaxation and relief in regulatory reporting and statutory filing requirements under applicable regulatory framework. The SECP also advised the insurance industry to prepare comprehensive plan envisaging how it will manage the effects of the coronavirus outbreak and assess disruptions and other risks to its services and operations, report said. Specific measures were also taken to provide necessary relief to the policyholders. Taking into account the anticipated low claim ratio in motor insurance business due to lockdown, the SECP through Circular has encouraged insurance companies to take steps to facilitate and pass on the benefit of low claim ratio to motor insurance policyholders by granting one month free of cost extension in insurance coverage to all motor insurance policyholders.

PARC signs MoU with Agri Varsity DI Khan

Under the agreement, interneers of UAD may be facilitated at PARC's laboratories for their internship as well as UAD is to facilitate PARC scientists in research activities at D.I. Khan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Agricultural Research Council and University of Agriculture, D.I. Khan has signed Memorandum of Understanding for mutual scientific and technical to strengthen the scientific infrastructure. The signing ceremony was held at PARC HQs, Islamabad in which the representatives of both the organizations signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides. For the purpose, a delegation from University of Agriculture, D.I. Khan headed by Prof. Dr. Masroor Ellahi Babar, Vice Chancellor visited PARC HQs. Dr. Muhammad Azeem Khan, Chairman PARC and other high officials from PARC welcomed the delegation. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Azeem Khan, Chairman PARC shared that the agreement is aiming to device a program of scientific, technical and academic collaboration for

exchange of ideas, skills and techniques on problems of national interests. The other objective of the MoU is to collaborate with the University is to exchange and training of faculty, student's supervision and technical personnel with no cost for research and

academic development. Under the agreement, interneers of UAD may be facilitated at PARC's laboratories for their internship as well as UAD is to facilitate PARC scientists in research activities at D.I. Khan. Moreover, scientists of PARC, after adopting

due protocols would be engaged as co-supervisors for University students in order to create qualified scientists. PARC and UAD will also hold joint conferences, seminars and workshops at national level to create awareness regarding importance using of modern technology to increase per acre yield in agriculture production of the country. Prof. Dr. Masroor Ellahi Babar, Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture, D.I. Khan appreciated PARC efforts in agriculture sector and also thanked Dr. Azeem Khan, Chairman PARC who kindly consented to get MoU signed. He also appreciated the efforts of PARC for development of agriculture sector in the Country. On the occasion, Vice Chancellor also added that this agreement would strengthen the goal of the University of providing an enabling environment to all students to fulfill the demand of need based and market driven qualified scientists in the country.



Briefs

Govt working for welfare of people: Senate told

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Ali Muhammad Khan has said that the incumbent government is working under the Constitution for welfare of the people of the country. Winding up the discussion on a motion in the Senate on Tuesday evening, he asked the opposition not to waste precious time on meaningless issues in the Senate. Earlier, the Upper House started discussion on the second consecutive day on a motion moved by opposition members alleging the Federal Government for usurping the parliamentary and provincial rights guaranteed in the constitution through ordinances.

AIOU announces free matriculation edu for GB

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced free matriculation education for the people of Gilgit Baltistan from spring 2021 semester. The admissions will commence from January 15, 2021. This announcement was made by the Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum during his media briefing the other day. He highlighted the role of AIOU in promoting education and enhancing rate of literacy in the country. He was of the opinion that nobody should be deprived of right to education owing to lack of resources. AIOU provides thousands of scholarships to the needy students every semester. The remotest areas of Pakistan are generally deprived of educational facilities. Therefore, AIOU is paying special attention to provide them educational facilities. He, further, added that the university had already announced free matriculation education for the people of Baluchistan and former FATA. University will bear all expenditures from the profit on endowment fund. He instructed regional directors to create awareness regarding this initiative so that maximum people can avail this opportunity.

5 held for carrying illegal weapons

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police in its crackdown against illegal weapons netted five accused from different areas besides recovered weapons and ammunition from their possession. A police spokesman informed that Naseerabad, Civil Line, Morgah, Chonra launched crackdown against illegal weapons holders and managed to arrested five accused namely Suleman, Faraz, Muhammad Raees, Khurram Hameed and Ghulam Mujtaba. Police also recovered 5 pistols 30 bore, 1 rifle 12 bore with ammunition from their possession. Police have registered separate cases against all of them while investigation was underway. — APP

Centre notifies takeover of major hospitals

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has issued a notification regarding the takeover of three major hospitals in Karachi and one in Lahore. In a major development, the federal government has issued a notification to get administrative control of three hospitals in Karachi including Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) and National Institute of Child Health (NICH). Moreover, the administrative control of Lahore's Sheikh Zayed Federal Postgraduate Medical Institute was also restored to the federal government. Prior to the issuance of the latest notification, JPMC was being administered by the federal government, however, its administrative powers had been transferred to provinces under 18th Amendment. — DNA

Chairman CDA directs timely completion of capital hospital

Member engineering briefed the Chairman at the occasion and said that the project was supposed to be completed in March of the current year, but due to coronavirus situation in previous year the project is expected to be completed little bit late than the said time



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Aamir Ali Ahmed visited under construction block of Capital Hospital on Tuesday. Speaking at the occasion Chairman CDA directed the concerned authorities to assure the timely completion of the project. He also direct-

ed them to construct an underground parking. Member engineering briefed the Chairman at the occasion and said that the project was supposed to be completed in March of the current year, but due to coronavirus situation in previous year the project is expected to be completed little bit late than the said time. This additional block will have the capacity of 100 beds.

Air conditioning and other facilities will also be available. The departments of ICU and CCU will be established in this block. All OPDs and Diagnostic centers of the hospitals will be in the basement of 5 storey building. Besides this, 6 rooms will be allocated for consultants, 8 for medical officers, and 04 for diagnostic procedures. Diagnostic services will include ECG, Echocardiography, and oth-

ers. There will be 33 beds ward for females at the first floor. Second floor will be containing 16 beds ward, CCU, Angiography suit, VIP Cardiac room, nursing station, duty rooms, and store of medical equipment. There will be 18 beds officers medical wards at third floor, he added. Speaking at the occasion, Chairman CDA directed for floor wise completion of the block soon

and said that work should also be started on installation of air conditioning system, lifts, HVC system and others such installations. The administration of the hospital should complete PC 1 regarding furnishing and equipment so that there would be no delay in work. Chairman CDA said at the occasion that he will himself inspect the construction work every week.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi, being briefed by Chairman NAVTTC, about the vocational training for differently-abled persons, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. — DNA (Detail new on page no 2)

FBR fails to impose health levy bill on cigarettes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Health and tobacco control activists have been pleading the government of Pakistan to take notice of the delay in implemen-

tation of Health Levy bill on cigarettes and sugary drinks. This bill was approved by Cabinet in 2019 and forwarded to relevant departments for quick implementation. However, it still stays pending. Addressing a press confer-

ence at National Press Club Islamabad, Human Development Foundation (HDF), Society for the Protection of the Rights of Child (SPARC) and Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) asked the government to recall about

the Health Levy Bill, passed by the cabinet in 2019 and is yet not implemented. Syed Anis Bilal, Project Lead, HDF stated that FBR is responsible for delay in the implementation of the health levy bill.

'India's evil designs never materialize'

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Masood Khan, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has said that the BJP-RSS regime is taking systematic steps in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) to alter its demography, its geography, its statehood, and the rights of the people of Kashmir recognized by international law. "Jammu and Kashmir, as we knew it and as recognised by the UN is disappearing before our very eyes", he warned. The AJK President made these remarks while addressing — as a keynote speaker — a webinar on "Marginalization of Kashmiris in the Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir by Indian Government", organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI). Other speakers at the event included former Senator Javed Jabbar, Chairperson Pakistan Peace and Culture Organisation Mishaal Hussain Malik and AVM (R) Shahzad Chaudhry. Acting President IPRI, Brig. (R) Raashid Wali Janjua hosted the event. Masood Khan while speaking at the webinar said that last year on August 5 after Indian invaded and forcibly and illegally annexed the occupied territory with its federation, it arbitrarily and in violation of the UN Security Council resolutions divided the occupied state into two parts and designated them as federal territories. He said that later last year, another sinister plan was implemented to ruthlessly take Kashmir away from Kashmiris, and Pakistan where more than 2 million Hindus from India have been illicitly settled inside the occupied territory. "The real target is the illegal settlement of more than 5 million in the coming years. Kashmir will no more remain Kashmir; it will become Hindustan, a Hindu Rashtra, with a completely marginalized Muslim population", he maintained. The AJK President also informed his audience of how legal businesses of Kashmiri Muslims are being delegitimized under illegal edicts and their land is being commandeered for settlements and Hindu enterprises. "Any part of the sovereign territory of Kashmiris is fair game for confiscation", said the State President. Speaking of the imposition of a counterfeit political class on Kashmiris, the President said that with ongoing gerrymandering or redistricting, Muslims are being reduced to a minority even in the constituencies where they have been in majority. — DNA

Carpet industry demands relief to boost exports

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) Senior Vice Chairman Riaz Ahmed Tuesday urged the concerned authorities to give carpet industry a special relief both for sea and air freight to help increase the volume of exports of the country. He expressed these views in a Circle Committee Meeting of PCMEA held here at Association's Office in which a number of participants including Azeem Butt, Mian Attiq-ur-Rehman, Anwar Mahmood, Ali Asghar Chawla, Daniyal Hanif, Faisal Saeed Khan, Muhammad Ali Iftikhar and Ali Manzoor Malik shared their views and

presented different suggestions to resolve the issues being faced by carpet industry, said a press release issued by PCMEA here. Riaz Ahmed was of the view that Trade Development Authority Pakistan (TDAP) should support carpet exporters through bearing 80 percent of expenditures of participation in international exhibitions while on the other hand, exporters would spend only twenty percent of the total expenditures. He also informed the participants that TDAP recently offered them Netherlands as potential country for their carpet industry and if any member is willing PCMEA can further proceed with TDAP in

this regard. He said due to Covid-19 physical exhibition is not workable as Domotex Hannover has cancelled 2021 exhibition and announced their 2022 exhibition will be digital means virtual exhibition. He also requested the members to share their views for single country exhibition as well as revival of Carpet Industry. Responding to his query, Senior leader of Association Faisal Saeed said single country exhibition proposal seems good and workable, likewise other members also endorsed that government may be requested as to how we can further work on the single country exhibition. — APP

Experts shares challenges of virus on Education

Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre, warmly welcomed the delegation on their visit to ISSI and briefed them about the structure of ISSI and its contribution in enhancing China-Pakistan ties

DNA

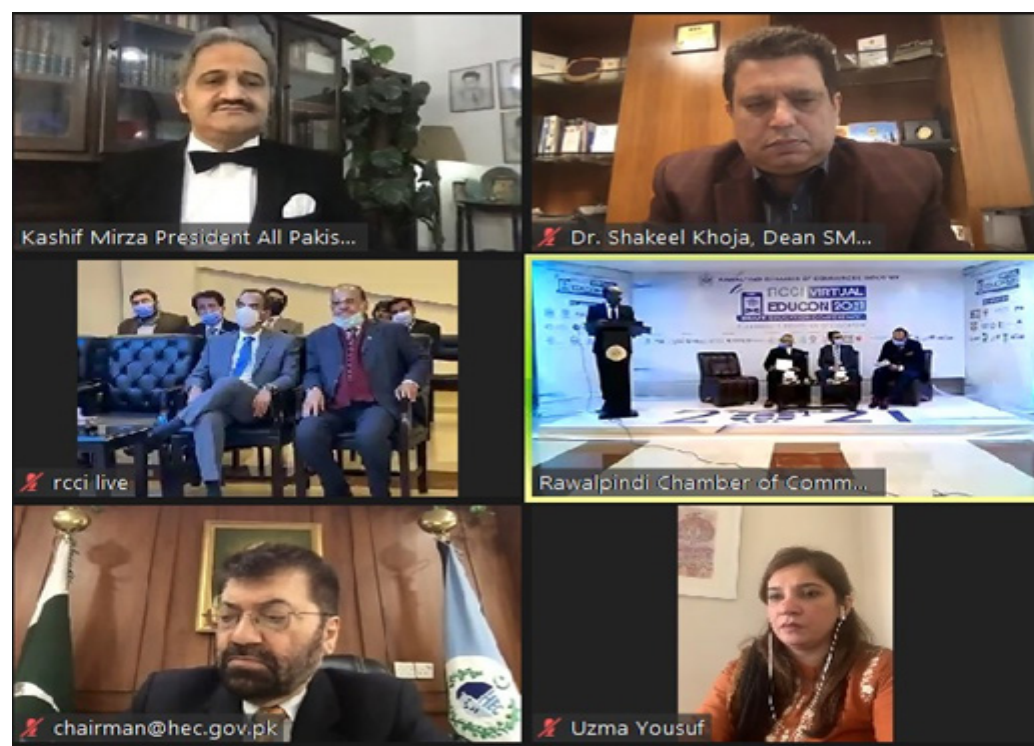
RAWALPINDI: Experts at Virtual Education Conference organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) highlighted the key challenges of COVID-19 in the education sector at Chamber House here on Tuesday. Higher Education Commission (HEC) Chairman Dr. Tariq Banuri in his video link address highlighted the key initiatives of HEC to address the challenges and disruption due to COVID-19. He lauded RCCI for hosting the Virtual Education Conference and also appreciated the participation of key stakeholders in the conference. He informed that to accelerate the access to the online education HEC has taken many initiatives and still more work is to be done. Nine important guidelines have been formulated and provided to the universities. About 47,000 faculty members have been trained to provide education through virtual platforms. The digital library access has been provided to uni-

versities so that students and faculty members can benefit from it.

The dynamics of education now has been changed and we have

reformed the undergraduate education system. We are working

closely with the business community for an internship program. Secretary Information technology Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui assured full support from his ministry and lauded RCCI for holding this important conference. The ministry has taken key initiatives on a fast line to address the challenge of connectivity, especially Universal Access and Service for far long and mountainous areas. Earlier, President Mohammad Nasir Mirza said that the aim of the conference was to highlight the challenges facing the education sector due to the Corona epidemic, the future, new emerging trends and problems faced by students, teachers and find solutions. In order to meet the challenges facing the education sector in view of the Corona epidemic, a new education policy has to be brought forward, he added. Computers, laptops have become a necessity not only for university students but also for school children. There is a need to bring awareness about smart education, e-learning, he added.



PMC directed to address students' grievances

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday directed the Pakistan Medical Commission to hear students' complaints against entry tests of medical colleges and address their grievances. The court also instructed the students to approach the MPC, saying that their complaints would be heard there. Chief Justice Athar Minalah conducted hearing into the case filed by students of medical alleging irregularities in entrance examinations. At the outset of hearing, the petitioners' lawyer contended that changing was made in exam days. He said that entrance exams come under the jurisdiction of provinces and it couldn't be taken in federal under the law. The chief justice said that the regulatory authority PMC didn't fall under the provincial jurisdiction. The PMC lawyer said earlier provinces used to take separate written exams, now there was only one written exam for the whole country, examination system had been computerized, online results were available and the technical problem was solved in one day. The petitioner's counsel said that the Peshawar High Court had sought papers from the PMC to this the Chief Justice said that it was not the job of the court to check the papers. The Supreme Court had made it clear that the courts wouldn't interfere in academic matters, he said. According to the PMC, two exams were not taken from the students. The court adjourned the case till January 14, with above instructions.

Efforts underway to ensure proper parking

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special squads of Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) are endeavoring their best to ensure right parking by the motorists in busy areas of Capital including markets and shopping malls. Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Farrukh Rasheed said that campaign of ITP is in full swing against those involved in parking their vehicles wrongly causing traffic jams on roads and markets as well. He said that prompt action against such violators is being taken as they disrupt the smooth flow of traffic and cause inconvenience for the road users. The SSP (Traffic) has said this action will be extended to other areas and important shopping centers, malls and business zones of the city. He said that special squads will continue action under his own supervision and of SP (Traffic). The SSP Traffic said those parking vehicles wrongly and in no parking areas create disturbance for others. He has also appealed the citizens to cooperate with police in overcoming this issue and avoid wrong parking.

Firework dealer arrested

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Police have arrested a fireworks dealer during a crackdown launched here and recovered cache of fireworks, said a police spokesman. He informed that Gungmandi police under their ongoing operation against fireworks dealers conducted a raid at 'Amir Karwan Goods Forwarding Agency' and seized a cache of fireworks prepared of dangerous gun powder weighing 21 kilograms and arrested an accused named Amir. He said, the police party called the bomb disposal squad of Civil Defense which after analyzing the fireworks, confirmed that dangerous gun powder was used to prepare the fireworks. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway. He said that no one would be allowed to violate the law, adding, the violators would be treated with iron hands. Superintendent Police (SP) appreciated performance of police party and directed to continue crackdown against fireworks dealers and other lawbreakers.

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An unwelcome milestone

WITH 2900 new COVID-19 cases reported in the last twenty-four hours, Pakistan has crossed the 0.5 million mark. Sadly enough, people are still showing a very lax attitude to the pandemic. Perhaps, our acceptance of the virus has led us to ignore the government's instructions. However, given the new, more potent strains of the infection that have reached Pakistan, we must stop violating the safety protocols. Otherwise, the already worsening public health situation can prove to be disastrous on public life. Even though the pandemic is highly contagious, the government hopes that it will soon control the widespread infection. The state's optimism comes after the international coalition Covax has pledged to provide 50 million free doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Pakistan. The government is also holding bilateral agreements to get the vaccine at the earliest. But such assurance can prove fatal; it can make the government inattentive in enforcing the precautionary measures, especially when the second wave is hitting us harder. The authorities must not forget that affluent nations have already purchased the doses in massive quantities. This could result in an acute shortage of vaccines globally. As a result, Pakistan may face challenges in procuring the vaccine on time. The government must ensure that it stays one step ahead to procure without unnecessary delays and difficulties. Health authorities must also give attention to the building of the storage facilities. We cannot let precious and expensive vaccines go to waste because of lack of storage capabilities. Most of the major vaccine companies have specified handling times and the temperature needed in cold storage to keep the medicine effective. It is better to be prepared now; with a population of over 200 million, we will need every single drop to head towards normalcy.



Protecting data

OWING to their new partnership with Facebook, WhatsApp has amended its privacy policy, sparking debate in regards to data protection all across the world. Pakistan's Minister for Science and Technology, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, responded to public concerns about data protection by highlighting the government's initiative to introduce strong data protection laws—it is the need of the hour. According to the new terms and conditions, users are required to share personal data including location, IP addresses, device and mobile network information and other data with Facebook. Any refusal to comply entails that they would have to quit using WhatsApp. What can be noted here is a systematic increase in the amount of power and control amassed by social media companies. With increased influence, it becomes harder to go against the grain and refuse access to personal information since such platforms have become a vital part of ways of life and business. As such, refusing to share personal data comes at the expense of the individual, who is left alienated in society. In such circumstances, the role of the government is key. They have the ability to act as authorities that can actively work towards user protection. Privacy can be safeguarded through employing security plans, enacting disposal laws and establishing a body that overlooks operations and ensures accountability in procedures. Through such avenues, official bodies can either eliminate or destroy user data in a manner that renders the information unreadable. Furthermore, specific regulations could be proposed according to which a limitation can be imposed on the kind of data shared—leaving sensitive material for the eyes of the user only. What can be denied is the fact that the status quo does not take into account the sanctity of privacy and that the government needs to counter this development through some kind of action. While PTA still may be unsure of the appropriate way to respond, it is clear that proactive action is needed immediately.

India's stubborn disregard for international order

Abdul Rashid Shakir



Pakistan implores the world leaders to exert their influence on India to bow before collective conscience of the world community in rejecting Indian state's inhumane acts of violence to suppress Kashmiri people's due right of self-determination. Business and economic considerations aside, the world must give priority to stop massive violations of fundamental human rights by the state of India in IIOJ&K

THE United Nations was founded in 1945 with a manifest mission to maintain international peace and security by upholding international law, safeguarding fundamental human rights, ensuring territorial integrity and protecting sovereignty of its 193 member states, located in all continents of the world. In this regard, Charter of the United Nations clearly spells out its mandate to investigate and mediate territorial disputes between different countries. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1948, also commits its member states to recognize fundamental human rights, public and political freedoms including freedom of thought and opinion of its citizens. In January 1948, United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 39 (1948), establishing the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) to investigate and mediate on the Kashmir dispute. The UNCIP adopted a resolution on January 5, 1949 to decide the accession of Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K) to India or Pakistan through the democratic method of free and impartial plebiscite under a UN-appointed Plebiscite Ad-

ministrator. The January 5 is, therefore, commemorated each year as the Right to Self-Determination Day for the people of Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K). But it is heart-rending to see Kashmiris being deprived of this fundamental human right, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and promised by UNCIP's Resolution of 05 January 1949. India has wilfully, rather forcefully, denied the grant of this right to self-determination to people in Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K) in order to cement its rule in the valley. It has not only tried its utmost to suppress their lawful desire to exercise rights to self-determination, but has also introduced various draconian laws to alter demography of the area. The IIOJ&K Disturbed Area Act, Armed Forces Special Powers Act, and Public Safety Act have served as brutal tools for arresting any individual arbitrarily for indefinite period of time. They have even afforded them the reason for extra judicial killings of the innocent Kashmiris, vying for their just right of self-determination. The most ruthless and blatant of all moves in this regard is India's constitutional subversion of 05th August

2019, whereby it annexed IIOJ&K as one of its Union Territories by revoking Article 370 of its Constitution that gave IIOJ&K special status of a disputed area. India even paved way for the changing demographic composition of the area at a massive scale by annulling Article 35-A of its constitution to allow non-Kashmiris to own property in IIOJ&K. The January 5, the Day of Self Determination for people of IIOJ&K, reminds the United Nations and the world community of their long outstanding commitment made to the innocent people of IIOJ&K more than seven decades ago. It is the high time that they must play a decisive role in putting an end to the trepidation and miseries of Kashmiri people in IIOJ&K. Pakistan implores the world leaders to exert their influence on India to bow before collective conscience of the world community in rejecting Indian state's inhumane acts of violence to suppress Kashmiri people's due right of self-determination. Business and economic considerations aside, the world must give priority to stop massive violations of fundamental human rights by the state of India in IIOJ&K.

The Trump Twitter ban debate is a dangerous distraction

Andrew Mitrovica

Twitter was the convenient and agreeable vehicle – given it does not require any knowledge or literacy – for an imbecilic president to sow, with grinding, debilitating frequency, his manifest cruelty, misogyny, bigotry, hatred and discord. That Trump has been denied the ready tool he has employed – for far too long – to intimidate, defame and traumatise Americans, and, for that matter, the world, is good, proper and appropriate given Twitter's terms of reference and conditions governing the conduct of users which, in particular, prohibit the incitement of violence

THE appeasement of a frothing maniac who encouraged, welcomed and cheered on a rampaging and deadly insurrection against the United States constitution and still, incredibly, remains the sitting president of the US must end – unequivocally. Enlightened Americans see the abiding menace that confronts them and are determined to take immediate and tangible action to ensure that the existential threat that Donald Trump continues to pose to America's frayed republic must finally and emphatically be addressed today and tomorrow. Hesitancy in this urgent moment would be a grave, perhaps even fatal, mistake and establish a wholly irresponsible precedent that would offer unfettered license to the next "populist" charlatan to finish the fascist fire this one has stoked, unrestrained, for more than four years. Trump must finally be fitted permanently with a legal and ethical straightjacket to help ensure he can no longer inflict damage on the already grievously wounded American body politic and psyche. This should, of course, have happened long ago. A legion of prudent, astute Americans understood the true, sinister nature of this singularly dangerous grifter-turned-commander-in-chief. Their considered, prescient warnings were not heeded then. They must be now. We were assured that the venomous Trump virus would be contained and managed by the "guardrails" inherent to America's constitutional republic. We were also assured that he was encircled by "grown-ups" who would gingerly, but persuasively, temper his egregious, destructive impulses. They were lies then, as they are now. Trump and his equally subversive toadies – inside and outside the White House – must be held to real and decisive account. Trump's resignation is necessary. Failing that, his impeachment is necessary. Indictments are necessary. And the criminally belated exile of Trump from ubiquitous social media platforms, including Twitter, is surely necessary too. These are the irrefutable facts and anyone who argues otherwise is guilty of the same wilful blindness and negligence that Trump and his enablers exploited with alacrity to foment and orchestrate the mad insurrection on Capitol Hill. Critics of Trump's expulsion from Twitter must not be permitted to evade this sordid history, nor must they be permitted to suggest – unchallenged – that his banning will only inflame his

fanatical followers and fuel their incoherent fury and defining sense of grievance. Trump is the eager, unrepentant architect of that festering fanaticism and rage. Twitter was the convenient and agreeable vehicle – given it does not require any knowledge or literacy – for an imbecilic president to sow, with grinding, debilitating frequency, his manifest cruelty, misogyny, bigotry, hatred and discord. That Trump has been denied the ready tool he has employed – for far too long – to intimidate, defame and traumatise Americans, and, for that matter, the world, is good, proper and appropriate given Twitter's terms of reference and conditions governing the conduct of users which, in particular, prohibit the incitement of violence. We should not, however, congratulate the smug billionaire proprietors of Twitter and other social media outlets for doing, at this dire eleventh hour, the intelligent thing. Their reluctant conversions, I suspect, were, in large measure, the product of a self-serving calculus. They know momentum is building for a new Congress to amend legislation designed to hold their businesses liable for the malice and slander they have blithely trafficked in for decades to pad their flush bank accounts. In journalism parlance, Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey and suddenly rattled company are quickly manoeuvring to "get ahead of the story". Their "act of good faith" has arrived much too late. Still, in the raw residue of last week's ransacking of the Capitol and the threat to life and liberty the insurrectionists posed to members of Congress discharging their constitutional duties, the imperative for swift sanctions against a seditious president who inspired the thugs had to be heeded. My goodness. Viewed through that halting, disturbing prism, the silly, manufactured bruhaha of removing the accelerator-in-chief from Twitter should be the least of America's worries. It cannot afford to repeat its disastrous attraction to the trivial at the expense of meeting the serious peril it faces. While establishment politicians and media trained their glare on Hillary Clinton's emails during the 2016 presidential campaign, alarms blared about Trump's unfitnes. The seat of US democracy was attacked by crazed, marauding insurgents who looted, as well. Five people died. A woman was shot in the Capitol. A police officer defending the Capitol and, by extension, the

constitution, was reportedly bludgeoned to death with a fire extinguisher. So, I have a simple, blunt message to pundits preoccupied with or fretting over the fact that Trump can no longer avail himself of 280 characters to share his lunatic, incendiary musings with his malleable army of online "followers": Find some bloody perspective. Your misguided censure of Trump's banishment from Twitter deflects necessary attention and energy away from where America's attention and energy should be fixed with laser-like acuity – on a president who swore an oath to "support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic". Instead, Trump repudiated that solemn undertaking by repeatedly exhorting and offering not-so-veiled rhetorical approval on Twitter and elsewhere to stage a coup d'état. He was the fifth column he pledged to defend against. Considered in this astonishing context, Trump's ex-communication from Twitter is a reasonable, responsible injunction against a demonstrably unreasonable, irresponsible president who takes obvious glee and sick satisfaction in injuring his opponents and the country he claims to serve. While Trump's favourite virtual bullhorn has been wrested from him, he will, no doubt, take some solace in the fact that a host of sympathetic broadcast media, including the ever-suppliant Fox News and other nascent far-right propaganda networks, will gladly platform his diseased dictates. In time, he may even try to fashion a Trump-approved variant of Twitter that will, given his lousy business acumen, inevitably declare bankruptcy. Despite the hysterical cries of "censorship", Trump's foul mouth and mind will, sadly, not be "muzzled". Happily, his lasting absence from Twitter will have the salutary effect of preventing this rabid narcissist from operating a shadow presidency with a daily drip of tweets crafted to undermine the critical work of a new president facing an imploding economy, countless unemployed and hungry Americans, a wild, lethal virus and a fractured nation where the pursuit of common good and purpose are faded anachronisms. The silencing of Trump on Twitter is a healthy and desperately needed balm that, hopefully, will encourage sentient Americans to recover from a jaundiced president who has division and hate engraved in his hollow soul.

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Briefs

Scientists discover over 240 dinosaur footprints

FUZHOU: A group of Chinese paleontologists has identified more than 240 fossilized dinosaur footprints in Fujian Province. They are the first traces of dinosaur activity found in the eastern Chinese province. The dinosaur track site in Shanghang County, covering an area of about 1,600 square meters, is the largest and the most diverse such site discovered in China and dates back about 80 million years to the Upper Cretaceous period, according to scientists. Tracks in Shanghang County were left by at least eight types of dinosaurs, scientists from the Beijing-based China University of Geosciences and a local museum said at a news conference held in Fuzhou, capital of Fujian, on Tuesday.

FM assures support for Afghan peace

From Page 01

He said Pakistan has also introduced a new visa policy to facilitate the Afghans. The Foreign Minister said Pakistan desires early but dignified return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland. Muhammad Karim Khalili commended Pakistan's facilitation role in the Afghan peace process. He also thanked Pakistani leadership and people for hosting the Afghan refugees over the last many decades. Ustad Karim Khalili thanked for Pakistan's consistent support to Afghanistan, particularly in the peace process and for hosting millions of Afghan refugees for the last many decades. He appreciated the various steps taken by Pakistan to strengthen trade between the two countries and facilitate Afghan nationals through revised visa policy.

Egypt reopens airspace to Qatar: State media

WEB DESK

CAIRO: Egypt reopened its airspace to Qatari flights on Tuesday and will allow the resumption of flights between the two countries, aviation sources and state media said on Tuesday. A Qatar Airways plane is due to land in Cairo on Friday, airport officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media. The lifting of Egypt's aviation ban allowed Qatari flights to cross Egyptian airspace and national carriers from both countries to submit flight operating schedules for approval, Al-Ahram state newspaper reported. Agreements set to be activated will also allow for goods transport between the two countries, according to sources from the civil aviation authority and aviation ministry. Egypt and its Gulf allies – Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain – imposed an embargo on Qatar in June 2017 over allegations it supports "terrorism". Qatar has always denied the claims. The blockade was ended following a summit in Saudi Arabia last week, where Egypt expressed its support for regional reconciliation but had stopped short of announcing concrete steps to end the boycott. After three and a half years of severed diplomatic and economic ties, the four boycotting countries signed a declaration with Qatar at the annual Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit last week to end the dispute. Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain have also opened their airspace to Qatar. The dispute had shattered the GCC and troubled the United States' foreign policy in the region, including its efforts to isolate Iran. Last week's breakthrough followed a final push by the outgoing Trump administration and Kuwait to mediate the dispute. Saudi Arabia seeks to unify Arab ranks ahead of the incoming administration of President-elect Joe Biden, which is expected to take a firmer stand towards the kingdom and re-engage with Iran.



CORNELLA: Espanyol's Adria Pedrosa vies with Castellon's Guillem Jaime during a Spanish second division football match between RCD Espanyol and CD Castellon. – DNA

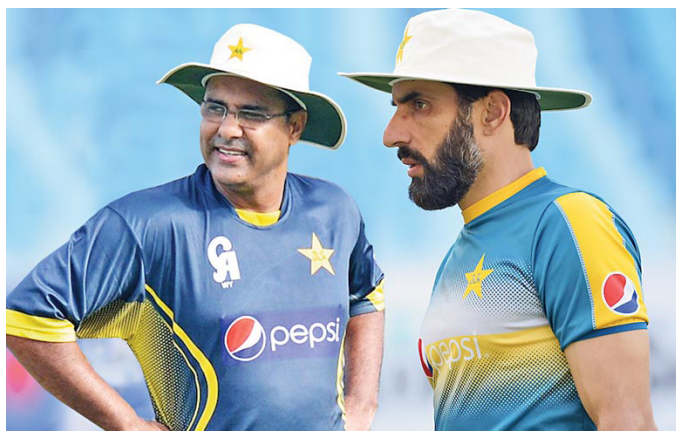
South Africa series, last chance for Misbah and Waqar

The committee reviewed the performance of the national cricket team over the last 16 months during which the side played 10 Tests (won two and lost five), five ODIs (won four) and 17 T20Is (won seven and lost eight)

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) cricket committee has told the current team management that there will be no 'second chance' if the performance stays below par in the home series against South Africa. The cricket committee's meeting led by newly-appointed chairman Saleem Yousaf took place at Gaddafi Stadium which was also attended by CEO PCB Wasim Khan and Chairman Women's wing Urooj Mumtaz. Umar Gul, Wasim Akram and Zakir Khan attended the meeting virtually. The committee reviewed the performance of the national cricket team over the last 16 months during which the side played 10 Tests (won two and lost five), five ODIs

(won four) and 17 T20Is (won seven and lost eight). Pakistan men's team head coach Misbah-ul-Haq and bowling coach Waqar Younis also appeared in front of the committee. The PCB Cricket Committee expressed its dissatisfaction with the side's performances but acknowledged the fact that the team had competed in the unprecedented and challenging Covid-19 circumstances, which resulted in the absence of a few experienced players that, in turn, contributed towards the overall below-par performances. The committee opined that the team management needs to give a full explanation of its strategy and goals for the men's team so that they could be evaluated and assessed against those objectives at the next meeting. The committee also recommended



that the PCB should continue to support and back the team management, whilst suggesting that the next performance appraisal be conducted following the home series against South Africa. Despite these disadvantages, the PCB Cricket Committee also strongly believed team selections and choice of players in the playing line-ups should have been made better. The committee also proposed

more scientific and data-based work in the preparation of players to deal with difficult situations. PCB Cricket Committee Chairman Saleem Yousaf: "The PCB Cricket Committee carried out a holistic but constructive, fact-based and objective review of the Pakistan men's cricket team in the past 16 months. There is no denying the fact that we all want to see our side ranked amongst the top three or four cricket playing nations and our recent performances do justice with neither those expectations nor the talent we boast." "The challenges of playing in Covid-19 protocols have not only been faced by the Pakistan men's national team, but by all the sides presently involved in international cricket and these concerns have been regularly raised by the team coaches and elite cricketers."

\$1.3 bln sought to help millions in Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS: United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners in Afghanistan are seeking \$1.3 billion to assist almost 16 million people in need of life-saving assistance as a result of decades of conflict, recurrent natural disasters, and the added health and socio-economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The number of people targeted for assistance was over a six-fold increase compared to four years ago, when 2.3 million people were targeted for assistance, according to Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General. The situation of children was particularly worrying, he said. "It is projected that nearly one in two children under

the age of five will face acute malnutrition this year," the spokesman said. "Hunger is 'soaring' as people have lost their livelihoods," he added, noting that in 2021, nearly half of Afghanistan's population would need humanitarian assistance to survive. According to the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), across Afghanistan, about 18.4 million people are in need of assistance, a number that rose sharply last year with the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. "While enduringly resilient, people are increasingly desperate, resorting to debt and other more dangerous coping mechanisms to survive including marrying off their young daughters. – APP

Court gives Adnan Oktar over 1,000 years in jail

The 64-year-old cult leader, who owned a TV channel, was arrested in 2018 along with 200 collaborators, following allegations of sexual abuse and kidnapping of minors

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: A Turkish court has slapped cult leader Adnan Oktar with over 1,000 years in prison for 10 separate crimes, Anadolu Agency reported citing sources. The court in Istanbul tried 236 defendants, including 78 remanded for their organised crimes under Oktar's lead, said the source on Monday on condition of anonymity due to restrictions on speaking to the media. The court gave Oktar a total of 1,075 years and three months in prison over the charges of founding and leading a criminal organisation, political or military espionage, aiding Fetullah Terrorist Organisation (FETO), despite not being a member, sexual abuse of



minors, sexual abuse, deprivation of liberty of the person, torture, disturbance of right to education, recording personal data, and threats. The 64-year-old cult leader, who owned a TV channel, was arrested in 2018 along with 200 collaborators, following allegations of sexual abuse and kidnapping of minors. Oktar's TV channel broadcasted his shows surrounded by women he referred to as his "kittens." Tarkan Yavas, one of the defendants, received a 211-year prison sentence for being an executive member of the organisation, sexual abuse of a minor, sexual abuse, misstatement of property, and committing perjury in an official document. Oktar Babuna, another defendant, was given 186 years in jail for being a member of a criminal organisation, sexual abuse of a minor, and sexual abuse. The court continues to declare rulings on other defendants. Oktar – also known by his pen-name Harun Yahya – has authored numerous books promoting creationism against Darwin's theory of evolution as well as conspiracy theories.

Malaysian king suspends parliament

A statement from the royal palace said the king had agreed to a declaration of emergency following a Monday meeting with Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin in view of the escalating pandemic and its pressure on the public health system

FOREIGN DESK

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia announced a state of emergency on Tuesday morning, suspending parliament and state legislatures, hours before millions of Malaysians were set to go back into lockdown following a surge in coronavirus cases that threatened to overwhelm the country's public health system. A statement from the royal palace said the king had agreed to a declaration of emergency following a Monday meeting with Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin in view of the escalating pandemic and its pressure on the public health system. The emergency will remain in force until August 1, or earlier if COVID-19 cases fall, the statement said. In a televised speech on Tuesday morning, Muhyiddin said that under the emergency the national parliament and state legislatures would be suspended and elections would no longer be allowed. There would be no curfew and his government would continue to run the country,

he said. "A lot of people are, number one, in disbelief," political analyst Oh Ei Sun told Al Jazeera. "They are looking to learning more details about how their civil rights might be curtailed." On Monday evening, without mentioning the king had already approved his request for an emergency, Muhyiddin announced a lockdown from midnight (13:00 GMT) in eight states and federal territories of the country because hospitals were at "breaking point". The lockdown includes Kuala Lumpur and the states of Sabah, Selangor, Penang and Johor where the lockdown will remain in force for two weeks until January 26. Malaysia brought an earlier wave of COVID-19 under control with a strict three-month lockdown under which people were mostly prevented from leaving their homes and gradually eased curbs as cases dwindled. In July last year, authorities announced zero new cases of local transmission. But the situation began to change in September after an election in the Borneo state of Sabah at a time when cases had

already started to increase. The election took place with coronavirus protocols in force but a large number of campaign events and frequent travel between Sabah and the peninsula – with no quarantine in place – helped seed outbreaks elsewhere. Muhyiddin formed a government in early March after a power grab led to the resignation of then-Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and has been under pressure ever since to prove his support in parliament. In recent weeks, he has faced criticism of his administration's handling of the pandemic and there have been renewed rumblings within the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), the biggest party in his ruling alliance, about elections. Muhyiddin is currently thought to have the support of about 110 members of the 222 seat house. "The declaration of a state of emergency seems like another attempt by Muhyiddin to hold on to power, block elections and remove parliamentary oversight, rather than to seriously address the pandemic," said Josef Benedict, a researcher with rights

group CIVICUS Monitor. "A dark day for democracy". The statement from the palace indicated an "independent committee" would be formed in relation to the country's COVID-19 response. ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR), a group of Southeast Asian lawmakers, expressed "alarm" at the decision to impose emergency rule. "Parliaments play an essential role as guardians of democracy and human rights, particularly during times of crisis," APHR Board Member Tom Villarin said in a statement. "Important measures are currently being adopted in Malaysia and parliament provides much needed scrutiny, which is particularly important when the current government came to power through back-door manoeuvring and not at the ballot box." Muhyiddin said his government would use the emergency decree to propose an increase in military and police power in relation to public health and to tighten controls over its borders. Law enforcement has already played a prominent role in

the pandemic manning road blocks and enforcing strict lockdowns in virus hotspots, with the government announcing every day the numbers of people picked up for breaching coronavirus measures. The country's borders have been closed to non-Malaysians since March. "Emergency or not, the question remains, what will gov do differently to curb Covid-19?" opposition politician and former minister Yeo Bee Yin wrote on Twitter. "It isn't about how much power you have, it's what you do with it." The prime minister previously requested an emergency in October when opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim insisted he had the numbers to form a government and COVID-19 cases were beginning to rise. Instead, limited movement restrictions were imposed but relaxed even as the caseload increased. Over the end of the year holidays, inter-state travel was again allowed and many Malaysians took holidays or went to visit friends and family. Daily cases have been mostly above 2,000 since the start of the year and breached 3,000 last week.

PM directs IPC to prepare for S.Asian games

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has directed the Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) to start preparations for 14th South Asian Games, scheduled in Pakistan. A meeting on hosting South Asian Games was chaired by PM Khan which was also attended by Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, IPC Minister Fehmida Mirza and other officials. Prime Minister has also directed to form a steering committee on the South Asian Games while he has also addressed all concerned agencies, including the Prime Minister's Office, to extend full cooperation for the organization of the Games. "The security situation in Pakistan is excellent. No country should have a problem playing in Pakistan. The best security will be provided to all players and officials," PM Khan said. Imran Khan also instructed to improve all infrastructure, including grounds, for hosting the South Asian Games. Note, Pakistan had previously hosted the South Asian Games in 1989 and 2004.

Pak earnestly wants peace in Afghanistan

From Page 01

The Prime Minister recalled his recent interaction with Afghan leaders and underlined that Pakistan's message to all sides was to work together for a peaceful solution. The Prime Minister particularly underscored the importance of reduction of violence leading to ceasefire. The Prime Minister added that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan will open up new vistas of cooperation in trade and regional connectivity. He also assured the Afghan delegation of Pakistan's continued support for human resource development through scholarships and socio-economic development projects in Afghanistan.

Pakistan to host WESPA Youth Cup

KARACHI: Pakistan to host WESPA Youth Cup, formerly known as World Youth Scrabble Championship from January 22nd to February 7th, 2021, Tariq Pervez, Director Youth Program of Pakistan Scrabble Association announced today.

The global regulatory body of scrabble, World English-Language Scrabble Players' Association (WESPA) has chosen Pakistan as the host for the championship being played online for the first time due to the COVID situation. A team of highly qualified experts led by Technical Director Vali Muhammad Khubaib will organize the championship. Young Hassan Hadi Khan is chosen as the Tournament Director by WESPA. The entire management team will be from Pakistan.

16 countries across five continents will take part in the championship with each team consisting of six players. All players are under 18 years of age. For the first time, this championship is being played in a team format instead of individuals. The teams are divided into four groups of four teams each of who will play the group stages on a round-robin league basis. The top two teams from each group will qualify for the quarter-finals. Special arrangement have been made at a local pharmaceutical company's Guesthouse which includes a commentary box and a control room equipped with high-speed internet and online monitoring equipment for the organizing team. All games will be completely surveilled by the technical team through webcams. Selected matches will be live-streamed with running commentary by the world's leading commentators Will Anderson and Jesse Day of USA. Waseem Khatri and Daniyal Sanaullah will be doing the Urdu commentary for Pakistani viewers. Pakistan is considered one of the favorite teams to win the championship. The Pakistan team will be announced at the end of the qualifying tournament on January 17th. – APP

Briefs

'Guterres to run for second term as UN chief'

NEW YORK: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres will run for a second five-year term as the organization's chief, his spokesman said Monday. Guterres informed the president of the General Assembly and Security Council that "he is available to serve a second term as secretary general of the United Nations," which would run from 2022 to 2026, spokesman Stephane Dujarric told a daily press briefing. Diplomatic officials said Guterres, 71, told the UN Security Council's permanent members on Friday that he planned to seek a second term. A diplomat told AFP that during the meeting with representatives from China, the United States, France, Britain and Russia, Guterres described the many threats the world faces. He underscored the need to reconcile "humanity and nature" and the importance of improved international cooperation on other challenges such as cyber-security and terrorism, the diplomat added. Other diplomats said Guterres' hope to serve a second term has so far not been met with any resistance from the permanent Security Council members. It is traditional for a UN secretary general to serve the maximum two terms, though before November's US election, diplomats said Guterres was not planning to seek a second term if President Donald Trump were reelected. — APP

WHO warns virus herd immunity unlikely

GENEVA: Scientists at the World Health Organization warned that mass vaccinations would not bring about herd immunity to the coronavirus this year, even as one leading producer boosted its production forecast. Infections numbers are surging around the world, especially in Europe where nations have been forced to ramp up virus restrictions even as vaccines are rolled out. The WHO's chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan warned Monday that it would take time to produce and give enough shots to halt the spread of the virus, which has infected more than 90 million people worldwide with deaths approaching two million. "We are not going to achieve any levels of population immunity or herd immunity in 2021," she said, stressing the need to maintain physical distancing, hand-washing and mask-wearing. Experts are also concerned about the rapid spread of new variants of the virus, such as the one first detected in Britain which is feared to be significantly more transmissible. England opened seven mass vaccination sites Monday to fight a surge fuelled by that variant, which is threatening to overwhelm hospitals. — APP

Sinovac vaccine arrive in Indonesia

JAKARTA: A total of 15 million doses of raw materials of COVID-19 vaccine from the Chinese bio-pharmaceutical company Sinovac Biotech arrived at Indonesia's Soekarno-Hatta Airport on Tuesday, the National Disaster Management Agency said. "The government is bringing in the vaccine to increase the amount of vaccines that will be given to the public," the agency's head Doni Monardo said. All these raw materials will be brought to the office of the state vaccine manufacturing company Bio Farma in West Java for further process into ready-to-use doses of vaccine. Currently, there are three million people ready-to-use doses of Sinovac vaccine that have been distributed to the 34 provinces in Indonesia and will be used starting Wednesday. Indonesia is targeting to vaccinate 181.5 million people with COVID-19 vaccine until next year. The first period of vaccination will be held until April 2021, for inoculating 1.3 million medical workers, 17.4 million public workers, and 21.5 million elderly people. The second period will run from April 2021 to March 2022 for 63.9 million vulnerable people and 77.4 million others. — DNA

'Moscow statement aims to create new regional situation'

It essentially draws a line under what happened last year. The statement is aimed at creating a completely new situation in our region and unblocking transport communications," Aliyev said

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: President Ilham Aliyev has said that a trilateral statement signed in Moscow on January 11 by the Azerbaijani, Russian and Armenian leaders aims to create a completely new regional situation and unblock transport communications. Aliyev made the remarks at a tete-a-tete meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Moscow on January 11. The bilateral meeting was held after a trilateral meeting between the Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian leaders in Moscow on the same day. At the end of the trilateral meeting, the three leaders signed the statement set to implement clause 9 of the November 2020 statement related to the unblocking of all economic and transport communications in the region. The first statement signed by the three in November 2020 ended the 44-day war between Armenia and Azerbaijan that lasted from September 27 to November 10, 2020. "This is the second statement signed in the two months since the war ended. It essentially draws a line under what happened last year. The statement is aimed at creating a completely new situation in our region and unblocking transport communications," Aliyev said.



The president said that the statement was of great importance for Azerbaijan. "It is of great importance for us because after more than 30 years Azerbaijan will have transport communication with the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan through the territory of Armenia. Armenia will have a railway communication with Russia and Iran through the territory of Azerbaijan.

We will also have access to the Turkish market through the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and Turkish and Russian railway arteries will also be connected. In other words, this statement opens up great prospects," he said. Aliyev expressed confidence that the working groups established by the three leaders will work effectively. "I am sure that the working group that we have established to-

day will work effectively and regularly report on the implementation of projects to us. There is not one project - there are several ones. I am sure that all of them will be implemented," the president added. Aliyev once again thanked his Russian counterpart for his initiative to hold the meeting, describing it as very useful and fruitful as "at the end of the meeting we signed a statement". He also thanked Putin

for his personal involvement in the cessation of hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the signing of the November peace deal. "I believe that you, as the leader of Russia, as a neighbour of both Armenia and Azerbaijan, have once again demonstrated your resolve, determination and wisdom. And today's meeting held on your initiative shows again how much attention you are paying to this issue. Of course, this makes us very happy, because the positive development of the situation in the entire region will largely depend on the settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which has already been consigned to history," Aliyev stressed. He noted that "completely new prospects are opening up that we, perhaps, could not even imagine before". The president said that the problematic situation between Armenia and Azerbaijan was finally resolved. "The situation that evolved between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the years has been finally resolved. I am sure that there will be no attempts by the Armenian side to revise the Statement of 9 November, so that both peoples find the will and wisdom to think about the future and about reconciliation. Thank you again for the invitation and for this initiative," said.

Russia extends UK flight ban over new strain

MOSCOW: Moscow on Tuesday extended its suspension of flights with Britain, after officials said they had detected the new UK strain of the coronavirus in Russia. The halt on air traffic between Russia and the UK was first implemented in late December and was extended on Tuesday until February 1. The government said the move was taken to "prevent the import and spread of the new coronavirus infection". The B117 coronavirus strain is thought to have first emerged in southeastern England late last year and has since been detected in dozens of countries around the world. The head of Russia's consumer watchdog Anna Popova announced last week that one case of the new strain had been detected last month. She told state television the individual had since recovered and was no longer displaying virus symptoms. Russia has one of the highest virus infection rates in the world and officials last month conceded the death toll was nearly four times higher than previously reported. — APP

New York speeds up Covid-19 vaccinations

NEW YORK: Faced with growing criticism over a sluggish rollout of the coronavirus vaccine, New York opened several large vaccination centers on Monday and relaxed criteria for getting a shot despite doses remaining insufficient. Dozens of people queued patiently at a center in the Bronx, one of three pop-up sites in New York City that mirror hubs established elsewhere, including in Florida and New Jersey. "This is the turning point in our fight against Covid-19," Mayor Bill de Blasio wrote on Twitter. Over 75, police officers, firefighters, teachers and transport workers became eligible to get vaccinated after New York Governor Andrew Cuomo eased the state's strict guidelines following anger over discarded doses. The vaccine, which is free, was reserved for frontline health care workers, and staff and residents of nursing homes, with authorities threatened with fines for violating the rule. But Cuomo announced a loosening of restrictions Friday after some hospitals reported that they were having to throw away vials that had expired because they couldn't find people to vaccinate. "It's a little surreal," said 39-year-old teacher Amir Khosrowpour, at the Bronx vaccination clinic. "I was not expecting to do that today, just less than 24 hours ago, but it feels good." Roughly 100 sites across New York City, including hospitals, health centers and pharmacies, started making appointments available Monday, although many of the sites are not yet operational. — APP

22 trapped after explosion in Chinese gold mine

BEIJING: Twenty-two gold miners have been trapped underground for nearly two days after an explosion in a mine under construction in eastern China. The blast occurred on Sunday afternoon at a mine in a town near Qixia city in eastern Shandong province, authorities wrote in a social media post. The explosion badly damaged the exit ladder from the mine and the communications system, so authorities could not contact the trapped miners, the statement released late Monday said. Authorities have sent rescuers to the mine, which is owned by the Shandong Wucaifeng Investment Co. Ltd. Mining accidents are common in China, where the industry has a poor safety record and regulations are often weakly enforced. In December, 23 miners died after being trapped in a mine in the southwestern city of Chongqing - just months after 16 others died from carbon monoxide poisoning after being trapped underground at another coal mine in the city.

Erdogan pledges to put EU ties 'back on track'

DNA

ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday he wanted to improve relations with the European Union and was hoping for the same "goodwill" from the 27-nation bloc. A more assertive Turkish foreign policy has ruffled EU members, bringing disagreements particularly with Greece in the eastern Mediterranean and France in Libya and the Middle East. But the Turkish leader has softened some of his toughest rhetoric and took a conciliatory tone in a televised meeting with EU ambassadors in Ankara. "We are ready to put our relations back on track," Erdogan told the ambassadors. "We expect our European friends to show the same goodwill." Turkey and Greece this week agreed to address their long-standing dispute over maritime borders at so-called exploratory talks in Istanbul on January 25. The meeting will be the first since negotiations between the two uneasy NATO neighbours broke down after 60 fruitless rounds stretching 14 years in 2016. "We believe that the exploratory talks with Greece ... will be the harbinger of a new era," Erdogan said. Erdogan added that he was open to better relations with Paris after months of personal feuds with French President Emmanuel Macron.

Twitter suspends 70,000 accounts linked to QAnon

DNA

SAN FRANCISCO: Twitter announced Monday it has suspended "more than 70,000 accounts" linked to the QAnon conspiracy theory following the attack on the US Capitol by a mob of President Donald Trump's supporters. The social network began its purge Friday, shortly after it had permanently suspended Trump's account for language that could incite violence. "Since Friday, more than 70,000 accounts have been suspended as a result of our efforts, with many instances of a single individual operating numerous accounts," Twitter said in a blog post. "These accounts were engaged in sharing harmful QAnon-associated content at scale and were primarily dedicated to the propagation of this conspiracy theory across the service." The far-right QAnon conspiracy theory claims Trump is waging a secret war against a global liberal

cult of Satan-worshipping pedophiles. Most major social media platforms have taken unprecedented action since Trump's supporters invaded the Capitol Wednesday to stop Congress from certifying Joe Biden's presidential win, shocking the US and tarnishing its international image. Facebook and Twitter have both indefinitely suspended the accounts for Trump, who has refused to accept the result of the November 3 election and spread baseless theories that the vote was rigged. Both platforms referred to the risk of future violence, particularly before Biden's inauguration on January 20. Twitter said it also factored in that plans for more armed protests have been proliferating on and off the service, including a proposed second attack on the US Capitol and state capital buildings on January 17. The social network was Trump's preferred megaphone, and his account had 88 million subscribers when it was suspended.

Indonesia recovers 1st black box from crashed plane

DNA

JAKARTA: A black box from the crashed Indonesian passenger jet has been recovered, officials said Tuesday, a discovery that could offer critical clues to explaining why the plane with 62 people aboard slammed into the sea. Divers just off the coast of the capital Jakarta hauled the jet's flight data recorder for its cockpit voice recorder. Indonesian transport minister Budi Karya Sumadi told a live television briefing that the box had been found - after the Sriwijaya Air Boeing 737-500 plunged about 10,000 feet (3,000 metres) in less than a minute before slamming into the Java Sea Saturday.

An AFP reporter on a navy ship said investigators started picking up strong signals from an area where they were searching, with divers able to retrieve the box in about an hour from the wreckage-littered seabed. So far authorities have been unable to explain why the 26-year-old plane crashed just four minutes after takeoff. Black box data - which record information about the speed, altitude and direction of the plane as well as flight crew conversations - helps explain nearly 90 percent of all crashes, according to aviation experts. Sumadi added officials believe the cockpit voice recorder is nearby that of flight data recorder. "We strongly believe it'll be found soon," he said. Some 3,600 personnel are taking part in the recovery effort, assisted

by dozens of boats and helicopters flying over small islands off the capital's coast. The agency deployed a remotely operated vehicle to assist the divers. Scores of body bags filled with human remains were being taken to a police morgue where forensic investigators hope to identify victims by matching fingerprints or DNA with distraught relatives - some held out hope of survivors. "We haven't accepted it yet," Inda Gunawan said of his brother Didik Gunardi who was on the doomed Saturday flight. "Our family is still hoping for a miracle that he is still alive." Authorities have identified flight attendant Okky Bisma, 29, as the first confirmed victim after matching fingerprints from a retrieved hand to those in a government identity database.

Turkey launches new anti-terror operation

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: The Turkish Interior Ministry announced on Tuesday the start of a new operation in the east of the country as part of the fight against terrorism. Operation Eren, named after Eren Bulbul, a 15-year-old martyred by the terrorist PKK on Aug. 11, 2017, commenced with the start of 2021, and aims at eliminating terrorism from the

country completely, it said in a statement. A total of 1,071 personnel from the Gendarmerie Command, Gendarmerie Special Operations (JOH), Police Special Operations Department, (POH) and rangers, and 71 operational teams are part of the action launched in Tendurek region of the eastern Agri and Van provinces. Turkey conducted Operations Kapan and Yildirim in 2020 with the aim of eliminating the separatist

terrorist organization, and exterminate the terrorists present in the region. Operation Yildirim, named after Halil Ibrahim Yildirim, the youngest martyr of the 2016 coup attempt in Istanbul, was completed on Jan. 10, 2021. As many as 11,733 raids were conducted, 153 terrorists were "neutralized," and 90 collaborators were arrested, while 707 caves, shelters and stores were destroyed in the anti-terror operation.

Turkish authorities use the term "neutralize" to imply the terrorists in question surrendered or were killed or captured. Hundreds of weapons as well as tons of various drugs were also seized. In its more than 30-year terror campaign against Turkey, the PKK - listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the US, and EU - has been responsible for the deaths of over 40,000 people, including women, children, and infants.



ANKARA: Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan arrived in Turkey on an official visit. Pakistan ambassador Syrus Qazi received him at Etimesgut military Airport Ankara. He will meet with senior Turkish officials to further promote Pakistan-Turkey defence ties. — DNA

India's SC stays implementation of farm laws

"We have the power to make a committee and the committee can give us the report," he said, ordering the stay for an undisclosed period on the laws passed in September. "We will protect farmers"

DNA

NEW DELHI: India's Supreme Court has paused the implementation of three new farm laws being fiercely opposed by farmers, who have been holding a large protest on the outskirts of the Indian capital for more than a month. The court will form a committee to hear farmers' grievances against the laws, Chief Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde said during

a hearing on Tuesday. "We are staying three farm laws until further orders," Bobde said. "We have the power to make a committee and the committee can give us the report," he said, ordering the stay for an undisclosed period on the laws passed in September. "We will protect farmers." There were no immediate further details. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has ruled out repealing the laws despite widespread protests from farmers and

other workers' groups across the country. Modi's government says the legislation aims to modernise an antiquated agricultural system, which suffers from colossal wastage and bottlenecks in the supply chain. But farm leaders say the laws are an attempt to erode a longstanding minimum support price for their crops, and will enable a few corporates to control the country's vast agricultural sector. Despite freezing conditions, thousands of farmers have been camp-

ing out on the outskirts of New Delhi since late November. At least eight rounds of talks between the government and farmers' groups could not break the deadlock. The two sides are set to meet next on Friday. "I don't consider the Supreme Court order as a win but at least it's a good step. After the court order, the government which was adamant is going to step back," Paramjeet Singh of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Indian Farmers' Un-

ion or BKU) told Al Jazeera at the Singhu border outside New Delhi. He said the farmers' union leaders will meet later on Tuesday and will decide the future course of their protest. Mahavir Singh of the All India Kisan Sabha told media the union would call off the protests only when the laws are revoked. "Our simple demand is revoke the laws. Unless the laws are repealed, we will continue our protest," he said.

Briefs

IHC extends interim bail of Asif Zardari

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday extended interim bail of former president and co-chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Asif Ali Zardari till January 28 in fake accounts case. A two member bench comprising of Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani heard bail application of Asif Ali Zardari. During the hearing, plea for exemption from appearance on medical grounds was also filed. Court also ordered to constitute a medical board to review former president's health condition. The lawyer of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) as well as counsel of Asif Ali Zardari did not oppose the decision.

Car sales at 11-year low in Pakistan

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: Pakistan's auto industry struggled to maintain its sales during the Covid-19 pandemic as the number of cars sold in the country dropped to an 11-year low. The industry sold 124,000 cars during the year 2020, according to data shared by the Pakistan Automotive Manufacturers Association. It was 34% lower than the previous year. The last time the industry sold cars below this level was in 2009. The number of cars sold during the year was recorded at 107,800 during the Great Recession which made many countries struggle financially. The highest number of car sales were recorded during 2018 when 255,000 vehicles were sold across Pakistan. "The Covid-19 pandemic is the biggest reason for the low car sales in 2020," Senior Research Analyst Ahmed Lakhani said.

Another JUI-F leader quits

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In yet another setback for Maulana Fazalur Rehman, a Jamiat Ulema e Islam (Fazal) JUI-F leader Haji Abrar Hussain Tanoli bid farewell to the party, citing serious differences with the party leader on policy issues. The former provincial minister for forests and hailing from Manshera announced his decision to leave the party officially at a large public gathering at Khatain Da Galla. He said Maulana Fazalur Rehman was working against the national interests in alliance with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and vowed to resist them at every for. He said he would challenge the PML-N leaders in the upcoming elections. Earlier Maulana Muhammad Khan Shirani, Maulana Gul Naseeb Khan, former member National Assembly (MNA) Maulana Shujaul Mulk, and former spokesperson of the party Hafiz Hussain Ahmad had also left as the rift in the JUI-F widened.

Pakistan Navy conducts live weapons firing

Chief of the Naval Staff reassured the nation that Pakistan Navy is fully prepared and ready to thwart any aggression against Pakistan's maritime frontiers



DNA

KARACHI: In an impressive fire power display, Pakistan Navy Fleet units demonstrated combat readiness and war fighting poten-

tial through live weapons firing at North Arabian Sea. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Anjad Khan Niazi graced the occasion as Chief Guest and witnessed the event along with other senior naval officers.

Pakistan Navy Submarines successfully engaged their intended targets with Anti-Ship Missiles and Torpedoes. The successful firings have re-affirmed Pakistan Navy's offensive capability and operational readiness. Chief of

the Naval Staff expressed his complete satisfaction on the combat readiness of PN Fleet and commended officers and men for their commitment and professionalism. On the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff reassured the nation that

Pakistan Navy is fully prepared and ready to thwart any aggression against Pakistan's maritime frontiers. He also underscored that Pakistan Navy will continue to play its part in making defence of the country impregnable.

'Smuggling through Iran, Afghanistan reduced by 65%

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Shahbaz Gill, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Political communication, said in a statement that one side is the deflation of broadsheet, theft, fugitive, Calabrian London Flat, corruption of PPP and Maulana and on the other side is the Pakistan of Prime Minister Imran Khan. He said this is the first time in 60 years that the government has built two large dams in Pakistan, new agreements are being

made with EPPs. A steady increase in economic exports, a steady increase in remittances, digital payment system is being built, bright digital accounts are emerging, the stock market is became number one in Asia, and the journey of success of the economy is moving in the right direction for the first time. He said government's effective strategy has reduced smuggling through Iran and Afghanistan by 65% and the formal trade has increased so much. He said FBR's efforts have also increased the import

duty, benefiting the national exchequer by billions. Dr Gill said if not, only PDM thieves will be given NRO. This corrupt mafia cannot see the country moving in the right direction so it is trying to mislead the people. He further said that, Bilawal Zardari has ruined Sindh in 13 years. Corruption is on the rise in Sindh. 53 percent families in Sindh are living beneath the poverty line and 60 percent population of the province is compelled to drink gutter-mixed water no any basic facilities provide to the

masses in Sindh. He said that Bilawal says he will end corruption in the country, Bilawal should first tell the people whether he will start with Asif Ali Zardari or his uncle Nawaz Sharif and his corrupt family? He said that the statement of PDM has proved to be an enemy of the country. The people have rejected this corrupt gang. No matter how many conspiracies they make, failure is their destiny. The people of Pakistan stand side by side with the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Armed Forces of Pakistan.

UN rights experts urge Joe Biden to close Gitmo prison

UNITED NATIONS: A group of UN human rights experts has appealed to the incoming President-elect Joe Biden's administration to immediately close the "disgraceful" US military prison at Guantanamo Bay. Citing the rapidly deteriorating health of detainees who remain, along with the mental and physical harm inflicted on them in cruel and inhuman conditions, eight right experts, in a joint statement, warned that the aging inmates are at increasing risk. "Guantanamo is a place of arbitrariness and abuse, a site where torture and ill-treatment was rampant and remains institutionalized, where the rule of law is effectively suspended, and where justice is denied", the experts said on the 19th anniversary of its establishment, on January 11, 2020. Moreover, they pointed out that the COVID-19 pandemic is further exacerbating health vulnerabilities for the increasingly elderly prison population. "The very existence of this facility is a disgrace for the United States and the international community as a whole", the UN experts said. "Guantanamo should have been closed a long time ago". In 2003, the facility held 700 prisoners. Nineteen years later, 40 detainees remain with only nine having been charged with, or convicted, of crimes. UN experts have consistently demanded the dismissal of the Military Commissions and the closing of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, saying they are incompatible with the US' obligations under international law.

"We must not forget these detainees, who have been subjected to torture or victims of comparable trauma, and still languish in Guantanamo, in a virtual legal limbo, outside the reach of the constitutional judicial system of the United States", they said. "The prolonged and indefinite detention of individuals, who have not been convicted of any crime by a competent and independent judicial authority operating under due process of law, is arbitrary and constitutes a form of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or even torture". Military Commissions are still undergoing pre-trial proceedings on motions to suppress evidence resulting from torture, according to the experts. And as fresh trials are not expected to commence anytime soon, proceedings are likely to last several years, leaving the defendants incarcerated indefinitely.

CAS praises professionalism of Azerbaijan Air Force

He also lauded the indigenization efforts under taken by PAF, Later in the day, the Air Chief also met with Colonel General Zakir Hasanov, Minister of Defence of Azerbaijan

DNA

BAKU: Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force called on Lt Gen Ramiz Tahirov, Commander Azerbaijan Air Force, today. Matters of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation came under discussion. The Air Chief praised the professionalism of Azerbaijan Air Force and assured his counterpart of PAF's full support; especially in the domain of training. Commander Azerbaijan Air Force commended the high

standards of the PAF training system and acknowledged its support towards training of Azeri Air Force personnel. He also lauded the indigenization efforts under taken by PAF; especially the JF-17 program. Later in the day, the Air Chief also met with Colonel General Zakir Hasanov, Minister of Defence of Azerbaijan. Matters related to mutual interests were discussed with a consensus to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation. Earlier, the Air Chief also visited the Martyrs' Alley and laid the floral wreath.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland Bénédict de Cerjat welcomed the new Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan Adam Tugio at the Swiss Embassy. - DNA

Pakistan leads in adopting SDG 2030 agenda: UN

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has taken the lead in adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), becoming one of the first countries in the world to take up their pledge to transform lives and protect the planet, said a report of United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for Pakistan (UNSDF).

United Nations is committed to work with the government of Pakistan with a grass roots level approach reaching people of Pakistan and make a lasting contribution to national development priorities. It also reaffirms its goal to take forward the principle of "leaving no one behind" and to improve the living conditions of all the people in the country, especially the most vulnerable, marginalized and disadvantaged factions of the society, the report said.

Keeping in view the emerging scale of Pakistan's economic growth, the report had termed it inclusive that benefits all people. It added that the economic growth of the country owing to its trajectory had the potential to ensure social development equitable; where women and men, boys and girls, and transgender individuals could fulfill their potential with dignity and equality of opportunity.

COVID-19 claims 41 more lives

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Tuesday reached 34,007 as 2,408 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 3,606 people recovered from it during the last 24 hours. Forty-one corona patients had lost their lives out of which 36 were under treatment in hospitals and five three others in their respective homes or quarantines, according to the latest update issued by the NCOC. - APP

Power breakdown: CPEC power plants stay unhurt, resume supply

ISLAMABAD: In face of Pakistan's intense and long-hour power breakdown, CPEC power plants stayed completely protected without developing any fault setting a precedent of quick and reliable resumption of operation. According to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday, they have stepped into re-startup process and are gearing up to resume full load supply to the entire Pakistan. Equipped with enhanced reliability system and latest automatic protection technologies, CPEC Power plants are in position to restore its seamless functionality allowing their power mechanism to get reconnected with National Grid System

in order to pull 220 million people out of darkness. It merits mentioning that owing to China-based advanced technology that meets international standards, CPEC power plants have not developed a single fault in spite of sudden interruption of supercritical pressure and high temperature. The report added, a trip was witnessed at 11:41 pm on January 9, at the Guddu thermal power plant. The next moment frequency which remains normally at 49.5 Hertz fell to zero. Under cascade, one after another, power plant safety systems began to shut themselves down. This led to series of shutdown in other power plants

including CPEC coal-powered and renewable energy power plants. Benefiting from modern safety & security system that switches off quickly the entire power plant once encounters any malfunctioning transmitted by other linking power plants, CPEC power plants resume full load supply very quickly. In an exclusive interview, Mr Xiao Xin, DCEO of Port Qasim Coal-Fired Power Plant said that the power system breakdown caused a shutdown of all power plants, however CPEC power plants like Port Qasim, Sahiwal, CPHGC had taken real-time response by using the latest automatic protection technologies. "Immediately after the res-

toration of transmission systems and technical limits, all CPEC power plants stepped into re-startup process and are gearing up to resume full load supply to entire Pakistan at the earliest," he asserted. He maintained that CPEC power plants had been operating in a very stable and reliable manner. "Thanks to their best engineering quality and sound operation techniques, no similar faults like this which may lead to a national system breakdown have been seen in CPEC projects up to today," he mentioned. In last 5 years, he said that CPEC had helped Pakistan in resolving shortage at power supply side. - APP

Innovative ideas presented at 'Eureka Fair'

DNA

KARACHI: The students of the Institute of Business Management (IoBM), Karachi recently organized the virtual "Eureka Fair - Online Project Showcase (Fall 2020)." The MBA students of 'Technology, Operations, and Innovation' of the Management and HRM Department presented their projects. They applied their learning to develop innovative products and applications to bring social change and evolution in various domains of life. Twelve best student projects out of thirty were demonstrated online. The Eureka Fair was held under the mentorship of Dr. Shagufta Ghouri, HoD Management & HRM Department, IoBM. The idea was to motivate students to develop practical business ventures based on innovative technologies. Eminent corporate guests and academicians were invited to watch the Eureka Fair. Those who attended this virtual event were Dr. Shujaat Mubarak (Dean CBM, IoBM), Dr. Samra Javed (HoD ORIC, IoBM) Syed Azfar Hussain (Program Manager, National Incubation Center), Muhammad Zain (Manager IT and Security Audit, BankIslami Pakistan Limited), Muhammad Yasir (CEO, Creative Chaos), Syed Naseh (CEO Diya Interactive), among others. The 12 projects were "Holographic Projection", "Augmented Reality", "She's Crafty", "Artonical", "Online Tracking App", "Carpooling service", "RepAssist", "MediPlus", "You Dosing System and App", "ShopeZZ", "Detection of creatinine and Urea", and "The Pet Club". IoBM continues to foster creativity and business skills among students by organizing such events based on experiential learning initiatives.

'Health, education prime focus of PTI govt'

DNA

MULTAN: Punjab Health Minister, Dr Yasmin Rashid Tuesday said that health and education are the prime focus of the government for provision of facilities to the masses. Speaking at a roadshow, under the auspices of Punjab Health Foundation here, Yasmin Rashid stated that government would not compromise over health of masses. "Health is a great blessing. If it is lost, everything is lost." she said adding that health cards would be provided to people by end of 2021. She stated that Punjab government would also inject Rs 21 billion in the health sector released by federal govt. Over two million people will get the cards, the minister and informed that 45 PC population has received these cards so far. "Public is the asset for a country that is why govt is investing in human capital," Rashid stated. She maintained that they were building Nishtar-II, Cardiology hospital in DG and three other health facilities in Rajanpur, Layyah and Bahawalnagar will be constructed with Rs 30 billion as per vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan and CM Punjab Usman Buzdar.

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