



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Ertrugul team indebted to Pakistani people

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Zartaj Gul urges youth to support peace

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Briefs

Egypt interested in tourism sector

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Egypt on Wednesday evinced keen interest to forge cooperation with Pakistan in tourism as its Envoy Tarek Dahroug called for increasing people-to-people contacts between the two brotherly countries to promote this vital area of economy. In a meeting with Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sayed Zulfikar Bukhari, both the sides explored avenues to further enhance bilateral cooperation in tourism sector, particularly through promotion of people-to-people ties.

Govt lacks a clear vision, says Fazl

ABID RAZA

LORALAI: Chief of the Opposition's Pakistan Democratic Movement, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, on Wednesday once more sharply criticised the government, this time for "lacking a clear vision". He said that the true custodians of Pakistan are its people, "a sea of whom shows up at our meetings and has a purpose and a vision". "This is a fake government and a fake prime minister with no sense and no ideology," Fazlur Rehman said, during a public gathering in Balochistan's Loralai district.

Development plan for GB, says Asad

DNA

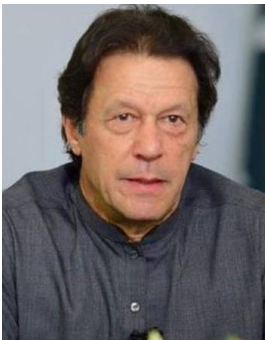
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Wednesday said that federal government and the Gilgit Baltistan administration would jointly formulate and announce an integrated development plan for the people of GB soon. He was jointly chairing an inaugural meeting for preparation of an integrated plan for development of Gilgit Baltistan here along with Chief Minister GB Khalid Khurshid.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi conferring Hilal-e-Pakistan on Foreign Minister of Turkey, Mevlut Cavusoglu, at a special investiture ceremony held, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. – DNA

Broadsheet exposed ruling elite's frauds

He said the international revelations exposed what he had been saying during his 24-year fight against corruption



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Wednesday said that having been exposed by Broadsheet after Panama Papers, the country's elites could not hide

PM assures justice to Osama Satti's father

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Wednesday assured to provide justice to family of slain Osama Satti – killed in fake encounter – as victim's father Nadeem Younus called on him here. Usam Nadeem Satti, a resident of G-13 Islamabad, was allegedly shot dead on January 2 by personnel of the Anti-Terrorist Squad in the wee hours, claiming that they were chasing some dacoits. The prime minister prayed peace of the departed soul and strength to the victim family to bear the loss. He also expressed heartfelt grief over the incident and assured justice to the victim family. The incident was also discussed during the federal cabinet's meeting on Tuesday wherein the prime minister expressed his strong displeasure and annoyance over opening of fire by the police. – DNA

behind "victimisation" card on international revelations of their corruption and money laundering. "Panama Papers exposed our ruling elites corruption and money laundering earlier. Now Broadsheet revelations have again exposed the massive scale of our ruling elites corruption and money laundering," he said in a series of Tweets. He said the international revelations exposed what he had been saying during his 24-year

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COAS meets families of victims of Machh incident

BUREAU REPORT

QUETTA: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Quetta on a day long visit. COAS was given detailed security brief at HQ Southern Command, met families of victims of Machh incident and also interacted with a large gathering of Hazara community. At HQ Southern Command, COAS was apprised about prevailing security challenges in the province and the measures taken, including border management along Pak-Afghan and Pak-Iran Border. COAS also spent time with the bereaved families of Machh incident victims and shared their grief. COAS assured them that perpetrators of this heinous incident shall be brought to justice and blood of the martyrs will not go waste.



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Continued on Page 06

Pakistan to go for Chinese vaccine

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary of National Health Services Dr Nausheen Hamid Wednesday said that Sinopharm has been selected for corona vaccination in the country. Talking to media Dr Nausheen Hamid said that the government has also been in contact with four other vaccine companies and talks for procurement of COVID-19 vaccine have been in final stage. The parliamentary secretary said that Pakistan has chosen Sinopharm vaccine for advanced booking. "The consignment of the vaccine is expected to arrive in Pakistan at the end of February or beginning of March," she further said. She said that over three Lac health workers have registered themselves for vaccine, "hopefully vaccination will begin from the next month," health official said. "The health authorities have taken strict steps to prevent the advanced strain of the coronavirus," she further said. It is to be mentioned here that the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) in the ongoing session of its registration board is expected to approve China's Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use in Pakistan.

Turkey thanks Pakistan for all-out support

Turkish Foreign Minister, Mr Mevlut Cavusoglu meets President and Prime Minister of Pakistan; hopes to further deepen ties with Islamabad

ANSAR BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Turkish Foreign Minister, Mr Mevlut Cavusoglu has said both Turkey and Pakistan have been cooperating on various forums adding leadership of both countries was committed to address issue of terrorism head on. He expressed these views while talking to a select group of Pakistani media people at the residence of the Turkish Ambassador Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul. Two famous characters of drama Ertugrul namely Nurettin Sonmez (known as Bamsi Beyrek and Ayberk Pekcan known as Artuk Bey also accompanied the Turkish Foreign Minister. The Turkish Foreign Minister further said he was glad to know that the Turkish drama Ertugrul was so popular in Pakistan. He said two of the main characters of the drama were accompanying him. The minister told the media people that Turkey fully supports Pakistan adding cooperation between

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Qureshi holds talks with Turkish FM

NAVEED MIRAJ / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi received Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu at the Foreign Office, today. The two Foreign Ministers held extensive exchange of views on bilateral, regional and global issues. On the bilateral plane, the two Foreign Ministers noted with gratification the positive momentum in brotherly relations between Pakistan and Turkey marked by exceptional mutual trust and deepening cooperation in diverse fields. The resolve to ensure

Continued on Page 06

Indonesian envoy lauds COMSTECH services

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Adam M. Tugio, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, visited COMSTECH Headquarters. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTECH warmly received him and gave him a tour to the COMSTECH facility. Dr. Iqbal briefed him on the state-of-the-art facilities available at COMSTECH headquarters. The Coordinator General took His Excellency to the poster exhibition site and highlighted the current economic status of Indonesia by describing him the poster of Indonesia displayed there. COMSTECH has prepared one poster of each OIC member state highlighting key socio-economic, and scientific



development indicators. Prof. Choudhary briefed the Ambassador on the current COMSTECH activities and future programmes and vision for the socio-economic uplift of the OIC member states by the application of modern technologies. Prof. Choudhary requested the Excellency to arrange visits of OIC scholars to OIC center of excellence in vaccine technology in Bandung, Indonesia. The Ambassador

proposed to organize exhibitions of technologies developed in leading OIC countries to fight against COVID-19 pandemic. He also proposed to collaborate in the applications of IT-based technologies for the effective vaccination process. Adam, appreciated the current programmes of COMSTECH and the vision for the future. Prof. Choudhary presented a shield of memento to the Ambassador.

Trump faces impeachment

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: The US House of Representatives passed a resolution calling Vice President Mike Pence to invoke the 25th amendment to remove Donald Trump from office amid moves by the Democrats to impeach the president. With eight days remaining in Trump's term, the House will vote on Wednesday on an article of impeachment accusing the Republican of inciting insurrection

in a speech to his followers last week before a mob of them stormed the Capitol, leaving five dead.

That would trigger a trial in the still Republican-controlled Senate, although it was unclear whether enough time or political appetite remained to expel Trump. Democrats moved forward on an impeachment vote after a effort to persuade Vice President Mike Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment of the US Constitution to remove Trump was rejected by Pence on Tuesday evening.

Pak, Turkey, Azerbaijan vow to cooperate for peace

The resolve was expressed at a joint presser of the foreign ministers of the three countries, after concluding the second trilateral meeting of the forum

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan, Turkey and Azerbaijan have expressed the determination to continue cooperation to promote peace, stability, and development in the region. The resolve was expressed at a joint presser of the foreign ministers of the three countries, after concluding the second trilateral meeting of the forum in Islamabad. Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Pakistan enjoys cordial and brotherly relations with Turkey and Azerbaijan. He said that a host of topics ranging from trade, investment, security, connectivity, and strategic cooperation came under discussion during the meeting. He said the trilateral meeting also discussed global and regional security environment, crimes against Muslim minority in various countries, the challenges of growing Islamophobia and Covid-19 pandemic. He said the meeting exchanged views on enhancing cooperation in the field of energy, environment and people to people contacts. He said special emphasis was made

on increasing parliamentary and media exchanges among the three countries for better understanding and harmony. Shah Mahmood Qureshi thanked his Turkish and Azerbaijan counterparts for their support on the Kashmir dispute. He said the meeting expressed concerns over gross human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, prolonged military siege in IIOJK and India's unilateral

actions to change demography of the area. Talking about Nagorno-Karabakh issue, the Pakistani Foreign Minister called for resolution of this dispute peacefully. He said Pakistan believes that all regional and global issues should be resolved through peaceful means and in light of the relevant international laws. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Pakistan has unique space in the hearts of the people of Turkey. He said both coun-



tries support each other in difficult times. He said the current trade volume between the two countries is 800 million dollars which is much below than the real potential of the two countries and this volume needs to be enhanced. He said over 100 Turkish companies are currently working in Pakistan in diverse fields and we are encouraging more companies to come and invest in Pakistan. He said both countries are cooperating in the sector of defence production. Mevlut Cavusoglu extended his country's full support to the people of IIOJK and called for resolution of the Kashmir dispute as per relevant UN Resolutions. Azerbaijan Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov said we condemn terrorism and reject Islamophobia. He expressed the resolve to continue extending cooperation for regional peace and development. He also thanked Pakistan and Turkey for extending their full support during the second war for the liberation of Nagorno-Karabakh. Islamabad Declaration was signed on the conclusion of the second round of trilateral meeting of the foreign ministers of the three countries.

Ties with China time-tested: Fakhar

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Nong Rong here on Wednesday called on Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam. Speaking on the occasion the minister said that Pakistan attaches great value to its relations with China and cooperation between the two countries was ideal. Fakhar Imam further said that all efforts were under way to further enhance the relationship between Pakistan and China. The minister suggested foreign exchange programs between the two countries for education and research, especially adaptive research for agriculture to translate Pakistan's potential to fruitful effort.

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Briefs

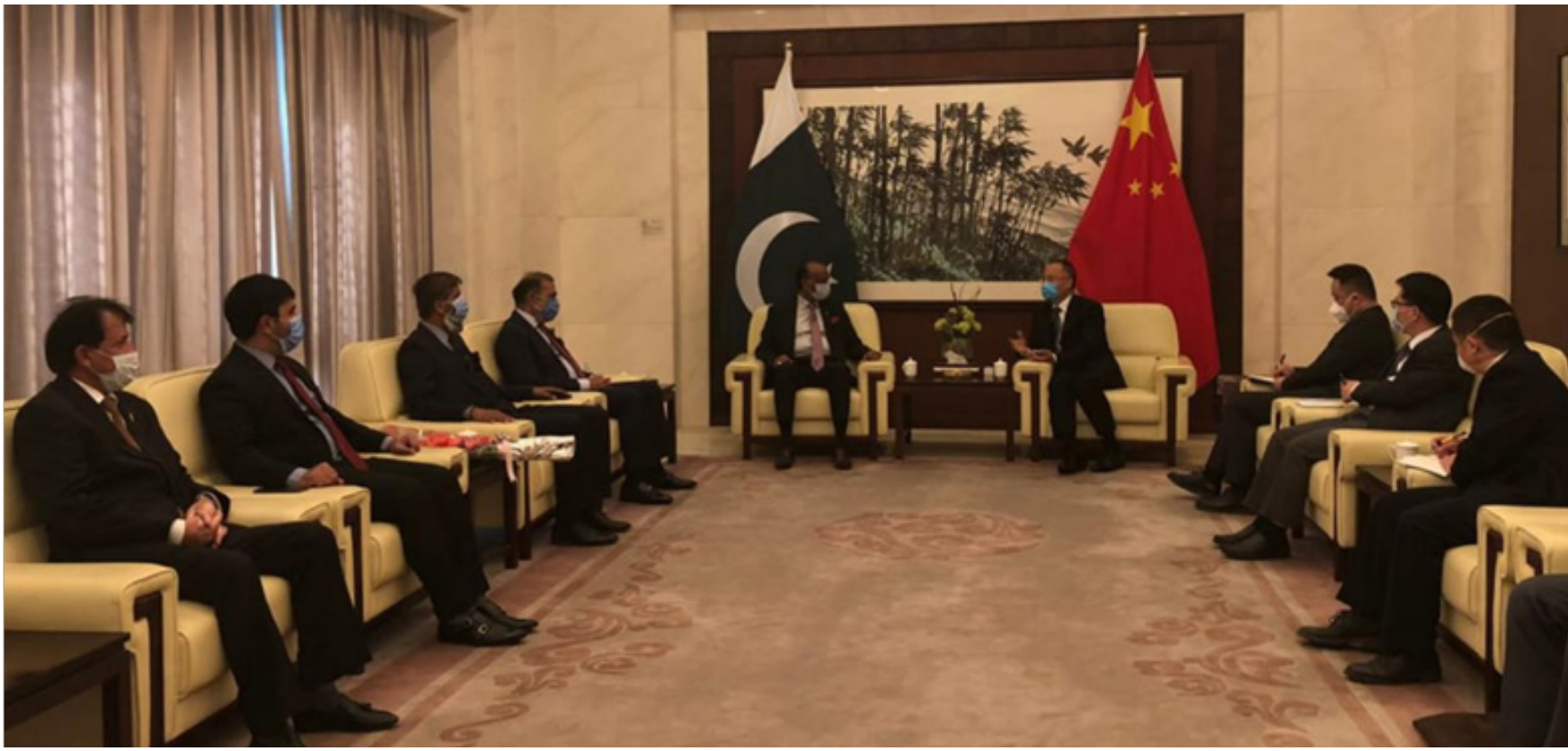
Elengy terminal handles 20m tons of LNG

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Since the start of its operations in March 2015, Engro Elengy Terminal (EETL) has completed the transfer of over 20 million metric tons of LNG by handling over 322 cargoes. This is the highest volume handled by any floating LNG terminal in this time frame. The Terminal has also achieved another milestone through the send-out of more than 1000 billion cubic feet (BCF) of natural gas, equivalent to energy required to generate around 175 million MW. EETL utilizes the floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) Exquisite, which is co-owned by Excelerate Energy LP (Excelerate) and Nakilat. The terminal has a storage capacity of 150,900 cubic meters and peak regasification capacity of up to 690 million cubic feet per day (mmcf). It currently fulfills as much as 15 percent of Pakistan's domestic daily natural gas requirements. As a result, more than USD 3 billion of savings have been generated for the national exchequer through import substitution of expensive furnace oil. The first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal of Pakistan operated by Engro Elengy Terminal (EETL), a joint venture between Engro Corporation and Royal Vopak of the Netherlands, has set new industry records during its five years of safe and reliable operations to ensure energy security for Pakistan.

AKF organizes medical for street children

PESHAWAR: Al-Khidmat Foundation (AKF) Wednesday organized a one-day free medical and screening camp for street children in Saad bin Maaz Model School, at Sardar Ghari, G.T. Road Peshawar. During camps experienced health experts carried out free screening of 300 street children for various diseases and gave free medicines to them. Provincial president AKF, Khalid Waqas and Additional Secretary Social Welfare, Habibullah Arif inaugurated the free medical and screening camp. AKF under Al-Khidmat Child Protection Project had established 16 centres for attracting street children to education wherein over 700 children are getting education. Eight of such centres are operational in Peshawar where over 300 children are being given primary education. Speaking on the occasion, the Additional Secretary Social Welfare, Habibullah Arif and provincial president AKF, Khalid Waqas said that these centres are operational with the financial support of resourceful philanthropists. They said that hundreds of children after getting basic education are getting education admission in other schools. They said, AKF also organize different activities for street children. Beside, Peshawar, Mardan, Kohat and Khyber, such centres have also been recently established in North and South Waziristan and very soon such centres would also be established in other districts of the province. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: RCCI delegation led by President Nasir Mirza, group leader Sohail Altaf called on Chinese ambassador Nong Rong. — DNA

CDA's enforcement department conducts mega operations

Assistant Director Badar Maqsood led the team of enforcement department. Assistant Director West 01, Syed Adalat Shah also helped in conducting operation. 17 shades, one iron stair, 01 counter, and 01 Chhappar store were demolished at Lehtrar road

DNA

ISLAMABAD: During the anti encroachment drive of Capital Development Authority (CDA) the enforcement department of the authority conducted mega operations in different sectors and at Khhana Pull, Lehtrar road, and Tramari chowk in previous days. During the operations various encroachments were removed and illegal constructions demolished. 6 trucks of goods were recovered and submitted to store. District administration, and Assistant Commissioner Koral were also present at the occasion. Assistant Director Badar Maqsood led the team of enforcement department. Assistant Director West 01, Syed Adalat Shah also helped in conducting operation. 17 shades, one iron stair, 01 counter, and 01 Chhappar store were



demolished at Lehtrar road. Action taken against moveable encroachment during operation at Khhana pull and 2 trucks and one Shehzor of goods were recovered

and stocked in store. 03 boundary walls, new under construction rooms, and encroachments were demolished at Muslim Colony Bari Imam. One illegal washroom was



demolished in sector F-6/2. Illegal boundary wall of newly constructed home in G-8/4 was demolished during the operation. Similarly, encroachments and illegal con-

structions were also demolished in sector G-8 and G-9. Operation against illegal constructions and encroachments will be continued without any break.

CM Buzdar directs to counter PDM narrative

LAHORE: Special Assistant to CM on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan on Wednesday called on Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar and discussed matters of mutual interest. On the occasion, the CM directed to vigorously counter the nefarious narrative of the PDM along with a projection of PTI-led government's performance in a befitting manner. Similarly, the Pakistan-centric policies of Prime Minister Imran Khan should be projected in the best of manner as the PTI government had given atten-

tion to performance and delivery to the masses, he said. The CM emphasized the government was working day and night to create ease for the people and regretted the opponents had remained engrossed in spreading turmoil and even tried to make the institutions controversial. He pointed out the UK-based Broad-sheet had, again, exposed the former rulers. The opposition parties' narrative had failed to attract the people and there was no future of those engaged in negative politics, he said and

added that new Pakistan would move forward under the leadership of PM Imran Khan. The SACM stated that government's performance would be effectively projected at every forum, adding that the government had clean-bowled the opposition with its immaculate performance. The people could not be deceived by certified looters, she said and added that the PDM was about to crumble as the opposition had faced defeat at every front. Regrettably, the power-hungry cabal was unable to realize facts, she said. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman NAB, Justice (ret'd) Javed Iqbal chairing NAB executive board meeting at NAB headquarters. — DNA (Detailed news on back page)

Govt arrests 71 for illegal purchase of sugarcane

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab government is continuing a crackdown on the middlemen involved in the illegal purchase of sugarcane, arresting 71 persons and registering 164 cases against them in different cities across the province to ensure that farmers get a due return of their produce. The authorities also sealed 266 illegal weighbridges, arrested 70 persons, besides imposing fines worth Rs. 320,000. These details were presented at a meeting chaired by Senior Provincial Minister Abdul Aleem Khan. Provincial Minister for Industries Mian Aslam Iqbal, the Chief Secretary Punjab, administrative secretaries of industries, food and agriculture departments, commissioner Lahore, CEO Urban Unit, and officers concerned attended the meeting. The divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners participated through video link. The meeting reviewed the sugarcane crushing season and prices and availability of essential commodities, especially sugar. Speaking at the meeting, Senior Provincial Minister Abdul Aleem Khan

suggested that the import of sugar should be allowed to stabilize the prices. He said that the Prime Minister's decision to import wheat proved to be right as the price of flour has decreased significantly, which brought relief to the common man. He said that the price of flour has come down to the lowest level of seven months in the province, and a bag of flour is available at less than the fixed rate. Provincial Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal asked the secretary of agriculture to devise a mechanism for forecasting the production, demand, and supply of commodities, including fruits and vegetables, to avoid shortage of any item. He mentioned that the provision of relief to the common man is the top priority, and the government would take all possible steps to ensure the availability of essential commodities at fixed rates. The Chief Secretary said that the middlemen exploit farmers by purchasing sugarcane at lower prices, adding that the government would protect the rights of growers in any case. He directed the deputy commissioners to continue crackdown on the middlemen and illegal weighbridges.

'Murad Saeed misinterprets constitution'

DNA

KARACHI: Spokesperson of Sindh Government and Advisor for Law, Environment and Coastal Development Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that Federal Minister Murad Saeed has misinterpreted the Constitution of Pakistan by making a wrong statement in Parliament. It would be better for him to fix the highways. He expressed these views while addressing a press conference in the committee room of Sindh Assembly Building on Wednesday. He said that Murad Saeed does not do his basic work while interfering in other works. When Murad Saeed talks about the constitution of Pakistan, he says that Imran Khan is the constitution and speaks of the law. Murad Saeed should also read Article 158 of the Constitution when Murad Saeed talks about court decisions that Imran Khan is "honest and trustworthy". In 2011, the Sindh High Court had ruled that the federation must abide by Article 158 of the constitution, but federal ministers do not talk about the rights of Sindh and Balochistan out of hatred for the PPP. He said that the job of Murad Saeed is to make the National Highway Authority functional in the context of communication. It would not be better if you talk about political point scoring. Murad Saeed is responsible for constructing Karachi and Sukkur highways while the condition of highways is very bad and dilapidated. "They are not fulfilling their responsibility," he said.

Vaccination center inaugurated in Nawabshah

HYDERABAD: The Divisional COVID-19 vaccination Center for preventive vaccination against Corona Pandemic was inaugurated at the Mother and Child Healthcare Center Nawabshah here on Wednesday. Deputy Commissioner Abrar Ahmed Jaffar performed the opening of the center and paid a detailed visit of the center. The deputy commissioner said the Divisional COVID-19 vaccination Center has been established at Shaheed Benazirabad Division as a pre-preventive program for vaccination against coronavirus. He said the vaccination would be available at the end of current month, adding that the frontline coronavirus combating heroes including doctors and paramedical staff would be vaccinated in the first phase while vaccination of patients affected and involved in different diseases would come in the second phase program. He said the next would come administrative officials and staff health general public is included in the fourth phase for preventive vaccination against coronavirus. The DC said all arrangements were finalized at Divisional COVID-19 Vaccination Center with necessary equipment and posting of doctors and paramedical staff to cater vaccination to 200 to 300 persons on daily basis. The DC added that the corona pandemic situation was better in the district due to cooperation of the general public and adoption of administrative steps. — DNA

Cargill, Rizq Trust join forces to combat food insecurity

KARACHI: Being a nation of agricultural abundance, food insecurity continues to be a major challenge across Pakistan. Cargill and Rizq Trust have come together with the shared goal of ending hunger across Pakistan by setting up a food bank network. A groundbreaking ceremony was held today for the first-ever Cargill RizqBank, in Lyari,

Karachi- one of the largest food insecure communities in Pakistan. The Rizq Cargill ecosystem will work to create a food secure Lyari, reduce food wastage and will be able to serve about 200,000 meals in the community annually. The RizqBank will offer four key services to help eradicate food insecurity and end hunger in slum commu-

nities across the country. This includes RizqDaig, distribution of food within the community, RizqRation, identifying and delivering monthly food supplies to food insecure families and establishing a community center, RizqBachao, collecting, storing and distributing excess food to low-income families and Rizq Future Generation Program, mobilizing youth from schools and universities to support activities of zero waste and zero hunger. This model once established in Lyari, Karachi will also be replicated at key locations across the nation through this partnership. This will serve as a blueprint for stakeholders in the food ecosystem to come together and create self-sustaining communi-

ties. In phase two, the program will progress towards setting up the RizqXchange, which is a collaborative that will mobilize resources through a network of RizqBanks. The RizqXchange is enabled by ShareRizq platform, cloud-foodbanking technology that connects people who want to donate food with distributors that are giving food to beneficiaries in real time. Advancing its corporate purpose of nourishing communities in a safe, responsible and sustainable way, Cargill has contributed seed funding and will assist Rizq with technical advisory services to efficiently create and run the food bank operations. Cargill employees will also engage as volunteers at the Cargill RizqBank. — APP



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Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165



Briefs

‘Muharrars’ to be appointed after test

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have decided to appoint ‘Muharrars’ (Station Clerks) at all police stations after test and interview. Keeping in view public complaints about indecent attitudes by Station Clerks in police stations, the IGP Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman has directed to appoint Station Clerks after test and interview. A Committee comprising SSP (Operations), SP (Investigation), SP (CTD) and DSP (Special Branch) has been constituted which will conduct interviews after tests of Station Clerks and to decide about their appointments. The basis purpose of this exercise is to judge the understanding of policemen about police rules, affairs of police stations and decency towards public. The selected policemen would be also given training at Police Training School to enhance their capability toward public service in fair and transparent manner.

ICT agri dept held training session for staff

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Agriculture department on Wednesday organized a training session for its field staff, enhancing their ability to perform the task in effective manner. The experts of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) informed the participants on various ways and means to improve and maximize wheat production. Around 40 officials attended the 7-hour long session comprising topics land utilization, disinfection, sprays and fertilizers. Later the participants also conducted physical field visit to experiment various techniques. – APP

Hunerkada to start Fashion, Textile classes

ISLAMABAD: Hunerkada, an art school will start Fashion and Textile designing classes from January 19th to teach the properties of fiber, yarn,dyes and latest trends of clothing. An official of the institute said that they will offer three to six months short course and one year diploma too. He said that the classes will offer the students to come across the intellectual and practical demands of the printing and textile industry. He said that the course will basically comprise the method to generate designs for knitted, printed and surface ornamented fabrics. He said that the brilliant designers and experienced professionals was invited to instruct the students. – APP

Ruet-e-Hilal Committee to meet today

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of Ruet-e-Hilal Committee would be held in Islamabad today to decide about the sighting of the Jamad-U-Sani1442 hijri crescent. Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad would attend the meeting of Zonal Committee, Islamabad. The other members of Ruet-Hilal Committee would attend the meetings of provincial/ district/zonal committees at their respective provincial/ district headquarters. The information regarding the sighting of the crescent should be conveyed to Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad on mobile No, 0321-9410041. The information regarding crescent sighting could also be conveyed to Syed Mushahid Hussain Khalid, Director General, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on his mobile No. 0300 6831882 and Hafiz Abdul Quddos, Deputy Director of the Ministry on mobile No. 0333 2697051. – APP

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Turkey Mevlut Cavusoglu, Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul and two actors of drama Ertugrul Bamsi and Artuk posing for a picture during a media briefing held at the Turkish embassy. (More news on front and back page). – DNA

Korean companies keen to invest in Pakistan

Shaukat Ali Mukadam said that there was good scope to increase the volume of trade between Pakistan and South Korea

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s former Ambassador to South Korea, Shaukat Ali Mukadam said that many Korean companies, especially SME were interested to come to Pakistan for business and investment as they intended to move out of Korea, however, they needed information about cost of land and cost of setting up manufacturing units in Pakistan to enhance their presence in Pakistani market. He said this while exchanging views with Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry during his visit to ICCI. Shaukat Ali Mukadam said that there was good scope to increase the volume of trade between Paki-

stan and South Korea and urged the Pakistani manufacturers to concentrate on value addition of their products to promote exports to South Korea. He said that there was a great potential for Pakistani business community to promote fruits and many other items to Korea. He said that the Koreans had learnt a lot from Pakistan in the 60s and today the secret behind their progress and prosperity was the implementation of right policies. He urged that ICCI should consider taking a delegation to South Korea to get firsthand knowledge about business opportunities there. He assured that he would work for promoting the trade and investment relations between Pakistan and South Korea and his Embassy in Korea would extend



all possible cooperation to business delegations. Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that South Korea’s annual exports were over \$500 billion, but Pakistan-Korea bilateral

export many products to Korea including textiles products, cotton, fruits, rice, raw hides & skins, fish, surgical instruments, medical apparatus, toys and games, leather products and Koreans should be encouraged to enhance their imports from Pakistan. He was of the view that a little more attention by the Korean Government and businessmen can increase Pakistan’s exports to Korea considerably. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that Pakistan needed technology transfer from Korea to upgrade its indigenous industry and the Ambassador should play a role for this purpose. He said that Pakistan’s large market of over 200 million people with its strategic location as a gateway for Central Asian States and other regional countries offered tremendous opportunities for relocation of Korean industries to Pakistan. He said that SEZs in Pakistan offered many incentives including long term tax holidays and duty free import of industrial machinery, therefore, Korean investors should be apprised of these incentives to explore JVs and investment in Pakistan. He said that many Korean companies including LG, Samsung, Daewoo, Kia, Hyundai were already doing business in Pakistan and more should come to Pakistan to earn lucrative returns. He said that ICCI was working for a One Window facility for investors and would help Korean companies in exploring JVs and investment in Pakistan.

Exports of home textiles increases by 16%: Razak

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister for Commerce and Investment on Wednesday said that the textiles sector is maintaining its export growth, which shows the exports of home textiles increased by 16 percent to \$ 2,017 million for July-December 2020. It is heartening to note that the textiles sector is maintaining its export growth; the Adviser said this on his official twitter account. He said the figures for July-December 2020 show that the exports of home textiles increased by 16 percent to 42,017 million, Readymade Garments by 25 percent to \$ 1,181 million and Tents/Canvases by 57 percent to \$62 million. The Adviser said that it is even more encourag-



ing to note that the non-textile sector exports are also showing healthy growth. During July-December 2020, the exports of Pharmaceuticals increased by 25 percent to \$138 million, Ethanol Alcohol (Industrial) by 14 percent to \$ 182 million, Tobacco and Cigarettes by 84.50 percent to \$29 million, and Processed Food by 120 percent to \$ 25 million. He also informed it is with great interest that ‘Artistic Milliners’ has acquired a manufacturing facility in California, he mentioned. Razak Dawood said that “Our local companies should acquire overseas companies and brands, through proper channels, as it increases outreach in the global market and thereby increases our market share.” He said that Pakistani companies, formally reaching out across the globe, are a welcome sign. “I wish Artistic Milliners every success” he said.

IESCO issues power schedule

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)’s spokesman, System Maintenance is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: From 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM Club-1, Mahfooz Shaheed, Orchard, Treatment Plant, Scheme-2, Pandorian, Sparko, New Rawat, Ammar, Nogzi, Fazliya, Hussainabad, Col. Sher Khan, Hussain Estate, Lalazar , Garhi Afghana, Burhan, Shafi Chauhan, Shahiya, Sar pak, Al-Rizwan Mills, Sarkal, I-10/2, NDC-1, Dr. AQ Khan, New Exchange, G-10/1, G-10/2, G-10/4, CWO, Fazal Ghee Mill, SES, G-9/1, Kidney Center, Police Line, Shahdara, Khayaban-e-Iqbal, Punjab House, Diplomatic, NCP, Mandra,

Bani Gala, Treat, University , Golf City, Pir Sohawa, Malody, Soddaran Road, Karpa, Service Road East Tar-lai, Aziz Chowk, I-8/1, Sewage Treatment Plant, I-10/1, Bella Road, NPF, Shahpur, Company Bagh , Ghariyal, Upper Topa, Pir Sohawa, Ghousia Colony, National Market, Shaheed Mohammad Din, Nora Road, Zafarul Haq Road, City, Gulshanabad, Sarafa Bazaar, Jinnah Road, Pirwadhai, Ali Market, Asghar Mall, Trench Bhatta, Misryal Road, Kamal Abad, I-16/1, BB Shaheed, Kashmir Road, Dhok Farman Ali, Mecca Chowk, Jail Park-1, Mahfooz Shaheed, MSF, Humayun, Chontra, Dharmyal, Ara Bazar, Garja, Mansoor Shaheed, Kahuta City 1, Kamblil Sadiq, Fazal Khurd, Patwali, Khoolian Feeders and surrounding areas will be remain without power. – APP

Chauhan, Burhan, Hazro, Sarka, Shanka, People’s Colony, Boltonwal, Qaziabad, Karpa, Azeem Shaheed, Jhang, Dhakner, Mahfooz Shaheed, Laniwala, F-5 Jeddah, Zebar Shaheed, F-3 Gul Afshan , Bolani, Kariala, Shamsabad, Chapran, Akram Shaheed, F-8 Civil Line, Ajmal Shaheed, Burian, F-9 Chak Daulat, F-2 Chip Bod, Industrial, F-10 Kala Base, M Riaz Shaheed, Gadari, Bhagwal, Safdar Shaheed, Sanghui, Nathwala, Mumtaz Shaheed, Scheme-1, Matwa, Jarmit, Chappan Sharif, Kantrila, Islampura, Ara Bazar, Minara, Islamia Chowk, Dhadi-al City, Dhoda, Sarkal, Dilwal, Kot Chaudhry, Dharnaka, Mort, Dhok Pathan , Kot Sarang, Taji, Multan Khurd, Patwali, Khoolian Feeders and surrounding areas will be remain without power. – APP

PAL to hold literary seminar

ISLAMABAD: PAL will hold National Literary Seminar on the occasion of the 37th death anniversary of the prominent Balochi poet and intellectual Mir Gul Khan Nasseer on January 15. According to an official, Ifikhar Arif will preside over the seminar while Prof Badal Khan and Taj Joyo will be the Chief Guests. Renowned poets Dr. Wahid Bakhs Buzdar, Dr. Abdul Subor Baloch, and Dr. Abdullah Jan Abid will shed light on his poetic vision. Dr. Yusuf Kuskh, Chairman PAL will read some of his famous poetry. Intellectuals including Dr. Rahim Bakhs Mehar, Dr. Liaqat Sunny, Yar Jan Badeni, Dr. Ramzan Barnari and Tariq Rahim Baloch will also express their views. – APP

SC proceeds over reference on Senate election

ISLAMABAD: Attorney General Khalid Javed on Wednesday resumed his arguments before the Supreme Court of Pakistan over the presidential reference about Senate elections. The government has sought opinion of the apex court by a presidential reference seeking to conduct the Senate elections with open ballot. A five-judge larger bench, headed by Chief Justice Gular Ahmed and comprising of Justice Mushir Alam, Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Yahya Afridi, hearing the reference. Attorney General said that the elections of prime minister, chairman and deputy chairman senate were not conducted by the election commission. The constitution has been silent over the electoral procedure for the elections of the speaker and chairman senate, Chief Justice observed. “The house itself conducts elections of prime minister, chairman senate and speaker,” AG argued. A reference has been in Article 53 about the speaker’s election, he further said. The election commission also have a role in election of the president, he argued. Concerned officials act as presiding officers in the elections of chairman, deputy chairman and speaker and deputy speaker, the state counsel said. “The outgoing speaker acts as presiding officer in the election of the speaker National Assembly,” Attorney General further said. AG Khalid Javed further argued that Article 60 of the constitution have a reference about the election of chairman senate. “Articles 53 and 60 have been silent whether the election will be held by an open or secret ballot,” Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan remarked. The elections of the senate and the national assembly not used to conduct under the constitution, the AG argued. “Article 26 has been clear over the matter, which says that all elections except the elections of the prime minister and chief ministers should be conducted with secret ballot. “The elections under the law have a separate chapter and Article 226 not applied over all elections,” attorney general said. “The elections on the reserved seats could not happen if Article 226 applied for it,” the CJP observed. The polls for the national and provincial assemblies held under the electoral representation law, the CJP said. “The parties provide their lists for representation over the reserved seats,” AG Khalid Javed said. “If an MPA opts to vote against the party, he should come in open to cast vote,” Justice Ijaz said. “A member could not be disqualified over casting vote against the party line,” AG said. “There is no concept of an independent vote in the senate election. Thus the senate election should not be conducted by secret ballot,” he further said. “The concept of independent vote is relevant with the general election. The constitution has been silent over holding senate elections by secret vote,” AG Khalid Javed further argued. “The constitution only said that the electoral procedure should be according to the law”, attorney general said. “In Germany the political parties decide, who will be the member of the assembly,” Justice Umar Ata Bandial remarked. The country has proportional representation system,” Justice Bandial added. “In Pakistan reserved seats are decided by the electoral procedure used in Germany,” Attorney General said. “An elected representative is responsible before the electorate and the party head,” Justice Ijaz said. – DNA

NAVTTTC, Turku Vocational Institute ink MoU

RANA FARRUKH / DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) and Turku Vocational Institute, Finland agreed to enhance the cooperation in the field of technical and vocational education and training by signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The MoU between the two organizations cover a number of areas including training of trainers and job specific trainings, mutual accreditation of technical and vocational training institutes, establishment of joint institutions for training and skill development in Pakistan, regular exchange of TVET trainers, mutual cooperation in development and implementation in the field of virtual training modules and blended learning etc. The MoU signing ceremony took place at the

Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training. This MoU was signed by Mr. Immonen Hannu Principal, Turku Vocational Institute and Executive Director, NAVTTTC, Dr. Faheem Mohammad. The MoU will contribute significantly to overhaul the skill training system in Pakistan and to develop a highly skilled, dynamic and internationally



competitive youth workforce as envisaged by the present government. This collaboration will also be fruitful in achieving the objectives of Prime Minister’s Hunarmand Pakistan (Skills for All) program. This partnership is expected to be of great value for revamping Pakistan’s TVET sector as Finland has one of the most innova-

tive and well established TVET systems in the world. Moreover, this MoU is a landmark event as it commemorates 70th year of diplomatic relationship with Finland with Pakistan. The ceremony was witnessed by Mrs. Farah Hamid Khan, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, His Excellency Willie Eerola, Honorary Consul of Pakistan in Finland, Syed Javed Hassan, Chairman, NAVTTTC, Mr. Mohyud-din Ahmad Wani, Additional Secretary, Federal Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training from Pakistani side where as from Finland side it was witnessed by His Excellency Harri Kämäräinen, Ambassador of Finland to Pakistan, Mr. Timo Haukioja, Project Coordinator, Education Division, Finland, Mr. Petri Hörkö, Team Leader, Hotel and Restaurant Catering Education, Turku, Finland and a number of guests from both sides.

Chilly weather increases sale of winter delights

ISLAMABAD: With the decline in temperature bringing freezing cold to the federal capital; the demand of winter delights has increased among people particularly ‘Gajar ka Halwa,’ the most demanded delight. Talking to APP, manager of a renowned bakery here on Wednesday said that these kinds of famous ‘Halwa’s’, Jalebi, hot gulab jamuns and Kashmiri Tea add to the enjoyment of people rejoicing cold weather and the Gajar ka Halwa has become the center of attraction among citizens during peak of winter season. The manager also highlighted the prices of winter delights particularly Gajar ka Halwa had not been increased comparatively to previous years, adding, “We were selling a single plate for Rs100 whereas per kilogram for Rs1000, which is the same of the last year.” He said during the lockdown of COVID-19 home delivery service was initiated that proved to be a blessing in disguise for us as our business continued to capture maximum orders.

It was a safer and convenient way for the residents of the federal capital and also hustle free as they had not to wait in long ques. He said our bakery witnessed huge crowds on weekend to buy fresh cooked and hygienic winter delights to enjoy with its full taste. A housewife Ayesha Khan said, “My family members are more inclined towards sweets and Gajar ka Halwa holds a special place in this season.” – APP

IWMB protects injured White-eyed Buzzard

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) has successfully secured a badly injured White-eyed Buzzard, a common bird of prey resembling a local kite, with the help of a teenager who timely brought the agonized bird for rescue. The Buzzard was brought by a child and his father who was unable to stand on its claws due to some severe injury, Assistant Director IWMB Sakawat Ali said while sharing the unprecedented story of rescue to APP.

He said the Bird was received by the IWMB staff that carefully observed it and initiated the first aid treatment. “The child has been amazed to witness such love for the wildlife by the IWMB staff where the Wildlife officials also reciprocated similar sentiments for the child and his father for such a responsible conduct and thanked them.” Sakawat said the bird remained in that disabled condition for a week where it was fed by hand with meat, injections and medicine to recover completely. The staff daily observed the health and diet of the Buzzard and after getting stable was left in 30’ by 30’ cage to revive its flight capability, he added. – APP

IRSA releases 40,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 40,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 51,900 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 19,300 cusecs each. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1168.80 feet, which was 128.80 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 11,900 cusecs and 1,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 24,200, 15,400 and 6,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 8,300 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 12,400 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. – APP

Briefs

Crackdown
on kite
sellers; net 11

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police on the directives of City Police Officer (CPO), Muhammad Ahsan Younas have initiated crackdown on the people involved in kite selling and flying and recovered 11,635 kites and 36 kite flying string rolls from the possession of 11 accused netted from different areas, a police spokesman said on Wednesday. He informed that Rawalpindi police had launched an operation to impose the ban and rounded up the kite sellers. He said, Civil Line, Race Course, Cantt, Waris Khan and Pirwadhai police conducted raids in different areas and arrested Usman, Zaki Hanif, Muhammad Ali, Muhammad alias Toheedi, Atta ur Rehman, Irfan Mehmood, Hamza, Imran, Sabir and others on recovery of over 11,600 kites and 36 kite flying string rolls from the possession of kite sellers. Separate cases have been registered against all the accused while further investigation are underway. The CPO has appreciated performance of the police officers and directed them for effective policing measures in the city. He said, all out efforts should be made to counter increasing trend of kite selling and flying. The use of metal string for kite flying results in loss of human lives therefore, it must be stopped and the meaningful way of prevention is to carry out an organized operation against selling of kites and metal string, the CPO directed.

Rs319.56 bn
released for
social sector

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government has released Rs. 319.56 billion for various ongoing and new social sector uplift projects till date under its Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2020-21. The released funds include Rs. 207.17 billion for federal ministries, Rs.87 billion for corporations, Rs. 25.25 billion for special areas, and Rs. 750 million for the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA), according to the latest data released by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform. The total PSDP allocation for ERRA for the year 2020-21 is Rs. 1.5 billion. Similarly, Rs. 55.2 billion out of PSDP allocation of Rs. 118.67 billion has been released for the National Highway Authority, Rs.31.8 billion out of Rs. 158.3 billion for the National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC), and Rs. 45 billion out of Rs. 81.2 billion for the for the Water Resources Division. The Railways Division has received development funds of Rs. 11.7 billion, the Interior Division Rs. 7.38 billion, and the National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination Division Rs. 7.4 billion. Similarly, the Revenue Division has got Rs. 4.6 billion, and the Cabinet Division Rs. 38.2 billion. Likewise, the government also released Rs. 13.99 billion out of PSDP allocation of Rs. 27.24 billion for development projects in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Rs 11.26 billion out of Rs. 25 billion for Gilgit-Baltistan projects.

IHC grants
time for report
in Falcons
export Case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday granted time to deputy attorney general for submission of foreign office (FO)'s report till January 22, in a petition against the export of rare falcons' species. The court instructed that the falcons shouldn't be exported in violation of country's laws. A single member bench conducted hearing on a petition filed by former chairman Wildlife Management Board. Deputy Attorney General Syed Tayyab Shah appeared before the court. At the outset of hearing, the court noted that no report had been submitted by the foreign office in compliance of its orders, to this, the deputy attorney general requested the bench to grant a week in this regard. The court granted the request for adjournment and adjourned further hearing of the case till January 22. An application has been filed against the export of 150 rare falcons to Arab countries. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Leader of Hezb-e-Wahadat-e-Islami, Afghanistan, Ustad Karim Khalili posing for a group photo with the DG, chairman BOG, directors and research faculty of the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad. — DNA (detailed news on back page)

Pakistan, Turkey sign MoU to
promote co-op in education sector

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: Pakistan and Turkey have on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for promotion of cooperation in the education sector. The MoU was signed by Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood in Islamabad. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was also present on the occasion. The development occurred after Shah Mahmood Qureshi held a meeting with Mevlut Cavusoglu, who is on an official visit to Pakistan, and reviewed bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international issues. Earlier today, President Dr. Arif Alvi conferred Hilal-e-Pakistan on Mevlut Cavusoglu in recognition of his services for international peace and security and further strengthening of Pakistan-Turkey bilateral relationship. The investiture ceremony was held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad. It was attended amongst others by Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz. Cavusoglu's visit to Pakistan is part of regular high-level exchange



es between the two countries. This is his third visit during the last two and half years. The fraternal relations between Pakistan and Turkey are deeply embedded in common faith, culture and history and underpinned by exceptional mutual trust and respect.

SC commends CDA over
cost-effective sewage plants

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Wednesday commended the Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) over construction of cost-effective sewage plants in the federal capital. A three-member SC bench comprising Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Sajjad Ali Shah and Justice Munib Akhtar heard the case regarding large scale encroachments on Botanical Gardens and unplanned/unregistered plazas in Bani Gala, Islamabad. At the outset of hearing, Justice Bandial praised the

Chairman CDA and said that CDA installed sewage plants at a very low cost. If these sewage plants projects were successful in Islamabad, these plants could also be installed in other parts of the country as well, he added. He said that sewage was a big problem of the city. He commended CDA for resolving the sewage issue. The CDA should also address the issue of odors, he added. He said illegal construction was another major issue for Islamabad. The Chairman CDA said that at first 300 building permits were issued in Islamabad but now the civic body had issued 2000 buildings permits.

He said that the CDA was also processing applications for construction receiving from rural areas of the federal capital. The process of submitting applications and fees online was also starting from today, he added. Justice Bandial said that it was also important to empower local governments. Empowering local governments was a constitutional obligation, he added. He said that there should be no illegal construction. The court was hearing the case for the public interest, he added. The court directed the Chairman CDA to take steps for bio gas technology.

Zartaj urges youth
to support peace
signatures drive

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul on Wednesday urged youngsters to support Lift Islamabad Group Peace Project drive of signing 10 million peace signatures to set a Guinness World Record. She vowed that Pakistan by the grace of Almighty Allah would achieve this target to present the positive perspective of the country and show the world that Pakistanis were a peace loving nation, the minister of state was addressing the inauguration of the Peace Signature campaign. Zartaj said that youth had a key role in the country's prosperity as they had to set their course in line with Allama Mohammad Iqbal's philosophy and teachings. Youth, he said had to become Iqbal's Shaheen (Iqbal's visionary character associated with falcon owing to its traits of dignity, integrity and valour) that were not going to compromise their honour and integrity for worldly pleasures. She said the Lift Islamabad Group Peace Project's initiative was an innovative and

a propitious step towards promoting the true picture of Pakistan. "EU Disinfo Lab Report 'Indian Chronicles' has highlighted the Israel and India nexus to taint Pakistan's image at global forums for the past 15 years. Prime Minister Imran Khan has highlighted that India is exploiting sectarian and social issues to create chaos in the country. The nation has to remain united and avoid sharing or responding to negative hateful content based on racist and religious biases on social media." The minister of state also signed the peace resolution and expressed her felicitations to the Lift Islamabad Group Peace Project leaders for their initiative. President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan also addressed the gathering. He said the country's image was improving and had to show our positive image to the world and our passion and spirit for peace. CEO Lift Islamabad Group Peace Project Asthma Malik also addressed the inaugural ceremony and expressed her vision and sentiments behind the drive and urged the general public to partake in reaching the 10 million signatures target.

5 died, 8
injured in
road accident

DNA

ATTOCK: Five died while eight others received multiple injuries when a speedy rickshaw fell into a nullah in the jurisdiction of Hasanabdal Sadar police station. PRO Police Karim Nawaz told journalists that a speedy rickshaw coming from Hasanabdal fell into a ditch because of over speeding as its driver lost control. In a result, four women as named Zainab 40, Musarat 40, Rukhsana 50, Nabeela 33 and a baby girl Marwa (two months old) died while Muhammad Waseem 30 (Rickshaw driver), Sana 24, Shagufta 50, Shahvez 5, Raveez 4, Alisha 9, Mahnoor 6 (all brothers and sisters) and Hoorain 6 received multiple injuries. The dead and injured were shifted by Rescue 1122/ locals to THQ Hospital Hasanabdal. PRO Attock police said that FIR against the rickshaw driver has been registered. Meanwhile in Attock two sisters namely Fatima 4 and Sharfa 3 received injuries when an explosion took place because of accumulation of gases inside a sewerage line in mohala Eidgah. Rescue 1122 shifted both the injured to DHQ Hospital Attock.

IHC directs
NBP to
review
service policy

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Wednesday directed the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) to review its decision related to the service matter of employees and implement the 2016 decision of the Supreme Court (SC). Chief Justice Athar Minallah, hearing the case, asked the bank lawyer about the attendance of the NBP Regional Head. Informing about the presence of Regional Head Muhammad Majid in the court, the lawyer said that written reply regarding this case has been submitted to the court. The court inquired about the procedure for appointment of management trainee officers. The lawyer said that this was a program for fresh MBA graduates from different universities. On this occasion, the court directed the lawyer to read the decision of the Supreme Court regarding the National Bank Employees Policy and asked the petitioner's lawyer if there was a clear decision of the top court. Why did not you file the petition in the Supreme Court, the bench questioned.

Two gangs of
dacoit, bike
lifter busted

RAWALPINDI: Police have busted two gangs of dacoit and bike liter and arrested their five members besides recovering cash, 11 motorcycles, weapons and other items. According to a police spokesman, Naseerabad police team under the supervision of SHO Naseerabad was constituted which after hectic efforts managed to net three accused namely Faraz alias Kaka, ring leader, Abdul Bashir and Suleman who were dacoit and bike lifter gang members and allegedly involved in a number of dacoities and other crimes in different areas. Police recovered 10 stolen motorcycles, Rs 30,000 cash, weapons and other items from their possession. Meanwhile, Pirwadhai police rounded up two accused identified as Wahid alias 'Dada' and Muhammad Idrees who were dacoit and bike lifter gang members. Police recovered a stolen motorcycle, mobile phones, cash Rs 18,000 and weapons from their possession. They confessed to have committed dacoities and other crimes in different areas. Separate cases have been registered against all the accused while further investigations are underway, he added. — APP

PTCL license renewed for 25 years

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has renewed its integrated telecom services license with Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) for next 25 years. PTCL had initiated the renewal process by formally requesting PTA on June 29, 2018. After conclusion of the ongoing discussions, the license is now renewed in accordance with the existing government policies.

PTCL, being the backbone of connectivity in the country, is at the forefront to provide uninterrupted and better quality of services to the people of Pakistan. Seamless and reliable connectivity provided by PTCL is playing a key role in bringing economic and social uplift in the country. Aligned with the Prime Minister's vision of a Digital Pakistan, the national carrier is undertaking a strategic approach to roll out fiber network across Pakistan. It will not

only support the business community, but will also ensure convenience and ease for customers through provision of unlimited high-speed internet. Moreover, PTCL endeavors to further strengthen its network infrastructure by adopting the latest technologies to offer secure and modern Cloud solutions, Data Centers, fiber internet, domestic & international leased lines, wholesale IP Bandwidth, IPTV services and voice telephony. Expressing his views, Naveed Khalid Butt,

Group Chief Regulatory Officer, PTCL & Ufone, said, "We are happy to announce the news of our license renewal for the next 25 years with PTA. PTCL, being the national carrier, has always remained dedicated in efforts to provide connectivity to the people and organizations across Pakistan. The company has gone through massive transformation since its inception and is now focused to keep Pakistan digitally connected to better serve its customers, partners and stakeholders."

India should be called 'Hindu-Stan'

Dr. Zafar Iqbal Cheema stressed upon the ideology, methodology and nature of RSS. He stated that the ideology of RSS is based on Hindu nationalism which is inspired by Nazi nationalism; the worst fascism in human history

DNA

ISLAMABAD: India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a webinar titled, "Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh: A Move Towards Fascism in South Asia" on January 13, 2021. The speakers at the webinar included Dr. Zafar Iqbal Cheema, President Strategic Vision Institute Islamabad; Lt. General (Retd) Asif Yasin Malik HI (M), Former Secretary of Defense; Ambassador Aziz Ahmad Khan, Former High Commission-

er in New Delhi; Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI; and Ambassador Khalid Mehmood, Chairman Board of Governors ISSI. The webinar was moderated by Dr. Saif Malik Director ISC who stated that India's image as a soft power is diminishing due to its human rights violations. BJP is the political wing of RSS and is transforming India into an intolerant state towards its own minorities. In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry pointed out that ISC will be focusing on Indian Chronicles and on Pakistan's dossier towards India in its

upcoming events. His remarks were followed by a presentation by Ms. Mahwish Hafeez, Research Fellow at ISSI about the activities of RSS in India. She presented an overview of the organization, its functions and modus operandi. In his remarks Dr. Zafar Iqbal Cheema stressed upon the ideology, methodology and nature of RSS. He stated that the ideology of RSS is based on Hindu nationalism which is inspired by Nazi nationalism; the worst fascism in human history. It is exclusionary in nature, especially targeting the Muslims as outsiders. It is, there-

fore, not only a threat to South Asia but to the whole world. Addressing the webinar, General Asif Yasin Malik stated that the present-day India should be called Hindustan as this name depicts the true DNA of the country where fascism and religious extremism reigns supreme. Comparing fascism to India indicates that all its symptoms are present in the country. There is no personal freedom in India today, where even the lower-class Hindus feel suffocated. Amb. Aziz Ahmad Khan was of the view that under the current

government of Modi, the whole façade of soft image of India is gone. He further stated that chances of this fascism to diminish soon are bleak, as it enjoys a popular support in the country. He further pointed out that it becomes incumbent upon us to present the true face of India to the world. In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Khalid Mehmood said that the exclusionary policies have permeated the state of India and has torn the veneer of Indian secularism and pluralism before the world. The webinar was followed by a Q/A session.

Upgradation needed

THE countrywide blackout following a breakdown in the National Transmission and Dispatch Company's (NTDC) power system brought to light the faulty nature of energy distribution in Pakistan. A serious lack of maintenance or initiative to upgrade existing structures prompted an investigation not only by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) but the Lahore Chamber of Commerce Industry (LCCI) as well. The government may be focusing on increasing the national production capacity but it will ultimately be rendered useless if all it takes for a complete collapse is one overload.

Although investigations into the precise cause of the breakdown have been launched, the main reason was a technical fault within the Guddu Thermal Power Plant, causing it to trip as a result. The output frequency of the national grid then, went from 50 to zero within a second. In fact, according to sources, the matter was made much worse by the absence of expertise at the scene of the incident as well as that of spinning reserves—generators that come into action in case of any dysfunctions. As a result, industries came to a standstill and the country was plunged into darkness for more than 12 hours in some areas. If there is anything to be learnt from this, it is that our authorities need to reconsider the way they approach development, especially in the power sector.

It is clear that the status quo is unsustainable for both domestic and commercial purposes. Furthermore, years of neglect towards improving the quality of the national transmission and distribution system is likely to result in more occurrences as well unless reinvestment prerogatives are taken by the government. Distribution lines need to be maintained and regularly. Replacements should be available for those that have become a burden on the grid. Utilising good quality material can prevent short-circuiting as well. These are basic steps that can be taken to bridge the gap between our energy policy.

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

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Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



Launching Raast

RAAST, the new digital payment system that the government has announced is earning praise from experts. The government is hopeful that it can reap many benefits from the digitalised direct-pay system. On the one hand, it will boost the financial inclusion of as many people as possible, especially women. On the other, this instant payment mechanism will help the government increase its revenue and formalise the economy. While speaking at the ceremony, the Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan has correctly identified that the prevalence of a cash economy is the biggest hurdle in revenue collection. Through Raast, the government can make the transition towards a cashless economy. Issues like tax evasion, corruption and money laundering are the by-products of such a setup.

However, what is true is that the government's biggest problem is not collecting tax on payments and purchases. The actual challenge is the direct taxation of income and wealth. Despite knowing this shortcoming in our tax collection mechanism, Raast fails to address it. In developed countries, taxes on income and value-added tariffs do the heavy lifting in raising sufficient revenue to support the productive and redistributive functions of the state. Until and unless the government succeeds in doing the same, the dream of spending on infrastructure and human development will remain unfulfilled.

That being said, the government still deserves appreciation for making digital payments possible. A sizable percentage of the population will move towards digital payment and spending using this facility. Undoubtedly, the government still has to chalk out a better mechanism to tax income and wealth. Nevertheless, the digital payment mode will enable more traceability and give the government a better indication of individual spending incomes.

Turmoil in Afghanistan persists

Iqbal Khan

“The Taliban do not have the right to choose a [so-called] Islamic system for the Afghan nation, because the current system is [in fact] Islamic.” Every day, innocent civilians are killed, said Toor Muhammad Zarifi, a tribal elder in Herat Province, calling for an immediate stop to the bloodshed suffered by Afghans. “Security forces and the Taliban, who are all the children of this country, lose their lives every day,” he said. “The war has been intensified, and the casualties have increased.”

The Taliban's killing of security personnel and of civilians is illegitimate, and the perpetrators will face God's punishment, according to Maulawi Sayed ShiraqaQatali, a religious scholar in Herat city

ACCORDING to New York Time, keeping in view rising violence, “some Afghans carry notes with their names, blood types and relatives' phone numbers in case they are killed or severely wounded. The bearers of pocket notes hope the slips of paper will help emergency medical workers identify an injured person's blood type for a lifesaving transfusion. They might also help authorities quickly summon family members for precious final moments with a mortally wounded loved one. And they could help identify a badly disfigured corpse”. Both Washington and the Taliban blame each other for violating the peace accord. Notwithstanding, war weariness is phenomenal in Afghanistan. Commoners are desperately yearning for peace. Pressure is mounting of intra-Afghan negotiators for agreeing to stop the war. Voice of America reported that on December 31, more than 100 key religious scholars of the western region declared the war in Afghanistan illegitimate and deemed a ceasefire “an obligation” during a gathering in the Herat Grand Mosque. The scholars decried the slaughter of Muslims and said those who kill innocent civilians will be punished by God. Peace is a priority, because if there is no peace, nobody can meet his or her obligations, said MaulawiKhudadad Saleh, chairman of the Ulema Council in Afghanistan's western region. “Religious scholars call on the government and the Taliban to declare a ceasefire as soon as possible and create an opportunity for a lasting and inclusive peace,” he said. “The so-called version of Islam that the Taliban promote as an Islamic system is not acceptable to the Afghan people and religious scholars,” he said.

“The Taliban do not have the right to choose a [so-called] Islamic system for the Afghan nation, because the current system is [in fact] Islamic.” Every day, innocent civilians are killed, said Toor Muhammad Zarifi, a tribal elder in Herat Province, calling for an immediate stop to the bloodshed suffered by Afghans. “Security forces and the Taliban, who are all the children of this country, lose their lives every day,” he said. “The war has been intensified, and the casualties have increased.” The Taliban's killing of security personnel and of civilians is illegitimate, and the perpetrators will face God's punishment, according to Maulawi Sayed ShiraqaQatali, a religious scholar

in Herat city. “Civilians and religious scholars call for a lasting and inclusive peace in the country,” “The killing of our loved ones needs to stop, and we cannot tolerate seeing killing, suicide attacks and destruction every day, he added.”

Ayaz Gul reported for the Voice of America on January 04 that: the United States has directly accused the Taliban of being behind a recent wave of high-profile assassinations in Afghanistan, urging the insurgent group to stop the violence “for peace to succeed.” These charges came soon after the Taliban accused US forces of launching airstrikes against insurgent-held areas in violation of their 2020 bilateral agreement aimed at ending the long-running Afghan war.

A spokesman for US forces in Afghanistan rejected as “false” allegations they violated the agreement with the Taliban. Colonel Sonny Leggett stressed in a statement that the US military has been “clear and consistent” in its resolve to defend Afghan security forces against Taliban attacks. “We renew our call for all sides to reduce violence,” Leggett said on Twitter. “The Taliban's campaign of unclaimed attacks & targeted killings of government officials, civil society leaders & journalists must also cease for peace to succeed.” This is the first time Washington has blamed the Taliban for weeks of largely unclaimed attacks in the Afghan capital, Kabul, and elsewhere Afghanistan. The violence has over the past two months claimed the lives of at least five journalists, a provincial deputy governor, civilian society activists and a renowned election observer.

Taliban have denied involvement and instead alleged the violence is the work of so-called “spoilers” within Afghan security institutions to subvert the peace process. Taliban issued a statement accusing US troops of repeatedly carrying out airstrikes on Taliban-held areas in Kandahar, Nangarhar and Helmand provinces “over the past few days” in support of Afghan security forces.

According to Taliban spokesman ZabihullahMujahid, the airstrikes have hit targets in “non-military zones” in violations of their February 29, 2020, agreement with the US. Mujahid demanded of the US military immediately halt the air raids and warned the Taliban “will be forced to respond seriously, and all responsibility shall fall squarely on American shoulders.”

An Afghan analyst Syed Egbal also sees prospects of a shift – though not very drastic – in the US policy towards the Afghan peace process. “There is no doubt that the ultimate thrust in Washington has shifted over the years from defeating the Taliban on the battlefield to a so-called ‘dignified’ exit from Afghanistan, but it [exit of forces from Afghanistan] is going to differ under the new president,” he told Anadolu Agency. He added that the Afghan government under President Ashraf Ghani would dearly want the Biden administration not to ‘rush’ with the exit.

According to RahimullahYusufzai, “A circle within the Democrats does not want a complete pull out. They may force Biden to keep at least one or two bases in Afghanistan even after May.”. “The surging violence in Afghanistan may give an excuse to Biden to seek a review of the Doha agreement”, Yusufzai said. “The implementation of the Doha peace agreement could face problems, especially the deadline for withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, as the intra-Afghan dialogue is not really making progress and the violence has intensified,” Rahimullah, told Anadolu Agency.

ZabihullahMujahid, a Taliban spokesperson, said US forces had conducted airstrikes against the group in non-military zones. He warned of retaliation if the attacks do not stop. Colonel Sonny Leggett, a spokesperson for US forces in Afghanistan, termed the allegations as “false” and said the strikes were defensive and renewed calls for all sides to reduce violence. “The Taliban's campaign of unclaimed attacks & targeted killings of government officials, civil society leaders & journalists must also cease for peace to succeed,” he said in a tweet.

Bringing a win-win closing to Afghan conflict is a big challenge for the US as well as the international community. Fault lines are too strong to give way to reconciliation. Taliban have timed out Trump, it will be interesting to see how the things evolve further. Incoming Joe Biden administration could reconsider the plans for a complete military pull out from Afghanistan and decide to keep some troops, as residual garrison, in line with President Obama era Bilateral Security Agreement between the US and Afghanistan.

– The writer is a freelance columnist; e-mail: iqbal.khan9999@yahoo.com

China's Model of Development: Lessons for Pakistan

Ambassador (R) Syed Hasan Javed



The Book lists the hard decisions, Comprehensive Reforms and Policy Initiatives that permeated all sectors of Chinese life, society, governance, economy, foreign relations and worldview etc. China's progress and success on this scale, was never even within the wildest imagination of China Watchers abroad or in China itself

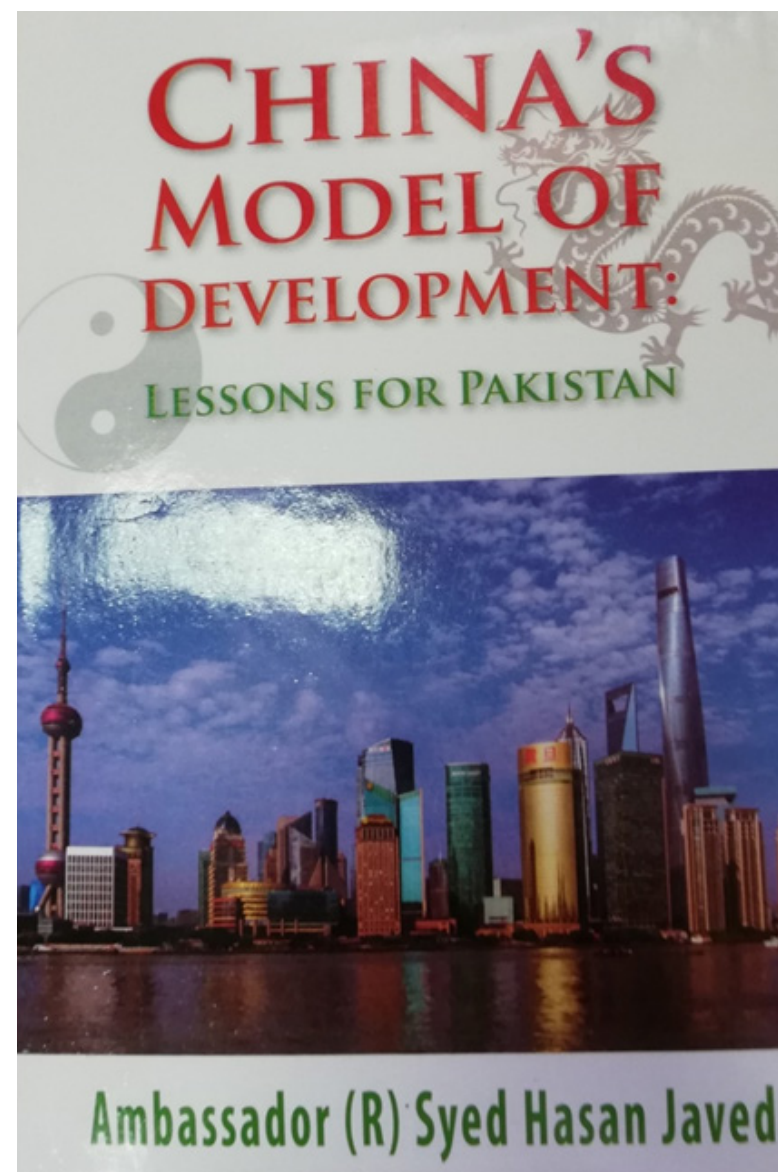
Brief Introduction of the Book

THE Book gives an eye witness account of China's astounding transformation from 1979 to 2019, with a Postscript on how China dealt so successfully with Corona Virus Pandemic in 2020. The Author has spent a decade in China in two diplomatic assignments in Pakistan Embassy in Beijing during two epoch making eras of 1980-1987 and 2001-2003. He has also visited China subsequently more than a dozen times. He has witnessed personally from Ground zero and the vantage point of Beijing, as to how the Reformist leadership under Deng Xiaoping confronted the deep rooted challenges of the Centrally Planned Economy's transition to Socialist Market Economy.

The Book lists the hard decisions, Comprehensive Reforms and Policy Initiatives that permeated all sectors of Chinese life, society, governance, economy, foreign relations and worldview etc. China's progress and success on this scale, was never even within the wildest imagination of China Watchers abroad or in China itself. The absence of China expertise globally has left many in the Western world shocked to know of China's rise, while it has left many of its friends, allies and well-wishers in the Developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America equally mesmerized. No amount of adverse propaganda can revert the clock of history! China has achieved in four decades (1979-2019), what took the Western world 400 years to achieve. China did it all on the strength of its Cultural heritage, governance system, visionary leadership and Soft Power.

The Author feels that China's rise is still in its initial phase. It however offers some very useful lessons for all the Developing countries, particularly Pakistan. Pakistan for a number of reasons is best placed to emulate China's success story, but for this to happen, Pakistan needs to adopt multifaceted, home cooked Comprehensive Policy reforms, take hard decisions, tackling squarely the challenges it has avoided so far. The ruling elite of Pakistan needs a 'mindset change' and be prepared to revive the national institutions, structures and governance, to harness the underlying potential of the country. Pakistan is among the 'best blessed and placed countries for the Future'. Pakistan only needs to get out from the specter of despondency, dependency, debt trap and decline, of its Development template, by adopting the sustainable short cut provided by 'China's Model of Development'. China learnt from the world. It is now the turn of the World to learn from China.

– This Book is available at Contact, E- mail: jammcs@gmail.com



Briefs

COAS meets families of..

From Page 01

Later, COAS addressed the garrison officers. COAS appreciated their preparedness and efforts for ensuring peace and stability in the province despite difficulties of terrain and distances involved. Balochistan is in sharp focus of our enemies due to its strategic potential, COAS remarked. Balochistan is the future of Pakistan and progress and prosperity of the province is progress of the country, COAS reiterated. The disruptive efforts by hostile forces won't be allowed to succeed, COAS emphasised. Security, stability and prosperity of Balochistan shall be pursued/ ensured to the hilt, COAS concluded. Earlier, on arrival at Quetta, COAS was received by Lieutenant General Sarfraz Ali, Commander Southern Command.

Turkey thanks Pakistan

From Page 01

the two countries shall further be strengthened. He also thanked the Pakistani leadership and Pakistani people for supporting Turkey in difficult times. Earlier Pakistan and Turkey agreed to further solidify and expand bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade and culture. It was agreed at a meeting between President Dr Arif Alvi and the visiting Turkish delegation, led by Turkish Foreign Minister, Mr Mevlut Cavusoglu, which called on him, at Awan-e-Sadr. Welcoming the delegation, the President said that Pakistan and Turkey enjoyed excellent relations and both countries needed to further enhance economic and cultural relations for the mutual benefit of the two countries. He informed that Pakistan's ranking of Ease of Doing Business had tremendously improved and Turkish investors needed to capitalize on investment opportunities in Pakistan. He expressed satisfaction over Turkish investment in Pakistan which had grown over USD 1 Billion. The President deeply thanked the Turkish leadership for its principled stance on Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He asked the Foreign Minister to convey his gratitude to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for raising the voice of Kashmiris during his recent speech at UN General Assembly. He also appreciated Turkey's leading role in the global efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic by providing assistance and support to Pakistan and other countries.

The Turkish Foreign Minister said that Turkey was keen to improve trade relations with Pakistan. He added that Turkey would continue encouraging Turkish companies to invest in Pakistan. Mr Mevlut Cavusoglu assured that his country would continue to support Pakistan at international fora. He appreciated Pakistan's support to Azerbaijan on Nagorno Karabakh. Both sides underlined the need to work closely on joint initiatives to combat Islamophobia, hate speech and other manifestations of intolerance towards Islam.

Later, the President conferred the award of Hilal-e-Pakistan on Turkish Foreign Minister, at a special investiture ceremony, in recognition of his services for the promotion of international peace and security as well as Pak-Turkey relations. Meanwhile Turkish Foreign Minister also called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. During the meeting, Pakistan-Turkey bilateral relations and regional and international issues were discussed. Reaffirming the exceptional nature of Pakistan-Turkey political relationship, the Prime Minister stressed the importance of transforming it into a robust economic partnership. The shared resolve on both sides to further upgrade trade, investment, defence, educational and cultural co-operation was reaffirmed. The Prime Minister thanked Turkey for its steadfast support on the Jammu & Kashmir dispute and highlighted the detrimental Indian actions posing a threat to peace and security. In the regional context, the Prime Minister underscored the importance of Pakistan attached to a peaceful solution of the conflict in Afghanistan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal minister for railways, Muhammad Azam Khan Swati in a meeting with ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Kuninori Matsuda. – DNA

Imran Khan voted as best captain in ICC poll

A total of 536, 346 votes were recorded in which Khan earned a majority with 47.3 percent. He won the battle with a tiny margin as the neighboring opponent gave the player a close competition taking 46.2 percent of votes

KARACHI: Former Pakistan captain and current Prime Minister Imran Khan has won the International Cricket Council's (ICC) poll on Twitter regarding who the best captain has been in the game over the years. The 68-year-old defeated Indian captain Virat Kohli, former South African captain AB de Villiers and Australia women's cricket team captain Meg Lanning.

A total of 536, 346 votes were recorded in which Khan earned a majority with 47.3 percent. He won the battle with a tiny margin as the neighboring opponent gave the player a close competition taking 46.2 percent of votes and coming

second in the poll lagging behind Khan just a little. Earlier on Tuesday, ICC launched a poll asking fans to vote to decide who the best captain among the four was. "Captaincy proved a blessing for some extraordinary cricketers. Their averages improved as leaders. You decide which of these 'pacesetters' were

the best among these geniuses!" the governing body wrote while sharing a picture of the quartet. ICC then shared the improved averages of the four players after becoming captain in a multiple tweets thread. The figures showed that Khan had a test average of 25.43 with the bat and 25.53 with the ball in Tests before captaincy, however, the world cup winning skipper's average improved drastically to 52.34 with bat and 20.26 with ball when he took on the captain's role.

Pakistani squad for South Africa Tests on Friday

LAHORE: Chairman National Cricket selection committee, Mohammad Wasim said here on Wednesday that 20-member Pakistan squad for the two Tests against South Africa will be announced in Karachi on January 15. Wasim said the 20 players will go into the bio-secure bubble on Jan 19 before the squad is reduced to 16 players ahead of the first Test, which begins at the National Stadium from Jan 26. "The playing line-up will be picked by the captain and the head coach, with the captain leading the process," Wasim said at the High Performance Centre. South Africa will arrive in Karachi on Saturday and will train at the Karachi Gymkhana. The second Test will be played in Rawalpindi from Feb 4-8 with the three T20Is scheduled on Feb 11, 13 and 14 in Lahore. This will be South Africa's first tour to Pakistan since 2007. Also in line to tour Pakistan this year are New Zealand, England's men's and women's cricket teams as well as the West Indies. "Captain has an important role to play in the selection of the playing line-up. But, of course, Misbah-ul-Haq will also be available and

in consultation with him and after accessing the pitch and conditions, the playing line-up will be finalized by the captain. "We are following a process in picking the players. I am already in discussions with the team management as well as the six Cricket Association coaches who are my fellow selectors. I will have a final round of discussions with them ahead of Friday's announcement before we handover the 20-player squad to the captain and the head coach. "The trimmed 16-player squad will have inputs from the captain and head coach, while playing line-up will be up to the captain with the head coach supporting the captain," Wasim explained. Wasim said he met with the High Performance coaches at the National High Performance Centre, including Saqlain Mushtaq and Gran Bradburn as part of brainstorming and idea-sharing objectives. Misbah-ul-Haq and Waqar Younis were also part of discussions. "It was a wide-ranging, interesting and productive discussion in which we bounced off various ideas, tried to understand the team requirements with main focus on player development. – APP

'Pompeo's claims of al-Qaeda ties preposterous'

MONITORING DESK

TEHRAN: Iran says US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's latest "preposterous" accusations against the Islamic Republic are part of the Trump administration's "failed policy of Iran-bashing" and show the lame-duck diplomat's "hysterical" anger at his failure. Alireza Miryousefi, a spokesperson for the Iranian permanent mission to the United Nations, told Newsweek that Pompeo's claims about Tehran's links to al-Qaeda terrorist group were part of last-ditch attempts by President Donald Trump's administration to further vilify the Islamic Republic before

a transition of power. "These preposterous, false accusations are nothing new, and only reinforce the fact that the Trump administration is desperately continuing their failed policy of Iran-bashing," Miryousefi said shortly after Pompeo's rant against Iran on Tuesday. Pompeo used his last days in office to accuse Iran, without any evidence, of being the al-Qaeda terrorist group's "new home base," and said the claims were part of, what he called, publicizing "declassified US intelligence." The Iranian Foreign Ministry denounced the accusations as "baseless," saying the claims show Washington's frustration and the failure of its

so-called maximum pressure campaign against Iran. Miryousefi said Iran was, in fact, a bulwark against such organizations, which Tehran has also fought in countries like Iraq and Syria. It is the US and its partners who are responsible for the conditions that allowed such groups to thrive in the region, the Iranian diplomat added. "It is a well-known fact that Iran was and is the extremist terror groups' most hated enemy and that the founder of al-Qaeda and many of its followers hail from what is the US' close ally in the Middle East," Miryousefi said. "Needless to say, US officials have repeatedly acknowledged their role in creating extremist groups in the region, including al-Qaeda."



BEIJING: Tajik ambassador of China Saidzoda Z.O meeting Secy General of SCO Vladimir Norov. – DNA

Iran unveils its largest military vessel

The 228-metre (748-foot) long warship, previously an oil tanker, has been repurposed to provide logistical support, carry out search and rescue missions, deploy special forces, replenish and transport supplies, offer medical assistance

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iran's navy has officially inducted the country's largest military vessel into its fleet during a maritime missile drill at a time of heightened tensions with the United States over its nuclear programme. The indigenously-made forward base ship IRIS Makran, which is said to be able to carry up to five helicopters, joined the fleet with another ship that is capable of firing missiles. The 228-metre (748-foot) long warship, previously an oil tanker, has been repurposed to provide logistical support, carry out search and rescue missions, deploy special forces, replenish and transport supplies, offer medical assistance, and act as a base for fast boats. They will fire surface-to-surface cruise missiles in the sea, test out missiles from submarines, conduct special forces operations, and deploy unmanned aerial vehicles as

part of the two-day drill being conducted in the Sea of Oman. "By organising this drill we can evaluate our ability to respond to potential threats from the enemy in a timely manner and improve our performance through addressing weaknesses and boosting strengths,"

said Admiral Hamzeh Ali Kaviani, who acted as the spokesman for the drill. The US and its regional allies, particularly Saudi Arabia and Israel, see Iran's missile programme as a security threat with fears that Tehran might use its long-range missiles to carry nuclear warheads.

Iran's army also held its first-ever drone drill in early January, in which it showcased and tested hundreds of locally-made unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). Last week, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps unveiled a huge underground missile base along the Persian Gulf coast,

which it said was one of "many" such bases. The military show of strength comes amid continued tensions with the US days before the hawkish President Donald Trump is set to leave the White House. Tensions have been high since 2018 when Trump walked out of the 2015 nuclear deal, which put a curb on Tehran's nuclear programme. Since then the US has announced harsh sanctions crippling Iran's economy. The Trump administration has flown nuclear-capable strategic bombers to the Middle East four times in the past two months and sent its navy aircraft carrier in the region, prompting Iran to warn Washington against finding a pretext for war. Earlier this month, Iran told the UN nuclear watchdog that it planned to enrich uranium to up to 20 percent purity, drawing a sharp reaction from the European Union – one of the signatories of the nuclear deal. Upcoming President Joe Biden has promised to reduce tensions and revitalise the nuclear deal.



Broadsheet exposed ruling elite's frauds

From Page 01

fight against corruption – also the biggest threat to Pakistan's progress. "Panama Papers exposed our ruling elites corruption & money laundering earlier. Now Broadsheet revelations have again exposed the massive scale of our ruling elites corruption & money laundering. These elites cannot hide behind "victimisation" card on these int revelations," he wrote on his official Twitter handle. He viewed that those elites came to power and plundered the country. Moreover, they also did money laundering to stash their ill-gotten gains abroad, safe from domestic prosecution. "They then use their political clout to get NROs. That is how they kept their plundered wealth safe. People of (Pakistan) are biggest losers," the prime minister remarked "What do these revelations expose repeatedly? 1. Exactly what I have been saying in my 24-year fight against corruption which is the biggest threat to Pakistan's progress. 2. These elites come to power and plunder the country," the prime minister said. He said the people were loser because not only their nation's wealth was stolen by the elites rather their taxpayer money, paid for recovering this wealth, was wasted because of NROs. "These revelations (are) tip of the iceberg. We want complete transparency from Broadsheet on our elites money laundering & on who stopped investigations," he added.

Qureshi holds talks with Turkish FM

From Page 01

timely implementation of decisions, taken during the last session of High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) in Islamabad in February 2020, was reaffirmed. Foreign Minister Qureshi underscored the importance of building a stronger economic partnership, including by realizing the vision in the Strategic Economic Framework (SEF). Thanking Turkey's firm support to Pakistan on core issue of Jammu & Kashmir, Foreign Minister Qureshi briefed his Turkish counterpart on the grave human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K) and underscored the importance of peaceful solution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in accordance with relevant UN resolutions. The Foreign Minister highlighted Pakistan's positive contributions to the Afghan peace process and facilitative role in advancing the cause of peace and stability in Afghanistan.

'British variant now in 50 countries'

GENEVA: The coronavirus mutation first found in Britain has now spread to 50 territories, according to the World Health Organization, while a similar South African-identified strain has now been found in 20. The UN body also noted a third new coronavirus "variant of concern" found in Japan may impact upon immune response and needs further investigation. "The more the SARS-CoV-2 virus spreads, the more opportunities it has to change. High levels of transmission mean that we should expect more variants to emerge," said the WHO. SARS-CoV-2 is the virus which causes Covid-19 disease. Since first being reported to the WHO on December 14, the British-identified variant VOC 202012/01 has been found in 50 countries, territories and areas, the agency said. Test results showed the age and sex distribution was similar to that of other circulating variants, while contact tracing data revealed "higher transmissibility (secondary attack rates) where the index case has the variant strain". The South African-identified variant 501Y.V2, first reported on December 18, has now been detected in 20 countries, territories and areas. "From preliminary and ongoing investigations in South Africa, it is possible that the 501Y.V2 variant is more transmissible than variants circulating in South Africa previously," the WHO weekly report said.

Briefs

25 killed
as Israel
launches
attacks

SYRIA: Israeli warplanes launched airstrikes in eastern Syria on Wednesday, killing at least 25 people, according to Syrian and Iraqi sources. Local sources told Anadolu Agency that Israeli airstrikes targeted a number of locations where pro-Iran Shia factions Deir ez-Zor. Earlier on Wednesday the state-run SANA news agency, citing a military source, said the attacks targeted the city of Deir ez-Zor and Al-Bukamal district in south-eastern Syria near the Iraqi border. The agency gave no further details about the targets or casualties. An Iraqi military source also said the Israeli attacks targeted positions of Syrian regime forces and pro-Iranian militias along the borderline between Syria and Iraq. The source said 13 people were killed and dozens injured in the attacks. There was no comment from the Syrian army on the attacks. Last month, the Israeli army said it had attacked 50 targets across Syria in 2020. Israeli warplanes often carry out airstrikes in eastern Syria, where pro-Iran groups have a military presence in the area. — APP

UK billionaire
and Daily
Telegraph
owner dies

LONDON: David Barclay, the secretive British billionaire whose portfolio included The Daily Telegraph newspaper and The Ritz hotel, has died aged 86 after a short illness, his newspaper reported Wednesday. Barclay and his twin Frederick, described by the daily as “identical in appearance, lifestyle and often even in dress”, built a vast business empire from shipping to retail. “The Barclay brothers operated as one throughout their active business career, while doing their utmost to avoid personal publicity and discourage media scrutiny,” the broadsheet added. Among those paying tribute to David Barclay was a former employee, Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who made his name on the newspaper as a Brussels-bashing Europe correspondent, and later a columnist. “Farewell with respect and admiration to Sir David Barclay who rescued a great newspaper, created many thousands of jobs across the UK and who believed passionately in the independence of this country and what it could achieve,” Johnson tweeted. The Barclay brothers entered the media industry in 1992 when they bought The European, a weekly newspaper launched two years earlier by the media magnate Robert Maxwell. They later bought The Scotsman daily before finally realising their ambition of owning Conservative bastion The Daily Telegraph in 2004. The brothers, long advocates of small government and low taxes, were strong supporters of former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher, putting her up in their plush Ritz in London during her final days. They were born into a large working class Scottish family in London in 1934 and left school at 14 to pursue their joint business ambitions, making their names initially in the property market. — APP

Japanese
PM expands
state of
emergency

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga declared a state of emergency over the COVID-19 pandemic in seven more prefectures including Osaka and Aichi on Wednesday, broadening the scope of the measure amid a resurgence of the pandemic across the country. The newly declared prefectures, also including Tochigi to the north of Tokyo, Gifu in central Japan, Hyogo and Kyoto in the west, and Fukuoka to the southwest, will remain in the status through Feb. 7. Under the state of emergency, people in the affected areas will be asked to refrain from making unnecessary trips outdoors, and restaurants and bars will be requested to close by 8:00 p.m. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan and senior officials including General Turkish Airlines receive Foreign Minister of Turkey upon arrival in Islamabad. — DNA

CICEC donates medical
supplies to Pakistan

Talking to Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque on the occasion, Pan Wen, Deputy Director of International Liaison Department CICEC said, “Seeing the lingering epidemic situation in Pakistan

DNA

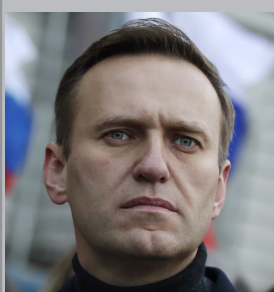
BEIJING: A delegation of China International Culture Exchange Center (CICEC) on Wednesday visited Pakistan Embassy, Beijing and donated a batch of medical supplies to support Pakistan in its fight against Covid-19. The batch of supplies includes 30,000 masks, PPE suits, 3000 boxes of Chinese herbal medicine, and nucleic acid test kits, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. Talking to Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque on the occasion, Pan Wen, Deputy Director of International Liaison Department CICEC said, “Seeing the lingering

epidemic situation in Pakistan, CICEC feels obliged to donate some prevention and control supplies as a sign of support. We shall stand united in our fight against Covid-19 and emerge victorious together”. “China and Pakistan are Iron brothers and our Friendship has withstood changes in International situation and stayed firm and stronger as always. The Year 2021 marks the 70th Year of the establishment of China and Pakistan Diplomatic Relations,” he added. It is a new start and opportunity for Pak-China multi-field cooperation. “We hope to seize the moment to engage in Culture exchange programmes with Pakistan including the international sea port forum,

‘CPEC second phase to
boost Pakistan’s economy’

ISLAMABAD: The second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will boost Pakistan’s economy, a senior Chinese diplomat said, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro. Xie Guoxiang, Minister Counsellor (Economic and Commercial), Embassy of the People’s Republic of China said the second phase of CPEC had started cooperation in industrial and agriculture sectors, health and digital technology between China and Pakistan. “It will boost Pakistan’s economy,” he said, adding Pakistan should focus on improving its infrastructure that would attract more Chinese investors to Pakistani market. He said 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. — DNA

which is already in preparation. He expressed the confidence that the ambassador would continue his efforts to further promote solid friendship between the two countries in line with the notion of the community of shared future for mankind as stated by the President Xi Jinping. “We would also like to invite Pakistani artists to display their painting and art in the Arts Exhibition hall of CICEC to promote culture exchanges”, he said. Ambassador Haque said, China TCM is playing very important role in combating Covid-19 and he, his family and personnel in embassy also is using it for immunity and nutrition.

Navalny vows to
return to Russia

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny said on Wednesday he planned to return to the country on Sunday from Germany where he was recovering from a poisoning attack despite of facing a threat of jail. The 44-year-old Kremlin critic wrote on Instagram that he had booked a flight that will arrive in Russia on January 17. “There was never any question of ‘returning or not’ for me. Simply because I didn’t leave. I ended up in Germany... for one reason: they tried to kill me,” the anti-graft campaigner wrote on Instagram. Navalny has been in Germany since late August after he fell violently ill on a flight

from Siberia to Moscow and was hospitalized in the city of Omsk. He was then flown out to Berlin in an induced coma. Western experts concluded that Navalny was poisoned using the Soviet-designed nerve agent Novichok. Navalny insists the attack was carried out by Russia’s main security agency, the Federal Security Service (FSB), on the orders of President Vladimir Putin. The Kremlin denies any involvement. “I survived. And now Putin, who gave the order for my murder, is... telling his servants to do everything so that I do not return,” Navalny added. Navalny and his allies have accused the Kremlin of trying to block Navalny’s return to Russia by threatening him with jail. On Tuesday, papers were filed with a Moscow court asking for a 2014 suspended sentence Navalny received after a trial denounced as unjust by European judges to be converted into jail time. Russia’s prison authorities have accused Navalny of breaking the terms of his probation by remaining abroad after he was discharged from hospital in Berlin in September.

Uzbek embassies to
promote Ziyorat tourism

DNA

TASHKENT: In Tashkent, at the International Islamic Academy, a meeting was held with the ambassadors of Uzbekistan abroad.

At the meeting, which was attended by Adviser to the President of Uzbekistan, Rector of the International Islamic Academy Rustam Kasymov, Chairman of the Committee on Religious Affairs under the Cabinet of Ministers Abdugofur Akhmedov and First Deputy Foreign Minister Park-

hod Arziev, important issues related to the development of Ziyorat tourism in our country were discussed. country. In Uzbekistan, which is being renewed today, is actively opening up to the world in all respects, the development of tourism is one of such important steps to attract foreigners to the world famous sights, historical and cultural sites of our country. In turn, famous scientists of the Muslim world, such as Imam Bukhari, Imam Termiziy, Imam Maturidi, Bahauddin Naqshband, Mahmud Zamakhshari, Ibn Sina, Beruni, Farabi and others, lived and

worked on the territory of modern Uzbekistan, places of worship play an important role in development of tourism in the country. During the conversation, it was noted that our country has a wide range of opportunities not available in other countries for the development of tourism. Opening the doors to these opportunities is one of the most important challenges facing professionals. During the conversation, it was noted that activities to develop Ziyorat tourism, which were suspended last year in the face of a pandemic, will be held on a larger scale in 2021.

Pak-China deepen agriculture co-op

ISLAMABAD: Strengthening China-Pakistan agricultural cooperation through networking and mobilization of research resources is greatly beneficial to tap the potential of human resources. It also elevates socio-economic status of farmers and add momentum to rural revitalization in Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. “A win-win situation can be achieved through the development of Pak-China schools in rural areas of Pakistan, strengthening bilateral institutional cooperation and business contacts and promoting the transformation from self-sufficient agriculture to commercial agriculture,” said Dr. Asif Ali, Vice Chancellor, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan. Rural development is largely neglected in Pakistan but it actually affects agricultural development as a whole and food security in particular. Asif Ali in an interview with Gwadar Pro said that China’s rural development model had achieved remarkable results, which should be learned by Pakistan. “It is imperative to carry out cultural exchanges and language education between the two countries for rural population at an early age. Through the focus of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Phase II on agricultural cooperation and social livelihood, both countries can develop together. Our cooperation in research and human resource training in Chinese Institute has made important progress. We have established Sino-Pak Agri-Biotechnology Lab and plan to set up a Confucius Institute to strengthen people-to-people exchanges,” he added. Asif Ali further stated, “the faculty and staff of their university are connected with stakeholders, including farmers, agribusinesses, national and international partners, and members of society. “We also contact farmers through the project internship program, realizing the combination of theoretical knowledge and practice.

Palestinian envoy visits University of Malaysia

Dr. Rector of the University presented to His Excellency the Palestinian Ambassador an overview of the initial campus of the university, its facilities, its faculties, centers and specialties

DNA

KUALUMPUR: Ambassador of the State of Palestine visits the University of Malaysia for Computer Science and Engineering UNIMY. The ambassador of the State of Palestine to Malaysia Walid Abu Ali, accompanied by Advisor First Mohamed Abu Dakah, University of Malaysia for Computer Science and Engineering UNIMY on Tuesday, 12-1-2021 He was in the reception of his happiness and his accompanying delegation, Dr. Mohamed Razli bin Mahmoud, and the Vice-Rector, Dr. Zul Qarnin Qadh, and the visit discussed academic cooperation and scientific communication between the Palestinian university and universities, and ways to expand the prospects for cooperation between them. Dr. Rector of the University pre-



sented to His Excellency the Palestinian Ambassador an overview of the initial campus of the university, its facilities, its faculties, centers and specialties. For his part, he conveyed the greetings of the Palestinian Minister of Higher Education Dr. Mahmoud Abu Moyes, to the president and its board of directors, the ambassador thanked and appreciated the university’s administration for providing scholarships to a number of Palestinian students. The ambassador sent a message to scholarship students at the university to use this precious opportunity for distinguished scientific achievement. His Excellency the Ambassador concluded his visit by delivering the letter of recognition of the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education to the University and including it on the list of Malaysian universities recognized in the Ministry.

PSDP
releases
Rs319.56 b

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government has released Rs. 319.56 billion for various ongoing and new social sector uplift projects till date under its Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2020-21. The released funds include Rs. 207.17 billion for federal ministries, Rs.87 billion for corporations, Rs. 25.25 billion for special areas, and Rs. 750 million for the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA), according to the latest data released by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform. The total PSDP allocation for ERRRA for the year 2020-21 is Rs. 1.5 billion. Similarly, Rs. 55.2 billion out of PSDP allocation of Rs. 118.67 billion has been released for the National Highway Authority, Rs.31.8 billion out of Rs. 158.3 billion for the National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC), and Rs. 45 billion out of Rs. 81.2 billion for the Water Resources Division. Likewise, Rs. 14 billion out of allocated fund of Rs. 29.4 billion has been disbursed to the Higher Education Commission, Rs. 175 million out of Rs. 350 million to the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority. The Railways Division has received development funds of Rs. 11.7 billion, the Interior Division Rs. 7.38 billion, and the National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination Division Rs. 7.4 billion.

Kuwait’s
PM submits
resignation

DNA

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait’s Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah has submitted the resignation of his government to Emir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said on Wednesday. The prime minister met on Tuesday with the Deputy Prime minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah and the ministers. Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali tendered resignation of all the cabinet members “in light of current developments regarding the relation between the National Assembly and the government, and what the national interest may warrant,” KUNA said. Kuwait experiences frequent cabinet reshuffles.

S.Africa
police arrest
thousands for
not wearing
masks

DNA

JOHANNESBURG: South African police have arrested more than 7,000 people caught without face masks in public since the end of December, the government said on Wednesday. Officials made face coverings mandatory in May last year at the same time as they gradually eased movement restrictions imposed in March to stem coronavirus infections. A partial lockdown was reinstated last month as the virus resurged, fuelled by a more transmissible variant. Officials at the time vowed to be more stringent in enforcing the regulations, which include an alcohol sales ban. Police Minister Bheki Cele on Wednesday said more than 20,000 people had been arrested or fined since December 29 for breaching the new rules, including 7,455 people detained for not wearing face masks. More than 830 people have also been arrested for selling, dispensing and transporting alcohol. “Law enforcement agencies do not enjoy making these arrests,” Cele noted in a statement. “However, officers... are left with no choice in the interest of saving lives.” More than 342,000 people have been arrested for contravening coronavirus measures since South Africa declared a national state of disaster in March 2020. The country is the continent’s worst-affected by the pandemic, with more than 1.2 million coronavirus cases and 34,000 deaths recorded to date.

Briefs

NAB approves new inquiries references

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The executive board of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has approved a number of new references and inquiries during its recent session held in Islamabad. The anti-corruption watchdog's executive board approved filing a corruption reference against Jam Khan Shoro, whereas, the assistant commission Shahnawaz Soomro, additional director production and development (P&D) department and deputy commissioner Hyderabad Development Authority were also nominated. It is pertinent to mention here that the former Sindh minister Jam Khan Shoro and others are facing charges of their alleged involvement in illegal allotment of land and possession of assets beyond known sources of income. According to NAB, the accused have allegedly seized government land and caused a huge financial loss up to Rs5 billion to the national exchequer. The references against Board of Investment Islamabad's director Muhammad Ayub and deputy director Adil Karim were also approved. Moreover, the institution will file references against Board Directorate Internal Audit (Customs), Islamabad director Fahad Ali, Board Directorate Internal Audit (Customs), Islamabad director Naem Ejaz and former commission of Inland Revenue, Regional Tax Office, Karachi. The accused caused a financial loss to the national treasury up to over Rs417 million.

'Politics of PDM based on vested interests'

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Communications Murad Saeed has said the people have rejected the politics of the alliance of opposition parties. Addressing a news conference along with Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Ali Amin Gandapur in Islamabad, he said the politics of opposition parties is based on vested interests. The Minister said Prime Minister Imran Khan internationalized Kashmir and Palestine issues at the international level. It was after the lapse of more than fifty years that the UN Security Council held three discussions on the Kashmir dispute. He however regretted that it was in the era of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that an effort was made to establish relations with Israel by involving a member of the JUI (F). The Minister for Communications said JUI (F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman damaged the Kashmir cause. - APP

Moody's keeps Pak banking outlook stable

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Moody's Investors Service - a leading global agency - on Wednesday stated that Pakistan's banking system would have a stable outlook due to ongoing reforms and increasing policy effectiveness. The Moody's in a report released today says, "Despite a difficult environment, the government's credit profile is stable due to ongoing reforms and increasing policy effectiveness - a positive for the banks given their outsized holdings of Pakistani government debt link their credit profiles to that of the government." The report said that a stable outlook for Pakistan's banking system reflects banks' solid funding and liquidity, although a challenging - but improving - operating environment will weigh on asset quality and profitability. The agency also observed that banks' slow economic recovery to affect loan quality, with nonperforming loans (NPLs) expected to rise over the coming months from a sector-wide level of 9.9% of gross loans in September 2020.

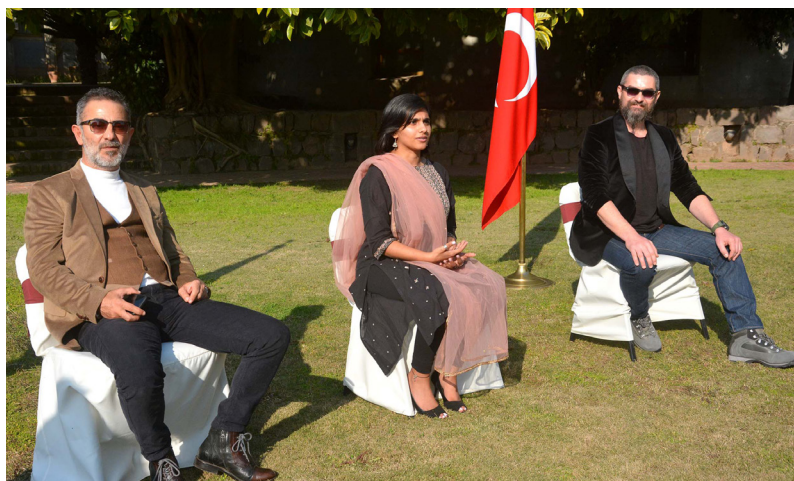
Ertugrul team indebted to Pakistan for recognition; huge appreciation

Ertugrul was a private production nevertheless it got government attention when it became so popular in Pakistan. They said when Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan praised the drama and urged the fellow countrymen to watch it, then the Turkish government also follows the suit

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The well-known actors of blockbuster Turkish drama series Ertugrul-Resurrection Nurettin Sonmez know as Bamsi Beyrek and Ayberk Pekcan known as Artuk Bey have hoped to have joint drama production with the Pakistani counterpart adding they have received huge respect and acknowledgement from the people of Pakistan. "Pakistani people often ask us whether we know how much popular we are in Pakistan and we always say a big yes because both Turkey and Pakistan are brotherly countries and we know very well how much Pakistani people love the Turkish people and vice versa". Both the artists expressed these views while interacting with the Pakistani media people at the Turkish Embassy. Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan Ihsan Mustaf Yurdakul facilitated the meeting. The Turkish actors visited Pakistan as part of Turkish delegation led by Foreign Minister of Turkey Mevlut Cavusoglu. To a question the Turkish said, as actors they would like to join forces with their Pakistani counterpart in order to produce something good. However this is a policy matter and hence shall be decided by the Directors or the senior management. To yet another question they said drama Ertugrul was a private production nevertheless it got government attention when it became so popular in Pakistan. They said when Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan praised the drama and urged the fellow countrymen to watch it, then the Turkish government also follows the suit. The Turkish actors praised Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan for watching the drama and also asking his countrymen to watch it adding it was indeed an honour for them that prime minister of a country was their fan. Turkish foreign minister also jointed the artists and remained with the Pakistani media for quite some time.

- (More news on front page and page 3. Detailed article shall be published in the coming issue of CENTRELINE magazine.



Drama Ertugrul actors Bamsi Beyrek and Artuk Bey talking to Pakistani media



Turkish ambassador Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul taking selfie with Ertugrul actors



Editor Daily Islamabad POST with Ertugrul actor Nurettin known as Bamsi Beyrek



Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and Turkish ambassador Ihsan Mustaf Yurdakul



Editor Daily Islamabad POST Ansar Mahmood Bhatti presenting a copy of Islamabad POST to the Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu



Editor Daily Islamabad POST with Turkish Ambassador Ihsan Mustaf Yurdakul and his wife

US executes first woman on death row after decades

WASHINGTON: The US government executed convicted murderer Lisa Montgomery, the only woman on federal death row, on Wednesday, after the Supreme Court cleared the last hurdle by overturning a stay. Montgomery was the first female prisoner to be executed by the US government since 1953. Challenges were fought across multiple federal courts on whether to allow the execution of Montgomery, 52, who was put to death by lethal injection of pentobarbital, a powerful barbiturate in the Justice Department's execution chamber at its prison in Terre Haute, Indiana. The US Supreme Court, with its conservative majority, cleared the way for her execution after overturning a stay by the 8th US Circuit Court of Appeals. Kelley Henry, Montgomery's lawyer, called the execution "vicious, unlawful, and unnecessary exercise of authoritarian power." "No one can credibly dispute Mrs Montgomery's longstanding debilitating mental disease - diagnosed and treated for the first time by the Bureau of Prisons' doctors," Henry said in a statement. She was pronounced deceased at 1:31am EST (0631 GMT) on Wednesday, the Federal Bureau of Prisons said in a statement. Montgomery was convicted in 2007 in Missouri of kidnapping and strangling Bobbie Jo Stinnett, then eight months pregnant. Montgomery cut Stinnett's fetus from the womb. The child survived. Some of Stinnett's relatives traveled to witness Montgomery's execution, the Justice Department said. As the execution process began, asked by a female executioner if she had any last words, Montgomery responded in a quiet, muffled voice, "No," according to a reporter who served as a media witness. - DNA

Fawad slams opposition's movement

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain Wednesday said the opposition movement failed to gather support from people anywhere as it lacked moral justification. Terming this movement as a failed rescue operation, the federal minister said "No movement can stand without moral justification. The opposition carried out the 'Abu Bachao operation' which failed miserably in all cities". He was speaking at the launching ceremony on "Sustainable Development Goals Wall" at Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU). Fawad said that the Interior Ministry should bring back Nawaz Sharif. "Nawaz Sharif departure has caused a blow to the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf narrative". "There should be an inquiry into how Nawaz Sharif left the country, the way he went out fraudulently is an insult to the people and the state," Chaudhry Fawad said while urging the Punjab government to inquire into the matter. - APP

Court extends Khawaja Asif's remand by 10 days

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: An accountability court in Lahore on Wednesday extended the remand of PML-N leader Khawaja Asif by 10 days at the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) request. The PML-N leader was presented before the court today at the expiry of his 14-day remand. During Wednesday's hearing, the NAB prosecutor told the court that the

PML-N leader had transferred money into a company account which was owned by his servant. At this, Asif's counsel responded saying that all the money being mentioned by NAB has been officially declared. To this, the judge hearing the case asked NAB if a money laundering charge was being brought forth, and was responded to in the affirmative. "Yes, [money laundering did happen]. He [Khawaja Asif] is not providing the details

of Rs130 million sent by a foreign company," the NAB prosecutor told the court. He argued that Asif should share the source of those funds. The anti-corruption watchdog also told the court that they had made a "major breakthrough" in Khawaja Asif's case during the interrogation. "Khawaja Asif had been taking a regular income from [employment in] Dubai but did not provide a bank statement," said the NAB prosecutor-general.

Shahid Khaqan returns with message from Nawaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and PML-N M leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has returned to Pakistan from London. According to sources, Abbasi reached the Islamabad airport from London via Dubai on an international flight. On his return from the United States, Abbasi stayed in London for five days and met former PM Nawaz Sharif. Abbasi reportedly has an "important" message from Nawaz for PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif and Vice-President Maryam Nawaz. In December, Abbasi had left for the US to visit his sister and brother-in-law, both of whom had tested positive for coronavirus and were hospitalised. A summary had been approved by the Federal Ministry of Interior under which the government removed Abbasi's name from the Exit Control List (ECL) and allowed him to go abroad. - DNA

Double-digit LSM growth testament of govt efforts

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh said Wednesday that the accelerating Large Scale Manufacturing (LSM) growth was a testament of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf government's efforts to encourage industrialisation in the country and generate new employment opportunities for people. In a tweet here, the minister said that the LMS posted double-digit growth of 14.5% in November 2020 compared to November 2019. "Large scale manufacturing posted double-digit growth of 14.5% in Nov 2020 compared to Nov 2019. The accelerating LSM growth is a testament of PTI Govt's efforts to encourage industrialisation in the country & generate new employment opportunities for our people," he tweeted. - APP

COVID-19 claims 55 more lives

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Wednesday reached 33,102 as 2,123 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 2,973 people recovered from it during the last 24 hours. Fifty-five corona patients had lost their lives out of which 50 were under treatment in hospitals and five three others in their respective homes or quarantines, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). During the last 24 hours most of the deaths occurred in the Punjab followed by Sindh. It added that out of the total 55 deaths during last 24 hours 36 patients died on ventilators. - APP

Peace in Afghanistan must for prosperity: Khalili

He acknowledged Pak efforts in the first round of the peace process as well as the ongoing talks in Doha and hoped that with this current momentum the relationship would reach new horizons

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: "Peace in Afghanistan will create a situation that will benefit all countries, especially the region and our neighbours. With such a peace, new horizons for progress and development will emerge in the region." This was stated by Ustad Karim Khalili, Leader of Hezbe-Wahadat-e-Islami, Afghanistan during his address at a Public Talk organized by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) Wednesday under its Distinguished Lecture Series. The Afghan delegation included senators and members of par-

liament namely: Mr. Khodadad Erfani, Ms. Nafisa Azimi, Mr. Ali Akbar Jamshidi, Mr. Qais Wakeli, Mr. Mohammad Rahim Hassan-yar, Mohammad Alem Khalili and Mr. Madar Ali Karimi. Pakistan's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Ambassador Mohammad Sadiq was also in attendance. Members of the diplomatic corps in Islamabad, academics, civil society, and former and current diplomats were also present. Ms. Amina Khan, Director Centre for Middle East & Africa (CMEA) who also works on Afghanistan gave welcome remarks. During his address, Ustad Khalili said that peace is a multidimensional phenomenon which has

multifaceted effects in different dimensions of human social life and societies. He stated that, when we talk about peace, in addition to the political dimension, we must also consider its cultural, economic and social dimensions. He said that we are living in an interconnected world with a vast network of global issues, where war and peace are no exception. He went on to say that when a peace agreement upholds human rights' values, such as women's rights, minority rights, non-discrimination, and many other issues, all nations and peoples of the world are motivated to support it. Conversely, if these global standards are not taken into account,

such peace will not go anywhere and conflicts will continue. In Afghanistan, the peace discourse has become a serious issue especially given that peace in Afghanistan is complex, multidimensional, with internal and international consequences. Thus, the people of Afghanistan need cooperation and joint efforts from all countries, especially the region. Speaking about Pakistan's role, he opined that the goal is to win Pakistan's Government's support for a peace that can address regional issues and benefit all our international friends. Such a matter requires a good and precise mechanism which responds well to all of Afghanistan's domestic diversity

as well as expectations of the international community. He appreciated the positive and constructive viewpoint of the Pakistani leadership and noted the visible support given during his visit. The talk was followed by a question and answer session which was moderated by Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI. Answering a question about the role of regional countries and especially Pakistan in the peace process, Ustad Khalili appreciated Pakistan's positive and constructive role in the peace process, terming Islamabad as a staunch supporter of peace, as peace in Afghanistan will amount to peace in Pakistan.