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Briefs

India spoiling Afghan talks

DNA

MULTAN: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi has said that Pakistan was playing responsible role for peace process in Afghanistan. He, however, hinted that India was performing role of spoiler in Afghan peace process. India was using Afghan soil against Pakistan, FM stated adding that Pakistan had taken up the issue with Afghan Administration. While addressing a ceremony here, the minister of foreign affairs also maintained that stance of international community about IIOJK had changed due to efforts of the incumbent government.

PDM wants decision on funding case

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that PDM parties are coming to take a decision on foreign funding case from the Election Commission on January 19, and will sit with Maryam Nawaz until the decision is given in writing. Talking to media in Lahore, she alleged that the PTI had admitted foreign funding. The Kashmir deal was struck in return for the same funding from India and Israel. The League spokesperson said that selected, corrupt and incompetent people are imposed on the country.

Govt will expose Indian sinister designs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Security Dr Moeed Yusuf says the government will continue to expose the sinister designs of India before the world, which is hatching conspiracy to create instability in Pakistan. Talking to a private channel, he said exposing the real face of India before international community is a difficult task because it is a big business market for developed nations.

Provinces free to import corona vaccine

Asad said that the govt has approved procurement of vaccine and it would be available in the country by March

A.M.BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) chief Asad Umar has asserted that provinces and private entities are allowed to import anti-coronavirus vaccines approved by the Drug Regulatory Authority Pakistan (DRAP). "From day 1, the NCOC has adopted the policy that the federal government shall not have the monopoly to import anti-coronavirus vaccines," the federal minister told a private news channel. "Provinces and private entities including hospitals have been allowed to import the vaccines that are approved by DRAP." Umar was responding to Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho seeking the federal government's permission to directly negotiate with foreign governments and private companies for vaccine procurement. "Once a vaccine has been approved by the regulatory authority, it can be imported by provinces as well as private hospitals," he explained. "In fact, I would encourage not only Sindh but other provincial governments to import it as well."

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Over 2,521 new cases reported

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Sunday reached to 34,701 with 2,521 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,540 people recovered from the coronavirus during the last 24 hours. Forty Three coronavirus patients, 40 of whom were under treatment in hospital and Three were in their respective homes or quarantines died on Saturday, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). During the last 24 hours most of the deaths had occurred in Punjab followed by the Sindh. It added that out of the total 43 deaths during the last 24 hours 22 patients were died on ventilators. Some 41,191 tests were conducted across the country on Saturday including 13,936 in Sindh, 14,186 in Punjab, 6,242 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 5,477 in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 688 in Balochistan, 372 in GB and 290 in AJK. - DNA

Joe Biden to end Trump's 'Muslim ban' on his first day

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: Within hours of being sworn in on Wednesday as the US President, Joe Biden plans to sign a number of executive orders, including rejoining the 2016 Paris climate accord and ending the travel ban on predominantly Muslim countries, designed to signal an immediate break from President Donald Trump. "President-elect Biden will take action - not just to reverse the gravest damages of the Trump administration - but also to start moving our country forward," incoming White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain wrote in a memo released Saturday. One of Trump's first actions as president in 2017 was to suspend entry to the United

Pak-American inducted into Biden's team

WASHINGTON: US President-elect Joe Biden has inducted a second Pakistani American, Salman Ahmed, into his foreign policy team, said a statement issued. Mr Ahmed, who served as head of strategic planning in the Obama National Security Council, is joining the US State Department as director policy planning. Last month, Mr Biden announced that another Pakistani American, Ali Zaidi, will join his team as Deputy National Climate Adviser. Mr Ahmed was chief of staff of the US Mission to the United Nations and senior policy adviser to the US Permanent Representative to the United Nations. - DNA

States of travelers from seven majority Muslim nations: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, for 90 days. That executive order created chaos at airports around the world, and lawsuits against the ban quickly followed. After federal judges barred

the first ban's implementation, Trump issued a second ban that was also quickly tied up in federal courts. A third version of the ban was issued by the White House in the fall of 2017, and this one applied to six majority

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The fall of Donald Trump..!

Not only did President Trump lose his second term in US's presidential election during last 32 years but listed as 6th president who couldn't win for 2nd term

COMMENT Shazia Asif Bhatti

THE United States is considered to be the custodian of the great democratic traditions where tolerance, equality and freedom of expression are interpreted as the unique characteristics of the society. This history spans not a few decades, but two hundred years old. In a few years, or even in just four years, this golden history of the United States has not been tarnished by a brazen figure in the highest office but made ashamed of all the Americans who always believe in constitution and democratic norms. Despite being an unconventional and non-political figure, filthy rich Mr. Trump became a popular leader on the bases of slogans and tall claims, after assuming most power president of the world's strong country, he starts changing American history. What so ever Trump did during past four years, Trump's supporters have talked about economic stability and growth, job creation, block to launch a new war, including the withdrawal of troops, including cessation of drone strikes on

Pakistan and other Islamic countries, in particular, his followers considered these all a historic achievement. The matter of fact is that Trump has compunctious the democratic and tolerant society of United States, Hate for immigrants, widening the social divide based on language, religion and race are the worst gifts of the Trump era. Restrictions on first-time immigrants in a country lionised as Land of Immigrants and the banning of red passports globally are perhaps a disgrace to America's honour. Not only did President Trump lose his second term in US's presidential election during last 32 years but listed as 6th president who couldn't win for 2nd term. He also became the fourth president to refuse to attend the inauguration of a new president in last 150 years. Becoming the first U.S. president to be impeached twice in four years, he has lost his close aids during the fight against impeachment, 10 members of his ruling party vicissitude the approximations of political pundits by supporting the impeachment motion of their president. Incidents of disrespect for parliament are commonplace in unsustainable democracies especially in Third World

countries, but two hundred years after the invasion of the enemy in 1814, this feat came to President Trump, who provoked his armed supporters to attack the prestige of parliament on the most important and historic day in the American democratic tradition (January 6). It is reverential and germane day when the US Congress ratifies the President-elect by verifying the electoral votes obtained by the newly elected President. Interestingly, politicians in many developing countries, including Pakistan and India, Demonstrations of repression appear in public, but this new tradition has now become an additional chapter in US history, when pro-Trump hocks threatening, blocking and attacking elected members of parliament from the opposition party (democrats) including their own party (Republican) members who are antagonistic about their leader's approach, the actions of trumpians have embarrassed the American people. One of the extrinsic factor of President Trump's fall is that he continued to overlook the Corona virus, which kills 4,000 Americans every day. As a result, the United States has become the number one country to die from Corona. What



ISTANBUL: Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of Air Staff in a briefing session with board of members of Association of Justice Defenders and Strategic Studies Center (ASSAM). - DNA

'Pak and Turkey iron brothers'

DNA

ISTANBUL: Pakistan and Turkey are two countries, one nation. They not only share common culture and faith but also have similar interests and challenges." This was stated by Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, while addressing the board members of Association of Justice Defenders and Strategic Studies Center (ASSAM) in Turkey. The Air Chief said that Pakistan fully supports Turkey on Cyprus and other regional issues and also stood by Ankara in its war against terrorism. The Air Chief also lauded Turkey's support to Azerbaijan during latter's conflict with Armenia to liberate territories occupied for nearly 30 years. Referring to the regional situation in South Asia, the Air Chief said that India had been persistently rejecting Pakistan's repeated and visible peace gestures and continued to sponsor its proxies in Afghanistan to destabilize Pakistan through terrorist activities. He further added that the ever-deteriorating situation in Kashmir and plight of its people were a big question mark for the global community as it was unfortunate to see economic interests taking precedence over moral and ethical values. He thanked Turkish President, Foreign Minister, and Parliament Speaker for their supportive statements on Kashmir issue at various international forums.

'People have rejected opposition's narrative'

PTI has submitted record of donations it received from workers and sympathizers abroad to ECP's scrutiny committee, said Shibli Faraz

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Syed Shibli Faraz has asked opposition parties to submit record of their foreign funding to the Election Commission of Pakistan instead of pressurizing and intimidating state institutions. Speaking at a joint news conference, along with Railways Parliamentary Secretary Farrukh Habib, in Islamabad, he said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has submitted record of donations it received from workers and sympathizers abroad to ECP's scrutiny committee. He said that record of 40,000 notarized and

PDM likely to delay rallies

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the PDM is expected to be held in Islamabad to take a decision over postponing the further rallies and public meetings because of the severe cold weather, said the sources. According to the details, PML-N Vice-President Maryam Nawaz will also attend the meeting and will take decisions about PDM's future rallies and protests. The majority of the PDM members have suggested postponing the rallies and public meetings till February due to extreme cold and foggy weather in Punjab. - DNA

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Revelations about Goswami vindicate Pakistan's position

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office spokesperson Sunday said the transcripts included in Mumbai police charge-sheet against the Republic TV anchorperson, Arnab Goswami, in the TRP case, had further exposed India's sinister designs and vindicated Pakistan's long held position. The transcripts provided further evidence of how this whole enterprise from 'false flag' operation to massive electoral success was scripted and fully realized, the foreign office spokesperson said in a press release. "We had, at the outset, rejected India's malicious propaganda against Pakistan and highlighted that the biggest beneficiary of the Pulwama attack in February 2019 was the BJP government, as it secured landslide victory in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections," it was added. In recent months, the world community was presented with irrefutable evidence of India's state-sponsorship of terrorism against Pakistan and anti-Pakistan disinformation and smear campaign globally, the spokesperson said.

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Briefs

Karachi among most polluted cities of world

DNA

KARACHI: The port city has been ranked among the world's most polluted cities as the level of hazardous particles in air reached to 324 on Sunday morning. According to recent reading of the Air Quality Index (AQI) this noon hazardous particulate matter in Karachi was recorded at 188. AQI as high as 151-200 is considered unhealthy, while an AQI between 201 to 300 is more harmful and an AQI over 300 is dubbed extremely hazardous.

Air pollution of particulate matter in Lahore was recorded 171, Peshawar 414, Islamabad 171, New Delhi 321, Kolkata 188 and Dhaka 288, as per the AQI reading. An expert, said that in winter an increase in air pollution witnessed, change in the wind speed, wind direction and sliding minimum temperature increases air pollution, he said.

The smoke from factories and vehicular traffic in cities are among some factors adding to the air pollution, he added. According to experts, the air becomes heavier in the winter as compared to summer, causing poisonous particles in the atmosphere to move downwards and making the atmosphere polluted. As a result, a layer of polluted particles, including large amounts of carbon and smoke, covers the city.

The smoke produced by factories and burning coal, garbage, oil or tyres enters the atmosphere and the effects of this appear at the onset of winter and remain till the season's end, experts said.

'Services of security personnel to be remembered'

DNA

ATTOCK: Provincial Minister for Social Welfare and Baitulmal Syed Yawar Abbas Bokhari on Sunday said those who sacrificed their lives for the country would be remembered and the nation was indebted to them for their bravery and dedication. He said this while inaugurating "DSP Shaukat Ali Shah Chowk" in Attock. On the occasion mother of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Shaukat Shah Shaheed, his widow, daughter, District Commissioner Attock Ali Anwar Qamar, District Police Officer Syed Khalid Hamdani were also present. Syed Yawar Bokhari said blood of our martyrs is included in our soil, adding that our brave security forces are always ever ready to sacrifice their lives for our motherland. He said, DSP Shaukat Shaheed was a brave police officer who sacrificed his life on 16 Aug 2015 in village Shadi Khan Attock during a suicide attack.

'Steps being taken to facilitate farmers'

DNA

ATTOCK: Provincial Minister for Revenue Col (R) Malik Muhammad Anwar Khan Wednesday said that revolutionary steps have been taken in Punjab Revenue Department to facilitate farmers and to enhance revenue collection. Anwar Khan said 115 computerized land record centers and 20 mobile centers have set up while 23 commercial banks have also been given access to digital land record for the facilitation of farmers and an agreement has been signed between Punjab Revenue Department and FBR regarding sharing of data which increased 80 percent income of the department. He said that during the financial year 2018-19, Rs 76 billion recovered under agriculture income tax while 140,000 acre land worth Rs 1000 billion has been retrieved from the land mafia adding that reforms have introduced in stamp papers license, stamping rules and agriculture tax. The minister said special counters would be set up in USA, UK, Saudi Arabia and UAE embassies to facilitate overseas Pakistanis for getting online documents of their properties.



SIALKOT: Special assistant to chief minister Punjab Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan distributing gifts among the Hemophilia - Thalassemia patients at Sundas Foundation. – DNA

CDA to make signal-free corridor at F-10 service road: Chairman

The Highway was built to improve connectivity to Landhi and Korangi, Port Qasim and Bhains colony via Shahrah-e-Faisal, Model Colony, Malir, Link road to the M-9 and Thatta dual carriage

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) has directed the concerned authorities to make F-10 Service road east a signal free road while utilizing all the men power, machinery, and resources of the authority here on Sunday. Chairman CDA visited F-10 along with Director MPO, Director Environment and other officers. He inaugurated F-10 signal free project. Speaking at the occasion, Chairman CDA said that available resources should be utilized. The said project will be completed by the utilization of the available resources, machinery, and men power with the help of the de-



partment of MPO. Construction material for F-10 signal free project will be prepared by CDA's

own Asphalt plant which will cut down the expense of the project. CDA wants to complete this project

as soon as possible, he added. He said that this project will facilitate the citizens coming to

F-10 markaz and F-9 park. This traffic plan will help in reducing the traffic pressure.

Resources to be mobilized to boost GB's climate resilience

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam said that the present government was taking all-out measures to help Gilgit-Baltistan government to overcome challenges of environmental degradation, solid waste, climate change and deforestation. "Prime Minister Imran Khan-led government was aware of the exacerbating challenges being faced by the climate-vulnerable region of Gilgit-Baltistan, which have led to negative fallouts for various social

and economic sectors particularly water, energy and agriculture," Malik Amin Aslam said. He expressed these views during his meeting with the Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan. While referring to various climate change and environment-related studies of the Pakistan Meteorological Department, Malik Amin Aslam highlighted that over recent years, the global warming-caused events of glacial melting, glacial lake outburst floods, riverine floods and shifting

rainfall patterns have shown rising frequency and intensity, affecting badly not only socio-economic lives of the region but also those in the southern parts of the country. Meanwhile, sharing about deleterious impacts of environmental degradation and climate change, the Gilgit-Baltistan chief minister informed the Prime Minister's aide Malik Amin Aslam that lack of alternative to fuelwoods, which is mined from the local forest areas, have led to massive tree-felling unabated since long. – APP

'No one to be allowed to hinder development process'

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that no one would be allowed to create hindrance in the process of development, being carried out under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. In a media statement issued here on Sunday, he said that a transparent and honest leadership was on the one side and symbols of disgrace, the former rulers, had gathered on the other side. Unfortunately, the CM added, the opposition parties alliance, Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), put the national interests aside. The CM said the people had elected transparency through their votes, and not corruption. The opposition was not a threat to the government as the unnatural alliance was fading away with the passage of time, he added. He said the hollow slogan of "Vote ko izzat do" had died its own death. Buzdar said the government would complete its constitutional term and those who were obstructing the process of development and progress would get nothing. Desperate opposition disappointed people on every national issue and used all its energy only on lip-service, he added. The CM said that people were fully aware of the double standards of the opposition. He said people could

not be served by merely issuing statements, but by standing with them, he asserted and maintained that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership had stood shoulder to shoulder with people during the past years. He said: "Nefarious designs of the PDM will be foiled again." Buzdar said the negative approach of the opposition parties had further lessened their credibility among the public. He said the opposition had tried to sabotage the national unity for their vested interests. The opposition had compromised on national interests, he added. Practically, the position was making hue and cry and doing nothing for people. People have been fed up with politicians having double standards and involved in negative politics, the CM said. He said the PTI leadership understands difficulties of people. The opposition's cheap politics of creating chaos would not work anymore, he added. Those who made tall claims have been exposed in front of people, he said. The opposition parties exhibited irresponsibility even in critical circumstances, he added. Time has proved that the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan took timely decisions regarding COVID-19 pandemic control, he added. – APP



KARACHI: Pakistan Navy Ship NASR sailed from Karachi for overseas deployment to African Counties on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Mission. – DNA (Detail News on Page 8)

6 Nashonuma Centres opening in Kalat, Zhob

However, catering to the scattered population and wide geographical spread out of Balochistan, the Ehsaas Nashonuma Centres are being opened at the basic health unit level to ensure easy access to the facility

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Sania Nishtar on Sunday disclosed that six Nashonuma Centres are being opened in Kalat and Zhob districts of Balochistan in the first phase of Ehsaas Nashonuma programme under the umbrella initiative of Ehsaas. The flagship initiative of the government was aimed to tackle stunting and improve the nutrition of the poorest children through a combination of cash stipends, nutritional food, medical examination and training", Dr. Nishtar who heads Ehsaas programme said. National Nutrition Survey 2018 found that

46.6 percent of children in Balochistan are currently impacted by stunting due to malnutrition, with significant consequences for their health and educational outcomes. Ehsaas has rolled out Ehsaas Nashonuma programme to ensure that this form of malnutrition does not continue to compromise the human capital required to sustain the socioeconomic development. Across Pakistan, 48 Ehsaas Nashonuma Centres in 13 districts are being opened at the district and Tehsil level health facilities in the first phase of the programme. However, catering to the scattered population and wide geographical spread out of Balochistan, the Ehsaas Nashonuma Centres are being opened at the basic health unit level to ensure easy access to the facility.

Ehsaas Nashonuma centers in Balochistan are opening in collaboration with provincial government and the World Food Programme. To provide all Ehsaas Nashonuma facilities under one roof, four centres have been established in Kalat at DHQ Kalat, DHQ Surab, BHU Iskalkoo and BHU Lakorian. In Zhob district, two centres will be operational next month. The programme will be expanded to other districts in the next phase. Ehsaas Nashonuma is a three-year programme that is fully funded by the government of Pakistan. The programme is pegged on improving nutrition and health in the first thousand days of life, that is the most critical period in early childhood development, starting at conception and finishing at age of two.

Every quarter, conditional cash-transfers are being provided to the poorest pregnant and lactating women and those with children under two years old; Rs.1500 for a boy child and mother, and Rs. 2000 for a girl child. As stated by Ehsaas policy, beneficiaries will be identified through the Ehsaas ecosystem and programme enrolments will be made through an android based Ehsaas Nashonuma application. The android application not just enables the electronic registrations but also tracks beneficiary women and children. Nashonuma stipends are disbursed to mothers through biometrically enabled Ehsaas payment system. Payments are conditional upon the consumption of specialized nutritious food, immunizations, and attendance in health awareness sessions.

Afridi dubs Indian media as 'partner in crime'

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir Shehryar Khan Afridi has blamed Indian media for being a partner in crime with the Hindutva regime of India in putting lies as truth. "Media is prime source of authentic and verified information. But what if media become partner in a crime?" tweeted Shehryar Afridi referring to the censorship in Indian media about the What's App leaks of Arnab Goswami. Chairman Kashmir Committee Shehryar Khan Afridi said while the social media was abundant with 'Arnab Chat Gate', Indian media didn't even publish a single story on Arnab Chat Gate. Chairman Kashmir Committee said whatsapp leaks of an Indian journalist Arnab Goswami again proved that the Pulwama Attack was an 'inside job' orchestrated by Indian intelligence to blame Pakistan and Kashmiri Freedom Fighters. "This is how Indian establishment has muzzled free media in India. This is how India is misleading and managing opinions. This is how Kashmir Freedom Movement confused with Terrorism," the Kashmir Committee tweeted. – APP

Replica of Koh-i-Noor diamond put on display

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Replica of Koh-i-Noor, the largest diamond of the world has been displayed for visitors at Pakistan Museum of Natural History (PMNH). Koh-i-Noor weighing 105.6 carats (21.12g), possibly mined from the Kollur mine, Golconda, India. Its weight is 186 carats (38.2g) and it was acquired by Alauddin Khalji, Sultan of Delhi, an official of Pakistan Museum and Natural History told APP the other day. The diamond was also part of the Mughal Peacock Throne (Takhat-e-Taos). He said that the diamond was lodged at the very top of the throne, in the head of a glistening gemstone peacock. When Persian ruler Nadar Shah invaded Delhi in 1739, along with other treasures, he also took the Peacock Throne as a part of his treasure, but he removed the Tamur Ruby and Koh-i-Noor diamond to wear it on his armband.

'Alhamra keeping art and culture alive'

LAHORE: The Alhamra Arts Council is promoting and projecting art and culture of the country in an effort to keep them alive and improve the socioeconomic conditions of artists. Lahore Arts Council (LAC) Executive Director Saman Rai expressed these views while talking to APP here on Sunday. "Culture has its own magic, and any nation that maintains its art and culture attains a unique identity in the comity of nations," she added. She said that the LAC was taking practical measures to positively depict beautiful cultures of Pakistan to the world. She said that virtual initiatives were being introduced to avoid public gatherings in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. Alhamra posted every cultural and artistic activity on its facebook page and YouTube channel for the viewers, because culture must go on, Saman Rai said, adding that virtual experience produced extraordinary results as physical exhibitions did not attract too many people so far. She said that Alhamra had also arranged various national and religious events including New Year celebrations, Shan-e-Rehmatul-Lil-Alameen (PBUH) Week and Christmas celebrations, etc. To a question, the LAC executive director said young artists and singers had also been imparted arts and music studies through Alhamra Performing and Virtual Arts Academy for the last 30 years. At the Alhamra Academy, she added, students learned about more than 12 musical instruments, drawings, sketches, classical music, and study taboos and values of various cultures. Fee for Alhamra academy was very nominal and every interested student could afford it easily, she responded to a query. – DNA

Briefs

Elaborate security plan devised for PDM rally

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police (Operations) have chalked out a comprehensive security plan for gathering of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) in the Capital on January 19, 2021. According to police, Operations Division of Islamabad police in consultation with District Administration have devised a law and security as well as security plan for expected rally of PDM from Rawalpindi to the office of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on January 19, 2021 (Tuesday).

More than 1800 personnel including five SPs, 10 DSPs will perform security as well as law & order duties under overall supervision of SSP Operations Islamabad, to ensure the implementation of code of conduct agreed between the organizers and District Administration. Participants will park their cars in the general car park of Convention Centre and walk towards ECP after passing through walk through gates.

16-year old boy reunited with parents

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Khanna police on Sunday reunited 16-year old missing boy with his family, a police spokesman said. According to details, Father of missing boy Informed khanna police that his 16-year old son Muhammad Rafay had been missing and could not be traced despite hectic efforts by family members.

Following this information, SP (Rural) Farooq Amjad Butar constituted special team under supervision of DSP Mubarak Ali to trace the missing boy. This team including SHO Khanna police station Kamal Khan searched various under-construction buildings, houses and garbage heaps. Various people were inquired about the missing boy Muhammad Rafay and finally police team succeeded to recover him safely from area following which he was reunited with his parents.

The family has thanked the police team over safe recovery of the boy. IGP Islamabad Muhammad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman and DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed have appreciated the performance of police team.

Rain spell to be expected from next week

ISLAMABAD: The last and second rain spell of the current month in twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi would be expected from next week. Talking to APP, Spokesman Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Dr Khalid Malik Sunday said the likely rain spell would also grip the northern areas followed by snowfall. He further elaborated fog would reduce after rains as these days dense fog occurred in Capital during morning and night hours. Adding that rain-spells would be benefitted for reducing allergies in the atmosphere. - APP

IRSA releases 34,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 34,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 44,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1470.73 feet, which was 78.73 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 16,600 cusecs each. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1170.40 feet, which was 130.40 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet. - APP



ISLAMABAD: President ICICI Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan in a group photo with a delegation of Economic Journalists Forum. - DNA

President ICICI urges govt to reduce interest rates, taxes

He said that there is no doubt that the Prime Minister of Pakistan wants to bring an economic revolution in the country, but the government should also pay heed to the proposals of stakeholders

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sardar Ilyas Khan has said that the government should reduce the interest rates, taxes, electricity as well as petroleum prices in order to boost the economic activities. He stated this while talking to a delegation of the Economic Journalists Forum.

He said that there is no doubt that the Prime Minister of Pakistan wants to bring an economic revolution in the country, but the government should also pay heed to the proposals of stakeholders. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that the government has made petroleum products an important source of revenue collection which is not a wise approach. The increase in petrol and diesel prices would not only further increase the production cost but

also a burden on poor class. The president ICICI said that there are huge opportunities for foreign investors in various sectors of Pakistan's economy, including telecom, industry and agriculture and construction. He said that India's exports of IT products are 100 times higher than Pakistan's and even Bangladesh is ahead of Pakistan in IT exports and government should pay special attention to the IT sector to achieve sustainable develop-

ment and foreign exchange. The President ICICI said that the government should cooperate in setting up a new industrial zone as well as export processing zone near Islamabad Airport as it has easy access to the airport and motorway as the existing industrial areas in Islamabad have been completely filled, making it difficult for industrialists and investors to set up new industrial units. He also appreciated the premier

on extending the construction package for another six months to a year. The business community across the country demanded that the construction package be further expanded to boost business activities. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that CDA should strive to develop Islamabad as a model city which would better promote business and economic activities.

Pak, China partnership is vital for regional security: experts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The experts speaking at a webinar said that the interdependence for Pakistan and China has increased in the given geopolitical circumstances in the region. Common interests of both countries are intertwined now whether they are of human security in the era of pandemic, socio-economic or strategic alliance to counter the increasing US-Indian collaboration against China. Taking over the lead position on the two UN Security Council committees namely Taliban sanctions and Terrorism, India will be having more space to fiddle around the geopolitical situation in the region. They said that Pakistan and China have to be more efficient and vigi-

lant about the emerging situation and act more wisely in the coming days. Both countries might be having more difficult situations as India is expected to have hegemonic interventions in the region including undue interference in Afghanistan. The webinar "Pakistan-China partnership for national security" was organized by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) on Sunday. Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Senator Mushahid Hussain and Lt. General (Retd) Talat Masood were the keynote speakers. Senior journalist from Washington Anwar Iqbal, Executive Director Devcom-Pakistan Munir Ahmed, Prof Sarwat Kazmi and development expert Azhar Qureshi

also spoke on the occasion. Senator Mushahid Hussain said with India as chair of the UNSC Taliban Sanctions Committee, the conflict in the region is feared to rise up. Pakistan needs to take China along with Iran on board very sincerely on the Afghanistan peace process where Taliban has to be given due share in the governance for sustainability of peace in the region. At the moment, the US is supporting India by all means at the moment as it is for the love of India but to strengthen a new proxy war agent against China. The strength of the region lies in unity beyond party differences and conflicts. Senator Mushahid said President Donald Trump's policies have weakened the US economic streams, and same

is the case with the western countries. Now, the balance of power is shifting to the east, and we the countries in Asia including central and south need to act smartly and stand united. The stronger countries have to lead the alliance whether it is form or informal in nature. In the emerging situation, Pakistan and China both need each other more than any time in the past. They need to increase their collaboration in all fields sooner than later. Lt. General (Retd) Talat Masood said strategic convergence of Pakistan and China is vital for the national security of Pakistan, economic stability and regional peace. China has proved to be a reliable partner in all the moments of need. So we trust them in future as well.

PARC approves 22 research projects under ALP

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) has accorded approval for 22 research and development projects under foreign funded Agriculture Linkage Program (ALP) in order to promote research for uplift of the local agriculture sector on modern lines. The project which got approved from the board was related to research in fields of plant sciences, animals sciences, agricultural engineering and natural resources development, said Chairman PARC Dr Muhammad Azeem Khan. Talking to APP, he said that the Board of ALP in its 33 meeting, deliberated different aspects of agriculture sector development through intervening in research and development sides. The activities proposed under the ALP projects were directly related to both the objectives as specified in the vision 2030 and other plans of the government to promote agricultural sector in Pakistan, he added. He informed that the meeting was also briefed by Executive Director of ALP Dr Muhammad Munir Ahmad as technical members of PARC and other senior officials were also participated the meeting. - 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, Secretary IWMB Abdul Hye Agha 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. Sakhawat 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. During the Buzzard's captivity into the cage, its diet (chicken meat) was hidden inside the confine so that it could search and eat its meal and rehabilitate its flight ability after a gap due to injury. - APP

HEC warns against unauthorised programmes

Last year, the HEC abolished two-year Bachelors' degree programmes at universities across the country. This means students will no longer be able to pursue two-year B.Com or BSc degrees

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission of Pakistan has requested students not to take admissions in unauthorised two-year BA/BSc or MA/MSc programmes. One or two universities have announced admissions for these programmes. While this will earn money for the varsity, it will not be in the interest of students, the Commission said in a statement on Twitter. "These discarded degrees will not enable students to apply for jobs or further education." Last year, the HEC abolished two-year Bachelors' degree programmes at universities across the country. This means students will no longer be able to pursue two-year B.Com or BSc degrees.

The notification issued by HEC read, "[The two-year bachelors] degrees shall not be recognised by the HEC for students enrolled in these programmes after December 31, 2018." It said that the programmes should be replaced with a single, composite BS degree. It was also decided that the last BA/BSc exam will be taken by December 31, 2020 and admissions for the last batch of MS/

MSc will be taken before the date as well. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, HEC has allowed some flexibilities for students: Varsities have been given a "three-month grace period" until March 31, 2021 to conduct exams. These will be considered 2020 exams. The deadline for the final batch of MS/MSc has also been extended to March 31, 2021. BA/BSc degree holders can apply for admission for

their third year, which is the 5th semester, subject to the completion of the previous semester and the course requirements by the university. Students who miss their deadline for MS/MSc can apply for their third year in a BS programme, which HEC has called a better option. Students just applying for the bachelor's can either opt for the four-year programme or for the AD programmes. The Commission has warned that admissions in illegal and phased out programmes will lead to a fine for students. "The HEC cannot recognise the degrees of students enrolled in conventional BA/BSc programmes after December 31, 2020 and the last date for admission in conventional MA/MSc programmes is March 31, 2021," the commission reiterated.

WWF holds dialogue to address climate issues

DNA

ISLAMABAD: World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on Sunday held the second consultative workshop in Quetta which aimed to address the issue of climate change by seeking recommendations on revising the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) document and raising the overall ambition. According to a press release issued here, all relevant stakeholders from the Balochistan government, private sector, and non-profit organizations attended the workshop. It served as a forum to highlight initiatives and areas of improvement in the five leading sectors consisting of agriculture, energy, forestry and land-use, industries and waste as well as to exchange knowledge and experience related to climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. While inaugurating the event, Dr Tahir Rasheed, Regional Head Sindh and Balochistan, WWF-Pakistan stated that "Although Pakistan ranks 135 in terms of per capita greenhouse gas emissions globally, it was ranked fifth amongst countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change according to Germanwatch's Global Climate Risk Index. It was evident as the country faces extreme weather changes and natural calamities such as urban flooding, heatwaves, rising sea levels, loss of biodiversity and droughts".

ITP resume driving license service

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has resumed driving license service after a hiatus of almost eight months with anti-COVID standard operating procedures (SOPs) to keep the novel coronavirus at the bay. The license operations came to a halt in mid-March during the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic and reopened in October for a brief period of time, when an uptick in the virus spread again forced the ITP management to close its headquarters situated on the greenbelt between F-8 and F-9. The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police announced the development on its Twitter to fully appeal to the motorists to fully adhere to the coronavirus health guidelines while visiting its office.

It also posted a video, in which the ITP officials could be seen making a passionate appeal to the visitors to wear masks and ensure use of hand sanitizers upon visiting the office for license. ITP officer Muhammad Ishfaq said nobody was allowed to enter the headquarter building without mask. "It is my request to the people to ensure mask-wearing within the premises." Another official appealed to the citizens to avoid bringing their friends and family members while visiting the office. He said limited numbers of motorists were being entrained on daily basis to ensure physical distancing within the office premises. - APP

Sector I-10 gets water filtration plant

ISLAMABAD: Children of Adam (CoA)-a welfare trust Sunday inaugurated a water filtration plant at sector I-10 of Islamabad to provide potable water to the residents in times of the coronavirus pandemic. The water filtration plant was initially constructed by the Capital Development Authority and later handed over to CoA, which made it functional within one month after carrying out extensive renovation work. The filtration unit was inaugurated by Qari Muhammad Ikhtlaq Madni, Imam of Shah Faisal mosque, who also offered special prayers on the occasion. CoA Chief Executive Officer Shahzad Sadan said in times of the coronavirus, provision of safe drinking water to the masses became crucial to ensure their safety. "Contaminated water is the major cause of all the diseases," he added. - APP

Briefs

Another doctor dies in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Coronavirus has claimed life of another doctor of the PIMS Hospital in Islamabad on Friday night. According to details, Deputy Director of the PIMS Hospital Emergency Ward, Dr Manzoor, succumbed to COVID-19 on Friday. Dr Manzoor was on ventilator for the past one month. Meanwhile, Pakistan has reported 45 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 514,338. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 10,863 on Friday.

According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCO), 2,417 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Punjab has overtaken Sindh in most number of casualties. Till now 231,953 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 147,953 in Punjab, 62,719 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 18,515 in Balochistan, 39,749 in Islamabad, 8,567 in Azad Kashmir and 4,882 in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Couple arrested for torturing maid: police

RAWALPINDI: A couple was arrested for torturing a 10-year-old girl working as a maid at their house in Rawalpindi's Satellite Town Block B, the police said on Sunday. According to the security guard of the house, for over a week he had been hearing loud cries and wails from the child from inside the house after which he called the Child Protection and Welfare Bureau. The couple, identified as Nazi and Aurangzeb, have been arrested by the police and the 10-year-old has been moved to the bureau. She hails from Sahiwal. "Nazia said she had taught the girl how to keep herself clean but she never brushed her teeth or showered," a police officer said.

On the other hand, Aurangzeb claimed the child's father took the 10-year-old's advance salary from him and hasn't been replying ever since. "He doesn't even come to meet his daughter." The victim told the bureau officer that the suspects beat her up with sticks.

Police held 6 accused in various raids

DNA

ATTOCK: Police launched a crackdown on criminals have arrested six accused, while taking action against drug dealers, 3200 grams of cannabis and 10 canes of liquor were recovered from their possession. According to details, Attock police is cracking down on criminals on the instructions of DPO Attock Syed Khalid Hamdani. Police arrested six accused during various operations against criminals. Attock Khurd police arrested Gohar Ali s/o Nimroz Khan r/o Garhi Matna Tehsil Hazro have recovered 10 gallons of local liquor. City Hassan police team recovered 2100 grams of cannabis from Danish s/o Sher Rehman, 1100 grams of cannabis was recovered from Nawaz Ali's son.



ISLAMABAD: Federal minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz and Farrukh Habib addressing a press conference at PID media centre. – DNA (Detailed News on Front page)

ICCI resents further hike in prices of petroleum products

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the people and businesses were already struggling to combat the impact of Covid-19 pandemic and in these tough conditions, increasing price of petrol by Rs.3.20 and diesel by Rs.2.95 per per litre

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has resented yet another increase by the government in the prices of petroleum products and termed it an unwise decision that would go against the interests of businesses and the general public giving rise to more inflation and high cost of doing business. It would ultimately make it more difficult for the business community to revive the business and

economic activities in the country. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the people and businesses were already struggling to combat the impact of Covid-19 pandemic and in these tough conditions, increasing price of petrol by Rs.3.20 and diesel by Rs.2.95 per per litre would create more problems for the economy. He said that the government was also preparing to increase electricity tariff, which would put additional

burden on the common man and the businesses. He said that the repeated hikes in POL products and utility tariffs would shatter the confidence of investors as they needed predictable and consistent policies and tariffs to make investment in Pakistan. ICCI President said that in the prevailing difficult circumstances, people and businesses were looking towards some relief measures from the government as was done by the governments around the world to save their nations from

deep troubles. Therefore, it was the need of the hour that the government should have considered making cut in power tariffs and prices of POL products to bring down the cost of doing business thus enabling industrial and business activities to flourish in the country. But on the contrary, the government was making decisions that would further enhance the cost of doing business and make our products more uncompetitive in the international market. He was of the view that raising the price of petrol

and diesel would further increase the production cost as it would make transport more expensive and would have a harmful effect on agriculture and other sectors. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that the government has made petroleum products an important source of revenue collection which was not a wise approach. He said that the government was currently getting around Rs.42 per liter on petrol and diesel in terms of taxes and petroleum levy. He urged that the government should make significant

cut in taxes and levy on petroleum products to give much needed relief to the businesses that would also reduce inflation. He said that most of the electricity in Pakistan was generated from fossil fuel due to which the price of electricity was higher in the region and this has multiplied the cost of doing business. Therefore, he stressed that the government should focus on renewable energy sources for power generation that would provide cheap energy and bring down inflation as well.

State-run utilities will become efficient

ISLAMABAD: Former President ICCI Shahid Rasheed Butt on Saturday said the trading community full support move of the government to liberalise the gas sector by allowing the private sector to establish terminal and start importing LNG. The decision will ensure availability of gas on economical rates while supply will not be disrupted unnecessarily, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the gas sector will become more transparent which is necessary for improved economic activity and bringing an end to gas sector circular debt. Talking to the business community, he said that the government could not tame the energy sector as intended while a shortage in winter and high price of LNG has trigger protests, therefore, it has decided to liberalise the gas market. The regulator has allowed two companies to establish their LNG terminals while two more companies have been allowed to import LNG and transport it across the country through tankers. The companies establishing terminals will use the idle capacity of existing terminals unless their project is completed which will help the government save billions as it has to pay to terminal operators under the contract. – APP

AIU announces fee depositing schedule

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has announced admission fee depositing schedule for the programs offered in the 1st phase of spring 2021 semester. The Directorate of Admission and Mailing issued a notification in this regard yesterday. According to the notification, fresh and continuing students of matriculation, FA, I Com and FA (Dars e Nizami) can deposit admission fee and submit admission forms till March 5, 2021. Moreover, candidates applying for admission in certificate, PGD, BS (face to face) as well as MS/M Phil and PhD can submit their admission forms till February 15, however continuing students of these programs can deposit admission fee till February 26, 2021.

PUCAR arranges Dastan Goi program

RAWALPINDI: A unique storytelling program was organized at Punjab Arts Council. The special guest of the program was Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Captain (Retd) Muhammad Mahmood. Leading folk singer Fazal Abbas Jutt performed in his own style in Rawal Jagni, Sohni Mahiwal, Heer Ranjha, Sami Lori and get much appreciation from the audience. While Addressing the Ceremony Captain (Retd) Muhammad Mahmood said that the land of Punjab is rich in culture. Punjab is second to none in folklore. Punjab folklore gives a clear message to the world. Punjabis are a loving nation. Commissioner Rawalpindi congratulated Fazal Jutt for presenting the best program. – DNA

CDA plans low cost traffic management system

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) administration has formulated low cost traffic management plans to maintain traffic flow in the city and control accidents. Work on these projects will be started within a week with the help of MPO. According to details, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has planned to set up several low cost traffic management projects to maintain traffic flow

in the city during rush hours. In the first phase, work will be started on Nazimuddin Road, 7th Avenue and Serena Chowk to maintain the flow of traffic. The said project will be completed by using the missionary and equipment of its own MPO department. A few days ago, the management of CDA has issued instructions to work on the project using its capabilities. The design department has issued designs for 7th Avenue on Nazimuddin Road, two places with high flow of traffic. According to the newly de-

signed traffic plan, free lanes will be constructed at the said place, while the lanes will also be widened to maintain the flow of traffic. It is pertinent to mention here that, these places have the highest traffic congestion which often leads to accidents. Appropriate sign boards will also be set up at the said place. The second design has been prepared for Serena Chowk. The work on these projects will be started in a week. After completion of these projects, traffic system in the federal capital will improve.

DIG asks SDPOs to supervise important cases himself

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Operations Islamabad, Waqar ud-Din Syed on Saturday directed all the sub-divisional police officers (SDPOs) to supervise the investigation of all important cases by himself. In a meeting with Zonal SPs and SDPOs, held here to review the crime situation in the city, the DIG asked the SDPOs to make a patrolling plan to control crime and ensure the arrest of criminals in the city. The DIG further asked the officers to brief the duty policemen during special checking in the city to improve their performance. Those personnel performing duties in professional manner should be nominated for reward. The investigation officers should be briefed by the officers into the case and their performance would be reviewed. Similarly, he asked the senior police officials to ensure their presence if any incident occurs at any place and collect complete information. He said strict implementation should be ensured of the task given by Inspector General of Police Qazi Jamil ur Rehman. Later, SSP (Operations) Islamabad, Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer warned police officers that misbehavior with the public, corruption and discrimination between

rich and poor would not be tolerated at any cost. He said self-respect of visitors at police station must be maintained and they will be treated in best way. The greivenses of public should be resolved on merit basis without any discrimination. "We all have to work as a team to protect the public lives and properties," the SSP remarked. He asked the SHO to ensure timely registration of FIRs to provide justice to the victims at earliest. The SSP said under investigation cases should be completed as soon as possible. He said zero tolerance policy should be adopted against person involved in street crimes and intensify actions against habitual criminals. Tanvir said countermeasures should be adopted to prevent disputes in rural areas, besides implementing snap checking in slums. The concerned SP will regularly brief all the personnel on duty, all GOs will conduct self-monitoring of duty from time to time. The intelligence based search operations would be conducted while criminal investigations and effective crackdown would continue against anti social elements, he said. All out efforts would be ensured to provide justice to the common man and public complaints would be resolved at the level of police station.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson peace & culture organization and Kashmiri leader Mushaal Hussain Mulick talking to media persons during exhibition cricket match between Rawalpindi Islamabad Sports Journalists Association & Kashmir Premier League (KPL) teams at Bhutto Cricket Ground. – DNA

Govt, CSOs partnership important for country's development

DNA

ISLAMABAD: (January 16, 2020). It is time for the government to consider civil society organizations (CSOs) as partners for development of the country. The policy measures need to be based on facilitation for the sector rather than over-regulations. The speakers including the representatives from the government and leading voices of civil society in Pakistan said this while sharing their views with the participants of a webinar on 'The State of Civil Society in Pakistan' jointly organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP). Joint Secretary INGOs/NGOs, Economic Affairs Division (EAD), Government of Pakistan, Syeda Adeela Bokhari, informed the participants that the EAD regulates only those INGOs which receive financial

contribution from the foreign countries and donors. "To ensure the accountability and financial transparency of the INGOs/NGOs, the ministry has devised a new draft policy which will be implemented after the formal approval from the Federal Cabinet," Ms Bokhari said that the new policy is expected to respond to various issues and concerns of the sector. Besides, a web-portal is being created to facilitate online applications for registration of INGOs/NGOs with the EAD. She said the new policy suggests curtailing time to 60 days for completion of the registration process. She said a record number of MoUs have been finalized during the last quarter. She said the EAD is open to civil society organizations and plans to facilitate those organizations that are doing good job. She called for a greater accountability and transparency in the sector. Dr Attiya Inayatullah, former parliamentarian and Chairperson of the PCP's research committee, on the occasion highlighted the role of civil soci-

ety organizations and said that these organizations work for the development of the country and democracy. She said that CSOs in Pakistan are facing challenges at multiple fronts. Hence, we need for unity of purpose among government, private sector and civil society as the third sector. She said "to bring a social change and to achieve the goal of sustainable development, the vibrant role of CSOs is the need of the hour," Dr Attiya said while emphasizing that the government must engage civil society as an important equal partner in development. President ZABIST, Ms Shahnaz Wazir Ali, was of view that the government should not be just a regulator, but it should be a facilitator to the CSOs to make them an equal partner in the development and social uplifting. The challenges such as over-regulation and over-documentation for working of CSOs should be addressed to create an enabling environment for them to serve the society.

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Legal troubles

THE government's attempt to steady PIA and prevent it from capsizing is a difficult task, one made almost impossible with the consistent issues that continue to damage the national flag carrier. This time, legal troubles have led to one of the leased planes in PIA's roster to be grounded and seized in Malaysia. It is currently unclear exactly why the leasing company—which has taken over from a firm that previously held the contracts—has chosen to restrict PIA from moving the aircraft. This looks to be another protracted legal battle, one that Pakistan must not lose. This lease dispute is reportedly valued at \$14 million, not to mention that the airline cannot risk losing another craft from its fleet without any contingency plans. After the government has gathered all the facts pertaining to the case, it must get its best diplomatic and legal minds to resolve this crisis before we have another hefty payout to make from the national exchequer. Government funds must be conserved; international companies are perhaps looking at previous agreements to pay as a sign that they can come and collect. Fighting this case effectively will help stave off any others that might be considering legal action. At a time when the government has taken serious steps towards reforming the airline, this case is a blow, one of several others in recent times. The most prominent of these was the pilot licensing scandal, and just like that instance, it will take some doing to ensure that legal proceedings do not become another major thorn in PIA's side. The process to restructure the airline is ongoing, but it will not progress forward with issues such as this continuously being raised. An updated audit of the airline, existing assets (and their lease agreements in detail) needs to be taken immediately. The objective now, should be to defend against this case and make sure that lease contracts and other third-party agreements do not make PIA more vulnerable.

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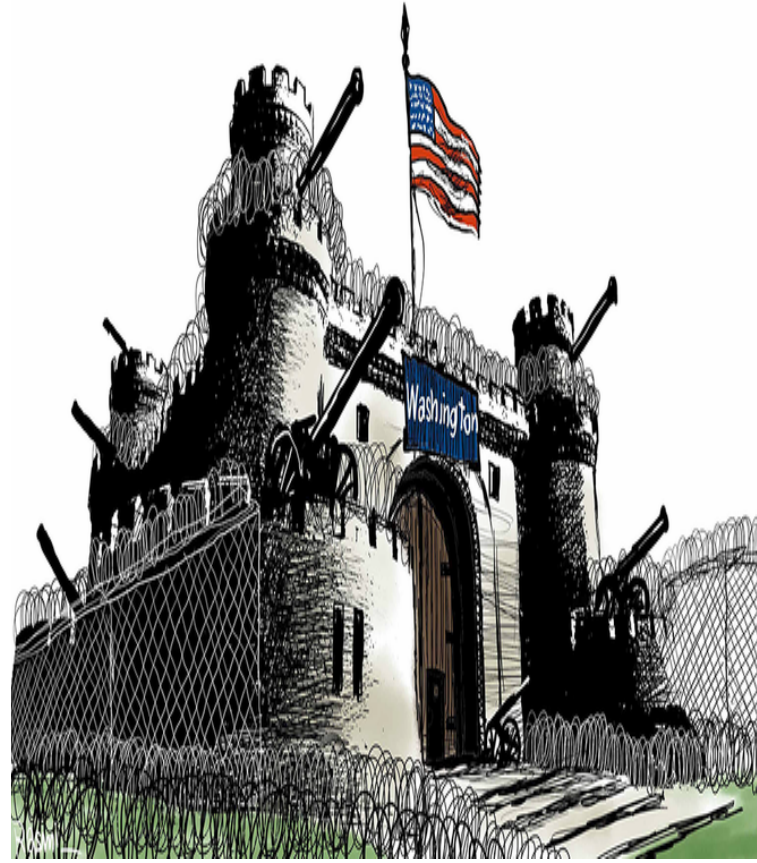
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What to expect from Biden?

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

JANUARY 20, 2021, will mark the last day of President Trump's reign. His autocratic, oppressive, and dictatorial rule kept his Secret Service, officials of the White House, and the US national media at its toes. They had to counter-act when he would make an illogical statement during a press conference, create a diplomatic tussle, or share something inappropriate or confidential on Twitter. Such was the era of President Trump that is considered to be the wildest in US history when it comes to politics and diplomacy. The US, which rules the world as an influential power, became a laughing stock under his rule. However, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris may change the status quo. It is yet to be seen if this may eventually change how the US views the Eastern hemisphere including the Middle East, South Asia, Russia, and China. Biden is expected to realign Washington's diplomatic endeavors with regional allies and the rest of the world. However, many expectations should not be hinged by Pakistan on Biden's regime. After all, hailing from the Democratic camp were former US Presidents Harry Truman, John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama. In 1949, Truman invited the then Indian PM to Washington but Pakistan's Liaquat Ali Khan was ignored. While US aid to Pakistan in 1962 (under John Kennedy's Presidency) reached over \$2.3 billion, one of the succeeding US (Democrat) President, Jimmy Carter, suspended all aid to Pakistan (except food). This was in response to Pakistan's decision to construct a Uranium enrichment facility. Carter even wanted to ban all of Pakistan's nuclear efforts. During Obama's tenure (2009-2017), the US conducted over 350 drone attacks on Pakistan to eliminate extremist threats. Pakistan's government must take calculated decisions at such times when the US Democratic camp has not brought positive outcomes for Pakistan's political and socio-economic sectors.

Significance of Pak-Turk-Azerbaijan trilateral meeting

Muntaha Talat



Pakistan's foreign policy has been profoundly successful under the leadership of FM Qureshi. Pakistan is taking initiatives at the foreign front to improve its international relations and efforts for better trade and economic activities. It's the result of these whole-hearted endeavors that the world is now accepting Pakistan as a progressive state. However, this trilateral meeting will leave a noticeable impact on the dynamics of the region

IN today's dynamic world, where political, economic, and social scenarios change every minute, countries have to signify their relations with the other countries. Therefore, a nation's foreign policy is inevitably the prime aspect to look at. On January 13th, the globe witnessed an emerging partnership among the three countries; Pakistan, Turkey, and Azerbaijan. This 2nd trilateral meeting was a continuation of efforts to strengthen the three-tier relations at the trade and economic, technological, cultural, peace and security, and political fronts. Hosted by Islamabad, this was the second meeting preceding the first one held in Baku back in November 2017. This trilateral meeting resulted in the foreign ministers of the respective states signing an agreement titled "Islamabad Declaration". Afterward, the Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, and Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov addressed a joint press conference and expressed their remarks. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi thanked his counterparts for their visit to Pakistan and said that we had reaffirmed our determination and support for each other's issues that envelop our core national interests. In the current international relations' scenario, this meeting had a significant impact as the world has its eyes on this emerging partnership in the Middle East. Since Turkey was the first state

to recognize Azerbaijan, followed by Pakistan when it became independent after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1992, these three countries have established strong relations at diplomatic, defense, and military scale. With Azerbaijan having its conflict with Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, Turkey and Pakistan have always supported Azerbaijan. At the same time, Pakistan is the only state that hasn't recognized Armenia yet. And for Pakistan, Azerbaijan has always second the stance of Pakistan over the Kashmir issue. Pakistan and Azerbaijan share a similar history, and they also have similar cultural, geopolitical, and religious outlooks. The countries invest in each other's interests as the Baku state university teaches its students the Urdu language, and Pakistan has launched an online Azerbaijani News agency. This bilateral relation brings an advantage for Azerbaijan so that Pakistan can pave the way for her to be a part of several regional bodies. Azerbaijan has raised the Kashmir issue that is particularly important for the current government. Islamabad's growing support through this relation concerns both India and Armenia, as Armenia defends Indian's stance on the Kashmir issue. Moreover, India and Armenia are working to strengthen their relationship and signed a \$40 million deal back in March 2020. To counter the

Pak-Turk-Azerbaijan axis, India and Armenia are working to enhance their strategic and military relations. As far as Pak-Turk relations are concerned, we all have been seeing Turkey's undeterred support for Islamabad at FATF as she was the sole voter for Pakistan to exit the Grey List and enter the white list. Adding to that, both the countries enjoy friendly relations as PM Imran Khan visited Turkey, and then Tayib Erdogan came to Pakistan. Both countries have agreed to collaborate on enhancing trade, economic, and military relations and other issues. Moreover, the Turkish ambassador stayed in Muzaffarabad, Kashmir, to show that Turkey stands with Pakistan on the Kashmir cause. Pakistan's foreign policy has been profoundly successful under the leadership of Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi. Pakistan is taking initiatives at the foreign front to improve its international relations and efforts for better trade and economic activities. It's the result of these whole-hearted endeavors that the world is now accepting Pakistan as a progressive state. However, this trilateral meeting will leave a noticeable impact on the dynamics of the region. The signed agreement is proof that three states' relation will explore new horizons on the road to success and prosperity. — *The writer is a Research Associate, Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution, IICR*

A hug with Modi now endangers peace

Prof Badar Shahzad

Adityanath is Modi's right hand; he has been in jail for serious crimes including murder. He was released due to political backing. NHRC and UN experts based in India reported 59 cases of extrajudicial killings of minorities in fake encounters. Instigating Hindu mobs by hate speech, Yogi endorsed raping Muslims in public. "Hindu audiences should dig graves of Muslim women and rape their corpses". Yogi's threats were not confined to ordinary Muslims, but he also threatened Bollywood's Muslim actors

INDIA has become the largest modern day Roman amphitheater where the minorities, mostly Muslims and Dalits, are mocked and eviscerated, both mentally and physically. Amidst loud chants of Bharat Mata ki Jai and Jai Sri Ram, the victims are put to death with brutal torture; even nuns and pregnant women are not spared in this gruesome BJP political arena. The Indian amphitheater smells of human flesh and victims crying for help. Every street in the kingdom of Sri Ram from Kashmir to Delhi smells of human flesh and blood. The images of Muslim property looted and burnt in Delhi have faded away in the media – thanks to the new front the BJP has opened with the Sikh farmers. A fake surgical strike across the border or instigation of Shia-Sunni massacre in Pakistan is a known strategy in Modi's political book aimed at diverting attention from his failures. Pakistan-bashing and killing of minorities is Modi's shortcut to success. The Hindu goons groomed under RSS ideology show no mercy; men, women and children are thrown off running trains, burnt alive and raped on the pretext of violating BJP-introduced law of respecting cows or loving jihad. No wonder the educated Hindus claim that cows and monkeys enjoy more rights than the Muslims and Dalit minorities do. Caste inequalities and injustice ingrained in the Hindu scriptures added with illiteracy has shaped the Hindu 'Taliban' minds goading them to worshipping the street monkeys, snakes, rats and killing minorities to gain credit for heavens. The Hindus confused by the anomalies in their political scriptures is enough for them to justify their crimes in everyday life. Raping, killing and burning Dalits and Muslims is sanctified by the BJP high priests. The UP government run by BJP's priest, Yogi Adyanath, is a perfect example of the Hindu 'Taliban' who is following the footsteps of Adolf Hitler. Yogi's gangs are following the laws of 'purification' and converting Christians or Muslims to Hinduism. Villagers and Dalits have their women raped if they do not convert to lower caste Hindus. Adityanath is Modi's right hand; he has been in jail for serious crimes including murder. He was released due to political backing. NHRC and UN experts based in India reported 59 cases of extrajudicial killings of minorities in fake encounters. Instigating Hindu mobs by hate speech, Yogi endorsed raping Muslims in public. "Hindu audiences should dig graves of Mus-

lim women and rape their corpses". Yogi's threats were not confined to ordinary Muslims, but he also threatened Bollywood's Muslim actors. Cheap labour industry is run by the sweat of Muslim and Dalit labour. 250 million Dalits provide a ready base for Indian industry and brothels. India avoids discussion on world forums claiming it as India's internal affairs or family affairs, and ensures a ready supply of cheap labour by never implementing laws to protect minorities. Devadasi and Jogini systems are a form of religiously sanctioned sexual abuse. Originally a sacred, religious practice, the Devadasi dedication of girls to temples has turned into a systematic abuse of Dalit girls serving as prostitutes for dominant caste community members. Most girls and women urban brothels come from Dalit or minority communities", reports a prestigious India based human rights NGO. A survey by Thomas Reuters Foundation in 2018 ranked India as the most dangerous country for women in the world with 88 rapes per day and a conviction rate of 30% only. Most of the rapes of Dalits are reported in Hindu temples, while upper class Hindu women rape cases occur in the most unthinkable public places like moving buses, taxis, parks and picnic resorts. Teenagers lose their virginity while they are in schools. Sexual orgies and worship of sexual organs in scriptures have moved from religious text to temple stones in form of nude sculptures and into the Hindu mindset. Nudity is major component of Hindu temple facade that has become part of their cultural DNA and psyche. India's National Crime Record Bureau in its 2019 report claimed that a rape case occurs every 16 minutes. BJP's rape mentality has created fear among the minorities with Muslim parents refusing to send their daughters to schools mostly located in dense Hindu populations. Is India shining or it is stinking with shame? Modi earned condemnation for involvement in the killing and burning of Muslim properties in Delhi and closing down of operations by Amnesty International. The European Parliament's subcommittee on human rights warned India against targeting religious minorities. It urged Modi to meet his pledge to promote and protect human rights. Maria Arena, the chief of EU human rights panel, said the protests over Citizenship Act led to "arbitrary detentions and unnecessary loss of life". She said that journalists and peaceful critics were being arrest-

ed under the "draconian counterterrorism and sedition laws". AI reported that police were part of the gang that rampaged Muslim properties and killed 53. More were killed when Doval visited the area. A statement by Noam Chomsky, a US philosopher, and gender theorist Judith Butler, scholar Homi K Bhabha, writers Arundhati Roy, Meena Kandasamy, Rajmohan Gandhi, Amitav Ghosh and Salman Rushdie, filmmaker Mira Nair, historian Irfan Habib, journalist P Sainath, and actor Ratna Pathak Shah, among many others expressed concern at the arrest of democratic voices in India. Well if the butcher of Beirut, Iraq and Afghanistan can be honoured with a Nobel peace prize to wash the blood stains on his hands, the days are not far when Modi will want one too, and he might succeed in getting one. He is the butcher of Gujarat. Once condemned and refused visa by the international community for the state massacre of 2,500 Muslims and later hugged and praised as a champion of democracy, he is asking for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. This will be a harder task to achieve than awarding Modi Peace prize for legislating law and creating an environment conducive for killing Muslims. Launching expensive space missions to Mars, while 50% of the population defecates in open air and lacks clean drinking water, and the megalomania of usurping neighboring territories, will bend India to a breaking point. The largest number of farmers committing suicide is not based in China or US, but India. Modi is at war with the people who feed India. India under him is on a dangerous move, all the symptoms point to a lurking danger of a serious crisis. Economic failures combined with the aftereffects of corona pandemic are bound to compel Hindus to flog and kill its minorities. The Muslims being the weakest will be the easiest target of Hindu fanatics. Modi and RSS need to win a third term, too. A surgical strike across LoC would be very expensive and painful, so Modi might do it the cheap way by killing the Muslims in Delhi and Kashmir. His Hindutva philosophy, anti-Muslim and anti-Pakistan propaganda is a dangerous fire that could flare into a damaging nuclear war – a war that could freeze and end our world as we see it today. — *The writer is visiting lecturer at Bahria University, Islamabad*

Briefs

Joe Biden to end Trump's 'Muslim ban'

From Page 01
Muslim countries and two non-majority Muslim countries. The following year, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the third ban, which remains in place today. "We face four overlapping and compounding crises: the COVID-19 crisis, the resulting economic crisis, the climate crisis, and a racial equity crisis," Klain, Biden's chief of staff, wrote. "All of these crises demand urgent action. In his first 10 days in office, President-elect Biden will take decisive action to address these four crises, prevent other urgent and irreversible harms, and restore America's place in the world." The other orders will include the launch of a "100 masking challenge" that will mandate masks on federal property and interstate travel, extend the pause on repayment of and interest on student loans, continue restrictions on evictions and foreclosures; all related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Biden will be inaugurated on January 20 amid unprecedented security with more than 25,000 National Guard troops deployed in Washington DC in the wake of the storming of the US Capitol on January 6. FBI has warned of "armed protests" in days leading up to the inauguration. Biden to end Trump's 'Muslim ban' on his first day

The fall of Donald Trump..!

From Page 01
In fact, the right-wing extremists in the society were patronised and adopted a strategy of sowing their thoughts and doctrine in the minds of the people through effective pressure and fast way, powerful elements urged their followers to use the dangerous methods for the imposition of their ideology on the basis of mere force instead of dialogue. Unfortunately, President Trump, who has always been accustomed to escaping the narrow alley by making mistakes during his career as Businessman, has stated in 2019 that he has tough people who can behave tough but he is not kindling them yet but if they will move out, it will be very bad, really bad. He finally fulfilled his promise on January 6th, interestingly this time he stands alone except his diehard supporters but political pundits believe that the attack on parliament is grievous violation of presidential oath and it seems impossible for a person who never believes in democracy, never respect political system but as Businessman he remained on escape with the power of money and his cunningness for his mistakes.

Meaningful twist accrued during current internal political and security crises, the powerful American establishment has made the extraordinary decision to stand behind the newly elected president instead of the one in power, in the name of the supremacy of democracy and the peaceful transition of power. In result military has taken over the capital for the peaceful oath taking ceremony of the president elect on January 20. Military is making sure to save the country from right wing extremist and armed racist groups. According to some media reports, many thousands (approximately 20,000 to 30,000) armed security and intelligence personnel troops have been deployed around capitol building (US Parliament) this strength of troops is far more than sent to fight Iraq and Afghan wars. Analysts say the American people have high expectations of President-elect Joe Biden, a key figure in American politics for four decades, and are determined to do more, the seeds of hatred sown during the Trump era. At the same time, it may not be possible to uproot them anytime soon. Restoring America's lost credibility as a powerful global leader is a daunting task, they predict. In their opinion, as a strong believer of democracy The American nation should have to stand up on their own to heal the deep scars of the bright face of America, they must show up resilience especially for the revival of prosperous democratic, political spectrum along with stability and tolerance in the society. Otherwise, Escalation of Trump's ideology can engulf the whole society and turn America into the worst extremist country along with the economic challenges.



KARACHI: Players of South Africa cricket team busy in training and practice at Karachi Gymkhana. – DNA

Proteas squad test negative for coronavirus upon arrival

Mr Biden wants to pump \$20bn into vaccinating Americans, including setting up mass vaccination hubs and dispatching mobile units to remote areas. Two effective vaccines were delivered under the Trump administration, but health officials say the rollout needs to speed up

DNA

KARACHI: Members of South Africa's cricket team have tested negative for the novel coronavirus in the first round of testing conducted upon their arrival in the sea port city on Saturday, the Cricket South Africa said on Sunday. "The Proteas Test squad has arrived safely in Karachi to begin preparation for their historical, two-match series against the hosts beginning on 26 January," said the board in a statement. It said said the touring side

underwent COVID-19 testing upon arrival at the team hotel and has been quarantining in their rooms since then. "The team will commence with training as a full squad today." Proteas squad has been allowed to practice and train at the Karachi Gymkhana from today. The CSA said media personnel will not be allowed to interact with the team in person during the training session but the team captain, Quinton de Kock, will address a virtual press conference tomorrow. South Africa last toured Pakistan in 2007 when they won

Pakistan dangerous side at home: Boucher

KARACHI: South Africa's head coach Mark Boucher thinks that Proteas have a huge task ahead against home team Pakistan as they are 'dangerous' in their own conditions. Former wicketkeeper opined that the pitches are suited for batters in Pakistan and their confidence is high after a great series against Sri Lanka back home. "Pakistan is a dangerous side at home; we will have to come up with a proper strategy to beat them at their own backyard," Boucher told pcb.com.pk "The wickets here in Pakistan are batting friendly, and we are relying on our batsmen to score runs. Their confidence will be high after scoring runs against Sri Lanka," he added. Boucher thinks that South Africa's pacer will have to express hard to get wickets compared to Pakistan's pacers. – DNA

the two-match series 1-0 and return for two Tests in Karachi and Rawalpindi and three Twenty20 internationals later this month.

The squad is as follows: Quinton de Kock (C), Aiden Markram, Faf du Plessis, Dean Elgar, Kagiso Rabada, Dwaine Pretorius, Keshav Maharaj, Lungi Ngidi, Rassie van der Dussen, Anrich Nortje, Wiaan Mulder, Lutho Sipamla, Beuran Hendricks, Kyle Verreynne, Sarel Erwee, Keegan Petersen, Tabraiz Shamsi, George Linde, Daryn Dupavillon, Ottiel Baartman

Indonesia hunts for survivors as quake death toll hits 60

DNA

MAMUJU: The death toll from a powerful earthquake on Indonesia's Sulawesi island has jumped to 60, authorities said Sunday, with thousands left homeless as rescuers raced to find anyone still alive under mountains of rubble. Hospitals were overrun with hundreds of injured after the 6.2-magnitude quake struck in the early hours of Friday, triggering panic among residents of the island, which was hit by a 2018 quake-tsunami disaster that killed thousands.

Rescuers have spent days hauling corpses from beneath crumpled buildings in Mamuju, a city of 110,000 people in West Sulawesi province, where a hospital was flattened and a shopping mall lay in ruins. Others were killed south of the city. The official death toll stood at 60 – up from 46 on Saturday – but the count could still climb. Aerial images from the devastated seaside city showed buildings reduced to a tangled mass of twisted metal and chunks of concrete, including the regional governor's office. It was unclear how many more bodies could be under the debris, or if there was anyone still trapped but alive more than two days after the

disaster. Authorities have not given a figure for how many survivors have been rescued. A pair of young sisters plucked from under the mass of concrete and other debris were treated in hospital. Meanwhile, corpses were recovered from under a collapsed hospital, while five members of a family of eight were found dead in the crumpled remains of their home.

- Running low on food, supplies -

The thousands left homeless by the quake took to makeshift shelters – many little more than tarpaulin-covered tents filled with whole families – that were lashed by heavy monsoon downpours. They said they were running low on food, blankets and other aid, as emergency supplies were rushed to the hard-hit region. Many survivors are unable to return to their destroyed homes, or were too scared to go back fearing a tsunami sparked by aftershocks, which are common after strong earthquakes. "It's better to take shelter before something worse happens," said Mamuju resident Abdul Wahab, from a makeshift tent with his wife and four kids, including a baby. "We hope the government can deliver aid soon like food, medicine and milk for the children," he added.

Iran responds to European alarm over uranium metal

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation has called on a global nuclear watchdog to prevent "misunderstandings" after three European powers issued a warning over the country's advancing nuclear programme. As required by a law passed by Iran's parliament in early December, the country's nuclear organisation has five

months to prepare for producing uranium metal – an element that provides the nuclear fuel used to generate electricity in nuclear power stations. In a statement on Saturday, France, Germany and Britain – the three European signatories of Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers – said Tehran's plans to produce uranium metal has "potentially grave military implications" and the country has "no credible civilian use" for the product. "We strongly

urge Iran to halt its activity and return to compliance with its JCPOA commitments without further delay if it is serious about preserving the deal," they said in reference to the formal name of the accord, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Their statement came after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported Iran had said it is advancing research on uranium metal production with the aim of feeding a research reactor in Tehran.



HYDERABAD: Squash Players are playing during the All Pakistan Women Squash Championship 2021 organized by the Hyderabad Gymkhana. 16 players from all over the Pakistan take part in this championship. – DNA / Photo by Jan Ali Laghari

Nations failing to fund climate adaptation: UN

The UN Environment Programme Adaptation Gap report found that the current finance levels of around \$30 billion annually for adaptation fell far short of the annual cost in developing nations of \$70 billion

DNA

PARIS: The world is falling short of promises made under the Paris climate deal to help the most vulnerable nations deal with the increasingly devastating impacts of climate change, according to the United Nations. Adaptation – reducing the fallout among communities and increasing their capacity to deal with climate-related disasters such as floods and drought – is a pillar of the landmark 2015 accord, which aims to chart a path away from catastrophic warming. The deal requires signatories to implement adaptation measures through national planning, but also through

funding to at-risk countries. The UN Environment Programme Adaptation Gap report found that the current finance levels of around \$30 billion annually for adaptation fell far short of the annual cost in developing nations of \$70 billion. It said the true cost of adapting to climate impacts in these nations could be as high as \$300 billion every year by the end of the decade and \$500 billion by mid-century. "The hard truth is that climate change is upon us," said Inger Andersen, UNEP executive director. "Its impacts will intensify and hit vulnerable countries and communities the hardest – even if we meet the Paris Agreement goals of holding global warming this century to

well below 2C." UNEP called for a drastic scale-up of public and private finance for adaptation, as well as increased investment in nature-based solutions such as protecting and sustainably restoring ecosystems. With just over 1C of warming since the start of the industrial era, Earth is already experiencing more intense and frequent extreme weather such as droughts and flooding, as well as storms supercharged by rising seas. Much of the devastation wrought by climate-linked disasters falls on developing nations, and despite promises to help out financially, richer countries still aren't hitting their adaptation funding targets.

UNEP said funding for adaptation currently represented just five percent of all climate finance. With the cost of natural disasters set to skyrocket this century, hard-hit nations are finding it difficult to secure the finance to rebuild after extreme events. Mozambique, which was battered by twin cyclones in early 2019, said that one year since the disasters it had received less than a quarter of the estimated \$3 billion it needed to recover. The UN report found that cutting greenhouse gas emissions will provide a long-term economic benefit by reducing the costs associated with climate change. Achieving the 2C Paris Agreement temperature rise

limit could curb losses in annual growth to 1.6 percent, compared with 2.2 percent for 3C of warming – the current trajectory if nations' current Paris pledges are upheld. Under the deal's "ratchet" mechanism, countries are supposed to file new emissions reduction plans – known as nationally determined contributions, or NDCs – every five years. The deadline for the first round of new NDC submissions was December 31, 2020. However just 71 countries representing under a third of global emissions have done so. UNEP says global emissions must fall 7.6 percent annually this decade to keep the more ambitious Paris temperature target of 1.5C in play.

Provinces free to import corona vaccine

From Page 01
The NCOC chief said the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine has already been okayed by DRAP and China's Sinopharm was also approved in principle by a technical committee. "We only need to decide under which name will Sinopharm vaccine be distributed. The verdict will be out by Tuesday." Umar said at the moment there are two anti-coronavirus vaccines authorised for emergency use while phase III clinical trials of the third vaccine by CanSino will be completed by the first week of February. "Once the results for the CanSino vaccine are out, and if they are positive, then that anti-dote too will be available in Pakistan." The federal minister said Pakistan had also signed up for the World Health Organization's COVAX Facility some eight months back and was expecting the first consignment in the first quarter of this year. "We have multiple sources for the anti-coronavirus vaccines slated for delivery in February-March. So the vaccines will be procured and rolled out in the first quarter of this year."

Revelations about Goswami

From Page 01
"The latest revelations further confirm what Pakistan has consistently pointed out: The BJP government stages "false flag" operations; maligns Pakistan with terrorism-related allegations; stokes hyper-nationalism in the country; claims to have launched so-called "surgical strike"; and then deviously manipulates national sentiment in its bid to win elections," he added. The spokesperson further said that the pattern was unmistakable, and had been repeated to suit the RSS-BJP regime's electoral calculations. The transcripts also illustrated the unholy nexus between the 'Hindutva' regime and its cronies in the Indian media.

On the one hand, they showed how far and deep the extremist agenda of the RSS-BJP combine has permeated India's institutions and pillars of the State. On the other hand, they showed how the rights and freedoms of Indian citizens and democratic values in Indian society were being seriously jeopardized through cynical manipulation, the spokesperson said. "Equally important, they show how actions of this reckless regime driven by considerations of domestic politics are gravely imperiling regional peace and security," it was added. Pakistan, the spokesperson said, for its part, would continue to counter Indian falsehoods with truth and act firmly and responsibly in the face of India's provocations. "We hope that the international community would take full cognizance of the situation and hold India accountable for its actions vitiating the regional environment and endangering peace and security in South Asia," he added.

People have rejected opposition's narrative'

From Page 01
authenticated transactions undertaken through proper banking channels has been submitted to the ECP. The Minister said that Pakistan People's Party, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl are reluctant to submit record of donations worth billions of rupees to ECP's scrutiny committee. He said opposition parties under the platform of Pakistan Democratic Movement have become united to cover up their corruption they done in the past. He said the people of Pakistan have rejected the opposition's narrative. He said now these parties are coming to stage a protest demonstration outside ECP just to intimidate and pressurize institutions. He urged PDM to submit record of their foreign funding instead of misleading the people through demonstrations.

Briefs

Terror blast kills 1 in NW Syria

FOREIGN DESK

AZAZ: A bomb-laden vehicle exploded in the north-western Azaz city of Syria on Sunday, killing at least one civilian and wounding six others. The explosion took place in a popular market hall in Sicco village near the Turkish borderline. Local authorities cordoned off the area, and the wounded were shifted to nearby health facilities. No group has yet taken responsibility for the blast, however, the YPG/PKK terror group is known to be active in the region. Sicco village is home to camps of civilians who fled from violence by the Bashar al-Assad regime, and terror groups. In its more than 30-year terror campaign against Turkey, the PKK – listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the US, and the EU – has been responsible for the deaths of 40,000 people, including women, children and infants. The YPG is the PKK's Syrian offshoot.

At least 48 people killed in Sudan

FOREIGN DESK

KHARTOUM: Tribal clashes in Sudan's Darfur region have killed at least 48 people in the latest bout of violence, according to state media. "The death toll from militia attacks in al-Geneina yesterday reached 48," the SUNA news agency said on Sunday, referring to the capital of West Darfur state and quoting the local branch of the country's doctors' union. "The bloody events which are still ongoing since Saturday morning [have] also left ... 97 wounded." Saturday's clashes initially pitted the Massalit tribe against Arab nomads in al-Geneina, about two weeks after the United Nations and African Union ended a 13-year peace-keeping mission in Darfur. The violence morphed into broader fighting involving armed militias in the area, which left several buildings, including houses, scorched. Sudan's Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok said on Twitter on Saturday he had ordered a "high-profile" delegation, including security services, be sent to West Darfur to follow up on the situation. The vast Darfur region was the scene of a bitter conflict that erupted in 2003, leaving about 300,000 people dead and 2.5 million displaced, according to the UN.

At the time, fighting erupted when ethnic minority rebels rose up against the Arab-dominated government in Khartoum, which responded by recruiting and arming a notorious Arab-dominated militia known as the Janjaweed.

Protests erupt in Tunisian cities

FOREIGN DESK

TUNIS: Violent protests broke out in several Tunisian cities, including the capital Tunis and the coastal city of Sousse, as anger mounts over economic hardship. The demonstrations on Saturday night come as Tunisia marks the tenth anniversary of the revolution that toppled late president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and sparked the Arab Spring uprisings. Demonstrations in Siliana and other cities began on Friday after a video posted on social media showed a police officer shouting and pushing a shepherd whose sheep entered the local government headquarters. Dozens of protesters built barricades and set fire to objects to block the streets of the city, 130km (80 miles) from Tunis. The protests pose a challenge for the government of Hicham Mechichi, who earlier reshuffled the cabinet with new ministers including the ministries of interior, justice and energy. Witnesses in Sousse said security forces fired tear gas to disperse hundreds of angry protesters who were blocking roads and burning tyres. – APP



BAKU: Bilal Hayee Pakistan ambassador to Azerbaijan called on Col General Zakir Hasanov, the Defence Minister of Azerbaijan. He conveyed the good wishes from the Pakistani leadership and congratulated on the glorious victory in the war. Both sides are keen to further deepen the bilateral defence cooperation. – DNA

Uzbekistan, KSA expanding trade, economic partnership

The Minister of Investment of Saudi Arabia highly appreciated the socio-economic reforms and structural reforms carried out in Uzbekistan under the leadership of the head of state. "We are inspired by the bright results of deep structural transformations in Uzbekistan under the leadership of the pragmatic President Shavkat Mirziyoyev

DNA

TASHKENT: In the format of a video conference, negotiations were held between the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan - Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade Sardor Umurzakov with the Minister of Investment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Khalid Al-Falih. During the talks, the sides discussed the current state and prospects of bilateral cooperation in trade, economic, investment, energy, cultural and humanitarian spheres. The Minister of Investment of Saudi Arabia highly appreciated the socio-economic reforms and structural reforms carried out in Uzbekistan under the leadership

of the head of state. "We are inspired by the bright results of deep structural transformations in Uzbekistan under the leadership of the pragmatic President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, which are unanimously recognized by the international community," Khalid Al-Falih noted during the conversation. The experience of work of Saudi companies in the energy sector of Uzbekistan was positively assessed - on 5 March, last year, an agreement was reached with the management of ACWA Power to build a thermal power plant in Syrdarya region of the Republic of Uzbekistan worth US\$1.2 billion. "The project of the Acwa Power company is a successful example of our cooperation. At the same time, we should not be limited only to

energy projects. We expect concrete results from the upcoming bilateral events, which could significantly raise the level of our partnership in various fields," said Khalid Al-Falih. The Saudi side expressed interest in expanding investment cooperation and establishing business partnerships between entrepreneurs of the two countries. In this regard, it was agreed to organize the visit of the Minister of Investment of Saudi Arabia to Uzbekistan at the head of the delegation of Saudi business circles by the end of this month. Within the framework of the visit, a number of bilateral events are scheduled, including the Uzbek-Saudi Business Forum with presentations of existing

opportunities for investment cooperation and specific projects for joint implementation, the first meeting of the Uzbek-Saudi Business Council with the involvement of the chambers of commerce and industry of the two countries, as well as meetings in the formats "G2G", "G2B" and "B2B" to reach specific agreements on the most promising and mutually beneficial investment projects. In addition, it is planned to hold a groundbreaking ceremony at the construction site of a thermal power plant in Syrdarya region, the signing of an investment agreement with ACWA Power for the construction of a wind farm in the Republic of Uzbekistan worth US\$1.4 billion, as well as the opening of an energy college

in Shirin. During the negotiations, the parties reached an agreement on close cooperation between the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Investment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, aimed at ensuring favorable conditions for cooperation between entrepreneurs of the two countries. Also, following the results of the video conference, the parties announced their readiness to study new promising areas of investment cooperation, such as agriculture, tourism, the transport sector and other industries, and came to an agreement on establishing systemic interaction to develop specific projects.

Ambassador Haque meets with China's vice minister

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque held a meeting with China's Vice-Minister of Culture and Tourism at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism Zhang Xu and discussed ways and means to expand bilateral tourism. During the meeting, both sides reviewed on-going cooperation in the fields of culture, tourism

and people-to-people exchanges and vowed to further deepen their bilateral engagements in future. Expressing satisfaction at the steady development of bilateral cultural ties, both sides noted that all-weather friendship between Pakistan and China provided a strong foundation for further enhancing bilateral engagements in the domains of culture, media cooperation and heritage protection.

UN chief welcomes decision to hold Palestinian polls

NEW YORK: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has welcomed Friday's announcement from Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of the first full parliamentary and presidential elections in 15 years, scheduled to begin in May. "The holding of elections in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza will be a crucial step towards Palestinian unity", his Spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in statement released on Saturday, adding that the move would give "renewed legitimacy to national institutions, including a democratically elected Parliament and Government in Palestine."



The last elections involving all the areas under control of the Palestinian Authority (PA) - which has limited self-rule over the Israeli-occupied West Bank, while the militant group Hamas controls the Israeli-blockaded Gaza

Strip, and Israel controls occupied East Jerusalem - was in 2006. A year later, Hamas won at the ballot box in legislative elections, and took military control of Gaza a year later, ousting rivals Fatah, which continued to have majority support across the West Bank, leading to a longstanding rift with Hamas. Pressure has grown on Palestinian leaders to reconcile across political and regional divides, according to news reports, following the stalemate with Israel over peace negotiations, and diplomatic agreements reached in recent months between Israel and four Arab nations. – APP

Russian-flagged ship sinks off Black Sea coast

WEB DESK

ANKARA: A Russian-flagged dry cargo ship sunk off Turkey's Black Sea on Sunday, according to a Turkish governor. The ship, named Arvin, sunk off the Inku Coast of the northern province Bartin, said Sinan Guner. Guner added that rescue efforts are underway for an estimated 15 crew members - all Russian nationals - stranded in three lifeboats. Efforts launched by Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) and Coast Guard have so far managed to rescue five crew members and recover the lifeless bodies of two others, Guner said. In a statement, the Turkish National Defense Ministry announced that the Navy had deployed a frigate to support the rescue effort.

Libya talks make progress: UN

FOREIGN DESK

GENEVA: A Libyan political dialogue arranged by the United Nations has made progress towards agreeing on a new transitional government to oversee the run-up to elections in December. Participants at UN-brokered talks in Geneva agreed on a mechanism for choosing the new government, whose formation has been the subject of wrangling among the main factions in the war-torn country. UN acting envoy for Libya Stephanie Williams told a news conference on Saturday the advisory committee's members "have met their responsibility with a constructive spirit, cooperative efforts, and a great deal of patriotism". The committee is part of a 75-member forum that represents all three main regions of Libya.

The 18-member committee has proposed that each region's electoral body name a representative to a three-member presidential council, Williams said. A prime minister would be chosen by the 75-member forum, with the successful nominee receiving 70 percent of the votes. Williams said, according to the mechanism, the forum would first receive candidate lists from Libya's three regions, each consisting of four names nominated for the presidential council and prime minister position. She said a list should obtain 17 endorsements: eight from the western region, six from the eastern region, and three from southern Libya. The lists would be narrowed down, the winning candidates being those who receive 60 percent of the votes of the 75-member forum in the first round. A second round of voting will be held if no clear winners emerge from the first round.

NASA test of mega Moon rocket engines cut short

WASHINGTON: NASA conducted a test firing of the engines for its giant Space Launch System (SLS) lunar rocket on Saturday but they shut down earlier than planned, the space agency said. The "hot-fire" test at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi was supposed to last a little over eight minutes - the time the engines would burn in flight - but they shut down just over a minute into the burn. "Teams are assessing the data to determine what caused the early shutdown, and will determine a path forward," NASA said in a statement. The SLS rocket is intended to launch the Artemis missions that will take US astronauts back to the Moon. Despite being cut short, NASA said the test of the RS-25 engines had provided valuable information for the planned missions. "Saturday's test was an important step forward to ensure that the core stage of the SLS rocket is ready for the Artemis I mission, and to carry crew on future missions," said NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine. "Although the engines did not fire for the full duration, the team successfully worked through the countdown, ignited the engines, and gained valuable data to inform our path forward." It is not yet known what caused the early shutdown but SLS program manager John Honeycutt told reporters they had seen a flash in a thermal protection blanket on one of the engines and were analyzing the data. – APP

Azerbaijan softens COVID restrictions

From 00:00 on January 25, 2021, the activities of barbershops, beauty salons and the provision of cosmetic services including at the client's home, will be allowed. Museums and exhibition halls, intercity and interdistrict traffic (including customer service at home and elsewhere) will resume their work

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan will soften the tightened special quarantine regime from 00:00 (GMT+4) on January 18, 2021, a source at the Operational Headquarters under the Azerbaijani Cabinet of Ministers has said. The special quarantine regime in Azerbaijan has been extended until 06:00 on April 1, 2021. The Operational Headquarters stated that under the softened regime, the country cancels the SMS permissions for citizens to leave their homes. The system of SMS permissions was previously active to curb the spread of the COVID-19 infections in the country. Meanwhile, wearing face masks in all indoor and outdoor areas re-

mains mandatory in Azerbaijan. Restrictions on passenger traffic in the metro and public transport will remain in force in Azerbaijan, the Operational Headquarters said. According to the headquarters, the restriction on the operation of public transport, introduced for weekends in Azerbaijan, will remain in force until the end of the special quarantine regime. Furthermore, persons with tickets for international and domestic flights will be allowed to enter and exit from five cities and 12 regions. From 00:00 (GMT+4) on January 18 to 00:00 on January 25, 2021, persons with tickets for international and domestic flights will be allowed to travel between the cities of Baku, Sumgayit, Ganja, Mingachevir, Shirvan and Absheron re-

gion, as well as regional centers of Lankaran, Masalli, Jalilabad, Sheki, Zagatala, Guba, Khachmaz, Yevlakh, Barda, Bilasuvar and Ismayilli (with the exception of villages and settlements) and outside them on the basis of tickets, and for persons entering the country through the state border in the appropriate manner - on the basis of the stamp in their passports. Moreover, the participation in a funeral of a close relative in Azerbaijan's five cities and 12 regions is allowed only on the basis of permission through the Interior Ministry's call centre. According to the headquarters, this applies to Baku, Sumgayit, Ganja, Mingachevir, Shirvan cities and Absheron district, as well as urban centers of Lankaran, Masalli, Jalilabad, Shaki, Zagatala,

Guba, Khachmaz, Yevlakh, Barda, Bilasuvar and Ismayilli districts (except for the villages) and beyond them. Under the new regime, entry-exit to the cities of Baku, Sumgayit, Ganja, Mingachevir, Shirvan and Absheron region, as well as to the regional centers of Lankaran, Masalli, Jalilabad, Shaki, Zagatala, Guba, Khachmaz, Yevlakh, Barda, Bilasuvar and Ismayilli districts (with the exception of villages and settlements) will be limited from 00:00 (GMT+4) on January 18, 2021 to 00:00 on January 25, 2021. The work of catering facilities, including restaurants, cafes, tea-houses and similar establishments. Employees of the spheres whose activities are permitted can move after the employer registers information about them in the "icaze.e-gov.az" portal through electronic signature.

25, 2021, the activities of barbershops, beauty salons and the provision of cosmetic services including at the client's home, will be allowed. Museums and exhibition halls, intercity and interdistrict traffic (including customer service at home and elsewhere) will resume their work. From 00:00 (GMT+4) on January 25, shopping facilities will be allowed to operate in Azerbaijan (excluding large shopping centers and malls, as well as on-site customer service in catering facilities, cafes, tea-houses and similar establishments). Employees of the spheres whose activities are permitted can move after the employer registers information about them in the "icaze.e-gov.az" portal through electronic signature.

Briefs

PNS NASR sails for African countries

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) NASR has sailed for visiting several African countries with a mission to help them on humanitarian grounds. According to the Pakistan Navy Spokesperson, the ship will provide essential commodities to the flood-hit and drought-affected African countries, including Djibouti, Sudan and Niger. The ship will also make a goodwill gesture visit to Kenya. The visit activity is aimed to promote bilateral relations and explore new dimensions of cooperation with African countries under the Government's "Engage Africa Policy". Earlier in the month of November, last year, Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) Zulfiqar visited Aqaba port of Jordan. According to the spokesman of the Pakistan Navy, PNS Zulfiqar was warmly welcomed by the hosts at the Aqaba port and the Commanding Officer met the host officials and had discussed issues of mutual interest. Commander Royal Force of Jordan had inspected PNS Zulfiqar. The Jordanian authorities were also apprised of the Indian atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the plight of Kashmiri people.

Summary ready for raising electricity tariff

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Energy and Power Division has prepared a summary for an increase in base electricity tariff by Rs2 per unit, a private television channel on Sunday, quoting sources in Power Division. With this summary, the government is all prepared to increase the price of electricity by Rs2 per unit. The summary will be forwarded to the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) for its consent. It is pertinent to note that NEPRA had already approved the increase in the electricity tariff by Rs3.34 per unit. After approval, the average price per unit of electricity will surge from Rs13.35 to Rs15.35 per unit. The summary will also be presented in the meeting of the Federal Cabinet for approval. Power outages in twin cities will be outages for the next two days. Meanwhile, power will remain suspended in most parts of the IESCO region, in the Potohar region including NTDC Rawalpindi on January 18 and 19 as Islamabad Capital Territory will be under annual maintenance. "Work will be done on 132-KV transmission lines of TDC Rawat 500KV grid station and there will be NTDC power shutdown for two days from 9 am to 5 pm at NTDC Chakwal, Chakri, Rawat, Adiala, Gujjar Khan."

Two Afghan female judges shot dead

KABUL: Two female judges have been killed by unknown gunmen in an ambush early on Sunday in Afghanistan's capital. The attack on the Supreme Court judges took place as they were driving to work, Ahmad Fahim Qa-weem, a court spokesman, said. Kabul police confirmed the attack. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack and spokesman for the Taliban armed group Zabihullah Mujahid said the group was not responsible. Violence has surged across Afghanistan in recent months despite ongoing peace talks between the Taliban and government - especially in Kabul where a new trend of targeted killings aimed at high-profile figures has sown fear in the city. The latest attack comes two days after the Pentagon announced it cut American troop levels in Afghanistan to 2,500, the lowest in nearly two decades. - Agencies

China's latest tariff cut win-win for China, Pak

This was stated by Liu Baocheng, Dean of Center for International Business Ethics (CIBE), University of International Business and Economics (UIBE), China, according to China Economic Net (CEN)

DNA

BEIJING: China has reduced, canceled import tariffs for 2021 and it would be win-win for China and related countries including its iron-clad brother Pakistan. This was stated by Liu Baocheng, Dean of Center for International Business Ethics (CIBE), University of International Business and Economics (UIBE), China, according to China Economic Net (CEN). China adjusted import tariffs on a range of products starting from January 1, 2021 to support fostering the new development paradigm and promoting high-quality development, and lowered parts of conventional tariff rates and most-favored-nation rates in 2021, as stated by the Customs Tariff

Commission of the State Council. As per Liu Baocheng, since its accession to World Trade Organization, China has comprehensively fulfilled its commitments to WTO, substantially reducing import tariffs. By reducing import costs to boost trade, China has delivered mutually beneficial and win-win outcomes on a wider scale and has shared its development dividend and growing markets with the rest of the world. Provisional import tariffs that are lower than the most-favored-nation (MFN) rates will be levied on 883 commodities, including some anti-cancer drugs and raw materials for infant formulas. As Liu put it, this shows that "Put the people first" is the bedrock of all policies and governmental undertakings in China. On top of that, "China is



to focus on quality growth in the new development pattern for the 14th Five-Year-Plan (FYP) period," hence, it needs to import aviation equipment such as fuel pumps for

aircraft engines and parts of integrated circuits equipment, parts and raw materials needed for production and so on, which represents a lucrative opportunity for countries rich in quality raw materials. Also, as China plays a significant role in global trade, an increased import of raw materials would definitely benefit distributors and importers all over the world. "A lower cost makes room for the efficiency in R&D, and that eventually will benefit global end-customers," Liu noted. According to the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council, further tariff reduction will be made under the free trade agreements China has separately signed with countries including New Zealand, Peru, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Iceland, Pakistan, Chile, Australia, the Repub-

lic of Korea, Georgia, as well as the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement. "The latest tariff cut means that China's imports from Pakistan would show a reasonable increase and reduce the cost of exports for Pakistani companies in the coming year. Also, China will reciprocates Pakistan with technology and goods it needs. Therefore, the tariff reduction helps both countries reach common development," he explained. Last but not the least, he further mentioned, the tariff cut on medical equipment, medical raw materials reflects that China has taken on the responsibility to share the COVID-19 vaccine with the rest of the world - especially developing countries that are struggling to combat the virus - rather than using any vaccine as a private asset.

Ex MNA Shireen Arshad passes away



LAHORE: Former PNL-N Member National Assembly and chairperson United Business Group, Shireen Arshad Khan passed away on Sunday. She was also founding president of Women chamber Bahawalpur and former chairperson of Handicraft association. Shireen was a well reputed and respected personality among business and political communities. She was elected to the National Assembly of Pakistan as a candidate of Pakistan Muslim League (N) on a seat reserved for women from Punjab in the 2008 Pakistani general election. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal minister for Narcotics Control, Brig Ijaz Ahmad Shah in a meeting with Muhammad Ali Saeed A. Boassaibah, First secretary, DLO, UAE. - DNA

Pak exports to UAE, Saudia decrease in July-Dec 2020

Pakistan's exports to China, however, increased by 18.4% to \$1,047m in July-Dec 2020 from \$974.5m in 2019, showing the trade under FTA-II has started yielding results despite Covid-19

ISLAMABAD: Although Pakistan's exports saw a growth of 4.9% in the first half of the current fiscal year the country's exports to 10 markets declined particularly to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) falls by 22% from \$607 million last fiscal year to this year's \$474 million, The News reported on Sunday. The country's exports to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia fell by 8.2% from \$217.46 in 2019 to \$199.73 in the same period. Advisor to Prime Minister Imran Khan on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razzak Dawood said the top officials of the commerce ministry are deliberating the decline of exports to 10 countries and chalking out strategies with trade and commercial attaché. Data available with The News showed that Pakistan's exports to Sri Lanka also decreased by 18.2% to 310.64 million during July-December 2020 from \$379.65 million in the corresponding period in 2019. Exports to Thailand climbed down by 47% to \$115.69 million to just \$61.14 million. The data showed that exports to Malaysia remained in the negative by 29%, reducing from \$124.97 million to \$89.28 million while Spain's fell to \$444.71 million from 480.32 million (7.4%) and exports to Yemen declined by 46%, Madagascar by 47% and Djibouti by 53.3%. Pakistan's exports to China, however, increased by 18.4% to \$1,047 million in July-December 2020 from \$974.5 million in 2019, showing the trade under FTA-II has started yielding results despite Covid-19. Similarly, exports to the United States also surged by 18.4%, the UK by 20.8%, Germany at 15.1%, the Netherlands at 12.19%, and Indonesia at 39.2%. - DNA

Pakistan felicitates Nepalese climbers on K2 ascent

"The impossible is made possible! K2 winter - history made for mankind, history made for Nepal," Nirmal Purja revealed on Twitter

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday felicitated the team of Nepalese mountaineers for making a history by reaching the summit of Pakistan's K2, the world's second highest mountain, in winter. Calling the expedition as

"one of the most coveted achievements in mountaineering," the Foreign Office spokesperson wished the climbers a safe return from the peak. "Pakistan: The ultimate destination of mountaineering," the spokesperson remarked on Twitter. The history makers included Nirmal Purja, Mingma

David Sherpa, Mingma Tenzi Sherpa, Geljen Sherpa, Pem Chiri Sherpa, Dawa Temba Sherpa, Mingma G, Dawa Tenjin Sherpa, Kilu Pemba Sherpa and Sona Sherpa. "The impossible is made possible! K2winter - history made for mankind, history made for Nepal," Nirmal Purja revealed on

Twitter Saturday. Located on Pakistan's side of Karakoram range, K2 is one of the world's 14 tallest mountains - all higher than 8,000 meters - and is known as the world's most dangerous and challenging peak. Until today, the 8,611m peak was the only eight thousander never been climbed in winter.

'PIA couldn't pay lease due to pandemic

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Aviation Ghulam Sarwar Khan blamed the previous government for acquiring two PIA aircrafts on an expensive lease. Talking to media on Saturday, the federal minister said the PML-N government acquired the planes in 2015 on an expensive lease that the national carrier failed to pay on time due to the coronavirus pandemic. - DNA

Interactions across border, a sign of beneficial future: Zubair

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Afghanistan of Joint Chamber (PAJCCI) has referred recent diplomatic, parliamentary and hi-level public / private exchanges between Pakistan and Afghanistan as highly instrumental. He issued these remarks while commenting on latest visit of Head of Afghanistan Hizb-e-Wahdat-e-Islami, Karim Khalili who met PM Imran Khan, COAS, National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser, Foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and other leaders. The major reason for Khalili's visit was to develop a common understanding between the two nations about the Peace process and enhanced socio-economic linkages. He highlighted that both the nations have deep-rooted ties, linked through faith, religion, society, culture etc. He also lauded Pakistan's role in facilitating Peace process and negotiations being held in this regard. Motiwala iterated that such meetings are reflection of beginning of the new era whereby both the countries can have better and much mutually beneficial connectivity and regularity both in economic and social terms. He stated that it won't only help in improving ties between the two countries but help bring prosperity and peace throughout the region and ensure regional connectivity from South Asia to Central Asia, by having Pakistan and Afghanistan as the hub. He also established that recent endeavors to finalize both APTTA and PTA between the two countries is a dire need however the mutual, long-term impact can only be ensured by including private stakeholders like PAJCCI (which is a joint body of voicing concerns of diversified stakeholders across the border) in the finalization process so that resulting agreement can be a true reflection of economic aspirations. - DNA

First Pakistani receives Sinopharm covid-19 vaccine in Shanghai

Zahid, about 44 years of age got second dose of Covid-19 vaccine this week and felt excited

DNA

BEIJING: Zahid Iqbal has become the first Pakistani citizen to receive Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine in Shanghai, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN). Zahid, about 44 years of age got second dose of vaccine this week and felt excited. Talking to CEN, he said that he is very satisfied that the Chinese company developed this vaccine and China is also working to provide this vaccine to Pakistan in a couple of weeks. He has been working in an international school as head of Curriculum and Sciences in Shanghai for the last 18 years. Sharing his vac-

ination experience he said, "2020 was a very tough year for all of us, in one way or other all of us suffered, families of many of us got stuck back in Pakistan, and we stuck in China. And now we have entered 2021". "At the end of December, when we heard the news that we're going to have the vaccination, it was a little bit scary. We had to decide on one or two days. I did some research myself and talked to friends and finally, I made up my mind that I should go for it. It's going to be good for us," he mentioned. He further said that after entering his information, he got his QR code. When he arrived at the vaccination center, he was very surprised to see a large

number of people, and the way the administration organized all the people. The queue was pretty long, but it was very smooth going forward. He added that he was a little bit nervous in the beginning, but later on, he was okay. "After going through different steps for vaccination, I got vaccinated but didn't feel any pain. It was normal. Everybody has gone through the vaccination at an early age, and it was the same as that. We were told to fill a consent form because there may be any reaction like muscular pain, fatigue, or fever in one or two days after vaccination. But I didn't have any adverse reaction. We were told after vaccination we

had to take a few extra precautions like not to eat fish or spicy food," he added. Zahid said that he and his colleague had to stay in an observation area for 30 minutes just to see if there might be some side effects of vaccination. There were about 5,000 people there but he didn't see any kind of adverse reaction. "I was very happy at the smooth completion of this whole process, now we all are confident that we can defeat this virus. We need to be administered two doses of vaccine. After having the first one, the moral was pretty good, everybody felt confident," he expressed. He added that the second time, they had to go through the same procedure.

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For further information please contact the following.

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