



Islamabad POST

Monday, March 01, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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**Info Minister
Shibli Faraz leads
from the front**

Detailed News On Page-05

**Direct flights to
boost Pakistan-
Kyrgyzstan links**

Detailed News On Page-08



**PIO Sohail
Ali Khan
gets Grade 21**

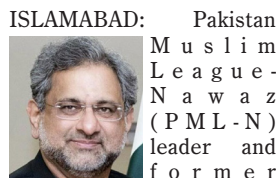
Detailed News On Page-02



Briefs

**PDM
fighting for
improved
system**

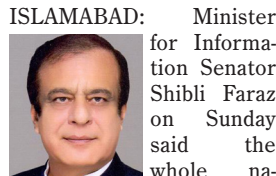
DNA



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former Prime Minister (PM) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Sunday has said that everyone will see what will happen in the Senate polls. The PML-N leader expressed hope that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader and joint candidate of opposition's Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) Yousaf Raza Gillani will win the Senate elections. PDM is fighting for improvement in the system, he told.

**Opposition
supports
horse trading**

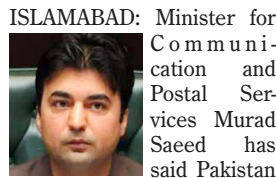
STAFF REPORT



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information Senator Shibli Faraz on Sunday said the whole nation knew well who stood on which side of history on the important issue of transparency in the electoral system. In a series of tweets the minister said the opposition was supporter of the system based on rigging and a hurdle in the way of transparency while Imran Khan stood firm with his unwavering commitment to transparency in the electoral process.

**PTI to win
senate polls:
Murad saeed**

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Communication and Postal Services Murad Saeed has said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf believes in transparency in elections and will emerge victorious in upcoming Senate polls. Talking to media in Islamabad today (Sunday), he said PTI tabled constitutional amendment in the parliament to change the system of secret balloting to open vote to end horse-trading and sale-purchase of voters, but the opposition did not cooperate in getting the law changed. He said this has exposed the opposition that it is not serious in bringing transparency in the election process.

No progress until a nation examines past

The PM was addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Al-Beruni Radius heritage trail at Nandana fort in Jhelum

ABID RAZA

JEHLUM: Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Sunday that an examination of the past was very important for a nation to progress and emphasised the value of future generations knowing about their history. The prime minister was addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Al-Beruni Radius heritage trail at Nandana fort in Jhelum. The prime minister's office said the premier was keen on the "preservation and conservation of the site" and aimed at converting it into an international tourism site. The trail will be a gateway to seven archeological sites, including Nandana fort, Shiva temple, Khewra salt mines, Malot fort and Takht-e-Babri. Talking to media at Nandana Fort in Jhelum district, he said Pakistan has immense potential for mountain, coastal and historic sites' tourism. He said Nandana Fort is the place, where great Muslim Scientist Abu Rayhan al-Biruni had measured the circumference of the Earth.

Continued on Page 06

PDM fully united for Senate polls: Fazl

"God willing, successful results will come out of the Senate elections," he added



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) is "fully united" for the upcoming Senate elections 2021, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the chief of the Opposition-led anti-government coalition, said Sunday. Speaking to the media alongside PPP Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari after the two met here in Islamabad, Fazlur Rehman said the leadership meetings would be held immediately after the Senate elections and a new strategy would be worked out and clarified. "The PDM is the only voice

of the people across the country and getting rid of such rulers [incumbent government] will be a service to the people of Pakistan," the PDM and JUI-F chief said. Clarifying that the PDM was just the name of the movement and not an electoral alliance, he said the Opposition parties were trying not to cut each other's votes in the election from a moral perspective. "They thought that the PDM parties would damage each other's votes themselves but the PDM is united in all four provinces as well as the centre and is contesting the Senate elections. "God willing, successful re-

Petrol prices to remain same

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The prices of petroleum products will remain the same for the month of March, according to Prime Minister Imran Khan's aide on political communication Shahbaz Gill. Gill, in a post on Twitter, said that the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority had recommended an increase of Rs6.7 per litre but PM Imran Khan turned it down. "The government has made no increase in the prices of petroleum products," he said, also attaching the summary that had been forwarded to the premier by the Finance Division for approval. The summary showed that an increase of Rs6.22 had been recommended for Petrol, of Rs6.82 for High Speed Diesel, of Rs6.37 for Kerosene and of Rs5.78 for Light Diesel Oil. The prices had been based on the notified petroleum levy and standard sales tax @ 17%.

DNA



JHELM: Prime Minister Imran Khan being briefed after performing groundbreaking of restoration project for Al-Beruni Radius in Tilla Joggian. – DNA

MQM denies rifts with PTI

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Political manoeuvring is on the rise for the March 3 Senate elections and after the PPP, PTI has also become active in Karachi. PTI has sprung into action due to the possibility of seat adjustments between PPP and MQM, due to which ally parties were invited to a luncheon on Sunday in honour of PTI chief organizer Saifullah Niazi. The luncheon was attended by Grand Democratic Alliance President Sadruddin Shah Rashdi, Hasnain Mirza, Shehryar Mehr, and others from the alliance. However, no member from MQM showed up, it emerged. MQM has convened an important meeting of the Raabta (Coordination) Committee this evening to consider PPP's proposal for the Senate polls.

UNHR chief voices concern over IIOJK situation

DNA

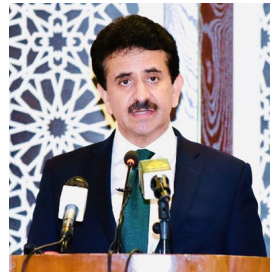
GENEVA: The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, Friday expressed her continuing "concern" over the deteriorating situation in Indian occupied Kashmir, and said that the farmers' protest against farm laws around New Delhi call for ensuring that legislations are based on consultations with stakeholders. Bachelet made the remarks while updating the 46th session of the UNHRC in Geneva on human rights issues in more than 50 countries. The high commissioner said that UNHRC is continuing to monitor the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, "where restrictions on communications, and clampdowns on civil society activists, remain of concern".

Pak 'recognises' Saudi efforts

The statement from the Foreign Office was issued after a US govt report held top Saudi officials responsible for the murder of the journalist

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan expressed solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and recognised its efforts and measures to ensure the conviction and sentencing of the individuals responsible for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi.



The statement from the Foreign Office was issued after a US government report held top Saudi officials responsible for the murder of the journalist.

Khashoggi, a US resident

who wrote opinion columns for the Washington Post critical of the Saudi government's policies, was killed and dismembered by an assault team in the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul in October 2018. "We have taken note of the public release of the US Administration's declassified intelligence report, containing its 'assessment' on the killing of

Continued on Page 06

Asif Zardari jumps into fray

Invites MNAs of PPP and allied parties for lunch in the Sindh House

NEHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Pakistan and Co-Chairman of PPP Asif Ali Zardari has invited the

PDM leadership for lunch in the Sindh House on Monday. According to details the former President has invited members of the National Assembly as well. The PPP co-chairman has also invited MNAs of all allied parties. Sources close to this development have further revealed that Asif Zardari

has jumped into the fray in order to get Yousaf Raza Gillani elected as senator. The former President, who is well known for his political wheeling and dealing, wants to make sure that Yousaf Raza Gillani not only gets votes of PPP and the allied parties but votes of other likeminded parliamentarians also.

Inside...

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QAU Acting Deans appointed without Chancellor's approval – Page 04

US aims to 'decolonize,' but does it really mean it? – Page 05

'Pakistan only country to prevail against terrorism' – Page 06

Saudi Arabia rejects US intelligence report – Page 07

Chinese investment to Pakistan tops with \$402.8m in 7 months – Page 08

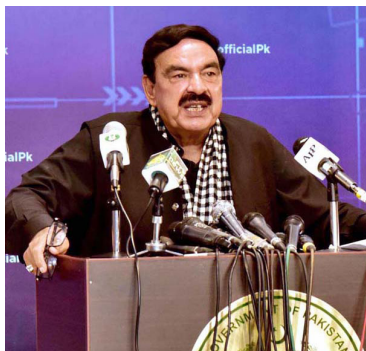
No talks with India without Kashmir: interior minister

Lashing out at the past rulers, the minister said that the plunderers had brought the country to the verge of disaster

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed on Sunday said that Pakistan wanted better ties with India, but no talks with New Delhi were possible by ignoring the decades-old Kashmir issue.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Sheikh Rasheed termed dialogues with India without Kashmir issue betrayal with the nation. He said the revival of Article 370 and 35-A of the Indian constitution to restore the special status of Jammu and Kashmir is a prerequisite for the dialogue between Pakistan and India. Responding to a question, the interior minister claimed that Pakistan has successfully complied with 24 out of



27 points of the FATF action plan. He maintained that the country will complete the action plan soon and will come out of the FATF grey list. Lashing out at the past rulers, the interior minister said that the plunderers had brought the country to

the verge of economic disaster. He maintained that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led government put the country on the path of economic stability and progress.

Replying to another question, he predicted that Finance Minister Abdul Hafeez Sheikh will win the upcoming Senate election.

Earlier on February 11, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) meeting had discussed the situation of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated that Pakistan will continue to provide all-out diplomatic, moral and political support to the brave people of Kashmir in their indigenous struggle to get justice and their right to self-determination in line with United Nations Security Council resolutions.

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Briefs

'Steps being taken to promote city's culture'

MULTAN: Provincial Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Culture and chairman walled city project, Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi has said that every possible steps were being taken to promote culture of the city and maintain beauty of local architecture into the historical buildings. Nadeem Qureshi expressed these views during inauguration of construction work in front of Musa Pak Shaheed shrine at a cost of Rs 30 million here on Sunday. He said that the Multani tiles were being installed at walls and doors of the shrine to portray local architecture and culture. Qureshi said that construction of Sarafa bazaar entry gate to restore historical bazaar into its actual condition was part of the project. — APP

PALSP appreciates Customs authorities

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers has expressed satisfaction and has appreciated the decision of Customs authorities on the valuation ruling issued by the Directorate General of Customs Valuation, Karachi, of linking the value of steel scrap with London Metal Bulletin. PALSP that represents the large steel producers expressed optimism and expressed hope of more such initiatives from the Customs side of Federal Board of Revenue under the current member Customs Mr. Tariq Huda Shah as well Chief Exports & Valuation Dr. Faisal Bukhari are taking positive steps, and this will help in improving the working of the Customs which is an important department of FBR. This decision has set a good example. — APP

OGDCL spending Rs10.22mln

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Development Company (OGDCL) is spending an amount of Rs 10.22 million, under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), in Lakki Marwat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "The Wali, Mianwali and Pezu blocks partially fall in District Lakki Marwat, and the OGDCL has deposited Rs 10.22 million in the joint bank account of the concerned deputy commissioner as per its social welfare obligation," according to an official document available with APP. The company has so far executed three different schemes approved by the respective social welfare committee, headed by the local Member National Assembly, at Rs 6.7 million, while Rs 3.52 million were still available with the DC Lakki Marwat to initiate new development schemes. The OGDCL said appointments were made in accordance with criteria approved by its Board of Directors, and currently as many as 67 contractual and regular employees were working with it, who had the District Lakki Marwat domiciles. "Moreover, considering the nature of business activities, the temporary interim arrangements of manpower are often made, preferably from locals of the area. — APP

Promotions of senior bureaucrats; PIO Sohail Ali Khan gets Grade 21

Officers, who got promotion in BS-21 from the information group, include Mubashir Tauqeer and Ambreen Jan, while Mubashir Hasan, Shafqat Abbas, Ali Nawaz Malik, Tahira Saeeda and Iram Tanweer have been promoted in BS-20

ISLAMABAD - The Establishment Division yesterday notified the promotions of senior bureaucrats in BS-21 and BS-20. The notification has been issued following the approval by Prime Minister Imran Khan in the light of recommendations of Central Selection Board (CSB). The CSB last month had firmed up its recommendations about the promotions of 12 professional cadres and ex-cadre officers in its meeting convened from January 4 to 7. According to details, two officers of the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) have been elevated to the position of director general in BS-21, while four ISI officers promoted in BS-20 as deputy director general. The Establishment Division notified the promotion of Sohail Ali Khan, Principal Information Officer from the Information Group, to BS-21. Other officers, who got promotion in BS-21 from the same group, include Mubashir Tauqeer and Ambreen Jan, while Mubashir Hasan, Shafqat Abbas, Ali Nawaz Malik, Tahira Saeeda and Iram Tanweer have been promoted in BS-20. The officers of Pakistan Administrative Service (PAS) promoted in BS-21 include Islamabad High Court's registrar Sajid Baloch, who will retain the same position after promotion, Awais Manzoor Sumra who will also remain additional secretary post

in the Establishment Division, Syed Ataur Rehman, Tariq Viqar Bakhshi, Ahmed Raza Sarwar, Arshad Majeed Mohmand, Asim Iqbal, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Nabeel Javed, Mohammad Shahryar Sultan, retired captain Saqib Zafar, Haroon Rafique, Shakeel Qadir Khan, Waqas Ali Mahmood, Zubair Asghar Qureshi, Usman Gul, Hasan Iqbal, Saima Saeed, Shaharyar Taj, Yousaf Khan, Manzoor Ali Sheikh and Syed Ali Murtaza. Similarly, PAS officers promoted in BS-20 are namely Shahid Zaman, retired captain Zafar Iqbal, Saeed Ramzan, Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah, Syed Haider Iqbal, Zulfiqar Ali Shah, Islam Zeb, Mohammad Hanif Channa, Amjad Ali Khan, Zaid Bin Maqsood, Mohammad Yahya Akhunnzada, Dr Nasir Mehmood Bashir, Mohammad Jahanzeb, Aziz Ahmed Jamali, Mohammad Usman Mozzam, Ehtasham Anwar, Amir Sultan Tareen, Bilal Ahmed, Khurram Shahzad Umar, Sajid Zafar Dall, Babar Aman Babar, Iqbal Hussain, Shahidullah, Nadim Ahmed Abro, Mohammad Zubair, Adnan Arshad Olakh, Mohammad Khan Ranjha and retired captain Mushtaq Ahmed. PIO Sohail Ali Khan from Information Group gets promotion to Grade 21. The Police Service of Pakistan (PSP) officers promoted in BS-21 include Lahore CCPO Ghulam Mehmood Dog-



ar, who had replaced Umar Shaikh last month, besides Jan Mohammad, Sajjad Afzal Afridi, Mohammad Arif Hanif, Mohammad Amin Yousafzai and Farhat Ali Junejo. PSP officers promoted in BS-20 are namely Kamran Adil, Sajid Kiani, Rizwan Manzoor, Syed Pir Mohammad Shah, Imran Yaqoob, Tahir Ayub, Jahanzeb Nazir Khan, Ahmed Nawaz, Mohammad Zafar Ali, Sadiq Ali, Mohammad Athar Waheed and Mohammad Kashif, while PSP officer Syed Mohammad Amin has been promoted in BS-20 on an acting charge basis. The Foreign Service of Pakistan officers promoted in BS-21 include Shujat Ali Rathore,

Israr Hussain, Rahim Hayat Qureshi, Ali Javed, Asim Iftikhar Ahmed, Syed Ahsan Raza Shah, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, Nabeel Munir, Saqlain Syeda, Ameer Khurram Rathore, Zahid Hafeez Chaudhry, Shafqat Ali Khan and Sajida Bilal. Also, Aamer Ahmed Atozai, Khalil Ahmed Bajwa, Faisal Aziz Ahmed, Mohammad Hassan Wazir, Shahid Ali Seeah, Salman Athar, Zaman Mehdi, Asim Ali Khan, Mirza Salman Nazar Beg, Mohammad Usman Iqbal Jadoon, Farhat Ayesha, Siraj Ahmed Khan, Aqsa Nawaz, Murad Baseer and Saqir Rauf have been promoted in BS-20, whereas Saima Sayed has been promoted on an acting charge basis. Seven officers of the Customs Group promoted in BS-21 are Mohammad Iqbal Bharwana, Rubab Sikandar, Waqid Ali, Zulfiqar Younis, Shahnaz Maqbool, Ahmed Rauf, Seema Bukhari. Of the same group, Hasan Saqib, Masood Ahmed, Fiaz Rasool Maken, Sanaullah Abro, Mohammad Tahir, Naima Baatool, Saleem Memon, Amir Thaheem, Yousaf Haider Orakzai, Muneeb Sarwar, Mohammad Ismail, Farrukh Sajjad, Tayyaba Kayani and Nayyar Rafique have been promoted in BS-20. Six officers of the Pakistan Audit and Accounts Service (PAAS) Mohsin Atta, Ammar Naqvi, Khurram Qureshi, Uzma Ikram, Dost Ali Shah and Jan Moham-

mad have been promoted in BS-21 and the 19 PAAS officers who have been promoted in BS-20 are namely Shahzana Durrani, Jahangir Mushtaq Virk, Sajid Mahmood Raja, Asadullah Khan, Saqib Bashir, Ruksana Rafique, Mohammad Saeed Tiwana, Shah Mahmood Khan, Shafeequr Rehman, Mansoor Azam, Waseem Arshad, Nazir Mohammad, Mohammad Raza Shah, Mohammad Asif, Iffat Farooq, Kadir Bux, Aijaz Ali, Azhar Khalique and Shuja Ali. Of the Postal Group, Hafiz Zafar Ali Malik, Abdur Razaq, Khalid Javed and Hasan Akhtar Khan have been promoted in BS-21, while Hafiz Shakeel Ahmed, Rizwan Javed Hashmi, Iram Tariq, Nasir Mehmood, Fauzia Salman, Mohammad Shakoor and Nisar Mohammad Khan have been promoted in BS-20. Dr Tariq Masood and Saeedullah Khan of the Federal Directorate of Education have been promoted in BS-20. Qumar Sarwar Abbasi, Saad Abbasi, Alamgir Ahmed Khan, M. Bilal, Mohammad Khurshid, Tariq Rashid, Jamil Anwar, Samar Ehsan, Tariq Moj, Iftikhar Gilani, Taimoor Tajammul, Syed Moazzam Ali, Mir Hassan Naqvi, Alam Zeb, Ashfaq Ghumman, Sajid Qazi, Rizwan Sheikh, Syed Mujtaba Hussain and Mohammad Munir of the Secretariat Group have been promoted in BS-21. Also, 49 officers of the Secretariat Group have been promoted in BS-20. — Agencies

'Horticulture production crucial to boost exports'

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Sunday said value-addition of horticulture produce was crucial for Pakistan to boost its exports and get an edge in the highly competitive international market. Addressing at a seminar on 'Trade Potential of Pakistan Citrus - From Roots to Trade Routes', the President said it was important for the country to improve quality standards of local fresh fruits with improved packaging and preservation to attract high-end markets. The seminar organized by Ministry of Commerce and Sargodha Chamber of Commerce and Industry here at Aiwan-e-Sadr was attended by traders, exporters and horticulture experts of citrus. President Alvi said Pakistan was rich in production of citrus being the world's sixth largest producer of superior quality Kinnow, however stressed an effective policy to broaden its exports. He said phytosanitation - a systematic approach of pest prevention in food crops, and organic farming could enhance yields besides reducing the chances of rejection by the importing countries citing 'unsafe' produce. He mentioned that China, Japan, Korea and several other developed countries could prove attractive markets for Pakistan's fresh fruits and emphasized the need for adopting their stringent food standard policies. Dr. Alvi said food security was important for economic stability, adding that water

conservation and bio-diversity were need of the hour. He expressed concern that improper treatment and preservation of crops mainly wheat and rice resulted in infestation and led to loss of quality stuff for export purposes.

The President called for investment in phytosanitation and applicable market-related research as a 'way forward to translate benefit of yield into revenue'. He urged exporters to be mindful of presentation of packaged fruits by sorting out blemish-free produce and ensuring preservation timeline from production till delivery to consumers. Dr. Alvi said embassies could play an important role for introducing the country's fruits to the taste-buds of consumers across the globe by organizing festivals particularly of Kinnow, mango and apricot. He recalled that as President of Pakistan, he sent the gift of Pakistan's King fruit mango to the world leaders as goodwill gesture. The President visited the stalls of citrus with a variety of Kinnows, Musambi, Eureka Lemon and Grapefruit put on display and lauded the efforts of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and Sargodha Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Earlier, Minister for National Food Security Syed Fakhar Imam said the country's 24,000 hectares land was producing citrus with this year's production recorded 2.3 million tons.

He said putting in place an effective phytosanitation system for pre-shipment examination was key to address the problems of pests.

Secretary Chamber of Commerce and Industries Muhammad Saleh Ahmed Farooqi said the country recorded 25 percent growth of citrus fruit in first seven months this fiscal year.

He said the government was working on a strategy to set up National Export Development Fund to be headed by the Prime Minister, which would galvanize partnership between academia and industry for best yield and exports. President Sargodha Chamber of Commerce and Industries Malik Asif Ameer said Sargodha was known as 'California of Pakistan' for its citrus orchards with over 160 processing units.

He suggested removal of impediments by establishing Free Trade Agreements and setting up a dry port in the city to capture bigger citrus market.

With total production of around 2.3 million tons, Pakistan exports annually about 0.44 million tons of citrus valued at around US\$ 166 million.

Pakistan produces more than 30 types of different fruits amongst which citrus leads with a share of about 30 percent of the total fruit production.

About 20 percent of citrus produced in Pakistan is exported to over 30 countries including high-end and regional markets. — APP

Tree plantation campaign launched

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: In connection with the tree planting campaign under Green and Clean Pakistan, a prestigious function was organized at Government Higher Secondary School No. 4 under the auspices of Education Department here on Sunday. Additional Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Iqbal Khan, who was received by Govt Girls Primary School Sheikh Yusuf No. 2 students in a colorful ceremony. Addressing the function, Additional Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Iqbal Khan said that untimely rains and floods due to global warming have endangered human lives and in view of its prevention, more and more trees have to be planted and taken care of. Taking special care can prevent the ravages of climate change, he added. He said that trees keep the environment clean and produce Oxygen by reducing carbon dioxide in the air. He appealed to the citizens of Dera to protect these plants to make Dera Ismail Khan greener and in the tree planting campaign. Participate more and play your part in making the tree planting campaign a success, he urged the people. "Let us all participate in this charity drive and support the vision of

the government," "Mahmood Iqbal, said. Deputy CEO, District Education Office Mail, SDEO, Dera Chaudhry Zarif, SDEO Paharpur Muhammad Humayun Khattak, SDEO Kalachi Hafeez Joya, CEO per mail Syeda Anjum, Deputy CEO per mail Aniga Huma, SDEO Dera Farhat Yasmeen and other mail and mail teachers. A large number of students attended the event, while focal person ASDEO Zameer Ahmad made the arrangements for the event. The Department of Education, especially DEO Faisal Mail and its staff appreciated the efforts of SDEO Dera Chaudhry. Zarif said that the Prime Minister of Pakistan fully supports Imran Khan's vision of Green and Clean Pakistan Tree Planting Campaign as this is the first government that has worked on this important issue. According to Imran Khan's vision, we are planting trees at every school level. The more trees there are, the better the environment for human beings to breathe. Plantation stalls were set up at various schools and at the end Additional Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Iqbal Khan, Education Department officials, teachers and children formally inaugurated the tree planting campaign. — APP

Malam Jabba to host snow marathon

ISLAMABAD: Malam Jabba is set to host snow marathon at 9,000 foot-high sloop on March 6 to promote winter sports and adventure tourism in Swat's snowy peaks. The initiative was being taken by Samson Group of Companies in collaboration with provincial tourism authorities, the company spokesperson told APP on Sunday. She said arrangements were being finalized for successful organization of the race. A large number of athletes were expected to participate in the marathon. — APP

'Sikh Marriage Amend. Act to be tabled'

ZUBAIR AHMAD

MULTAN: In order to facilitate over six lakh persons from Sikh Community, Sikh Marriage Amendment Act 2021 will be presented in Punjab Assembly by mid of March, said Provincial Parliamentary Secretary on Human Rights Mahindar Pall Singh. While talking to APP here on Sunday, Mahindar Pall Singh remarked that the Sikh Marriage Bill 2018 was tabled in Punjab Assembly. Due to some issues, a special committee was constituted to make some more recommendations in order to improve the bill. Mahindar Pall observed that the committee had prepared recommendations after consultation with Sikh Scholars and got approval from Akaal Takht Sahib. Pakistan will be the very first country in the world to have such a unique Act which offer separate identity to Sikhs. Even, the same facility was not available in the neighboring country. In the neighboring country, the marriages of Sikhs are registered under "Kasadari Hindu" Act. However, the bill prepared in Pakistan gave required identity to the Sikhs. Similarly, it was prepared as per aspirations of the Sikh Community.

Kashmir resolution vital for durable peace

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Hurriyat leaders and organizations have said that permanent peace in South Asia was not possible without a just settlement of the Kashmir dispute. They welcomed the announcement made by Pakistan and India to strictly observe all agreements, understandings and cease firing along the Line of Control and all other sectors, Kashmir Media Service reported. The APHC at an emergency meeting of its Majlis Shoor chaired by Working Vice Chairman, Ghulam Ahmed Gulzar deliberated upon the fresh developments with regard to the Kashmir dispute

both at regional and international level. It expressed the hope that the UN Secretary General along with world community especially the US government under the leadership of Joe Biden shall impress upon India to stop genocide, human rights violations, illegal detentions and the war against the people of Kashmir. The meeting also expressed its satisfaction on the role of Pakistan in dealing with the political and military gimmicks of India and said it is the repeated betrayal of New Delhi which has brought the South Asia at the brink of nuclear collision. — APP



RAWALPINDI: High Commissioner of Malaysia Ikram Mohammad Ibrahim being briefed about various projects during RCCI Build 2021 exhibition. — DNA

AEO Australian expo attracts students

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: With world gradually moving back to normal, the day when international borders of top study destinations of the world will open for foreign students, is coming closer. It is time that the students gear up and start preparing themselves to realize their dreams to study at top ranked international universities. With over 5000 alumni and 200,000+ IELTS registrations, AEO Pakistan over the past two decades has established itself as Australian & Global Education Specialists, the most trusted IELTS Official Test Centre and now the official OET Test Centre in Pakistan. AEO Pakistan operates as the official Liaison office for over 40 leading Australian Universities/Institutions and facilitates the enrolment of International students at these Universities / Institutions. Since 2002, AEO Pakistan has been conducting Australian Education Expos providing

an excellent opportunity to Pakistani students planning to Study in Australia. Over the years thousands of students have benefitted from AEO expos held twice annually, across all major cities of Pakistan. This February once again AEO Education Expo is being organized

across 9 major cities of Pakistan i.e., Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi, Multan, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Abbottabad, Peshawar and Hyderabad. The AEO expo is providing an ideal platform to prospective students across the country, to get free expert advice and counselling

about how to apply to study in at top ranked international universities in Australia, USA, Canada and UK. Representatives of more than 19 universities/institutes are participating at the expo providing golden opportunity for Pakistani students to get free guidance and

counseling for their future study endeavors. Information about IELTS test and preparatory classes is also being provided at the expo. After Lahore, Islamabad, Faisalabad and Multan, two exhibitions were successfully held in Karachi at Movenpick Hotel and Abbottabad at Hotel One simultaneously. Hundreds of students along with their parents participated at the expo with great interest and excitement to enroll for admissions at top ranked Australian and other leading International Universities. The participants appreciated AEO's effort in provision of a perfect platform offering free counselling sessions with official representatives of international universities to explore the options of enrolling for a degree of their choice. The next expo of the series is scheduled to be held in Peshawar 28th February PC Hotel and Hyderabad 28th February Indus Hotel. Entry to the exhibition is FREE with a mask and Scholarships up to 75% opportunities are also available.

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(Sector Development Division-II)

CORRIGENDUM No.01

Refer to CDA Notice for invitation of Bids, published in leading Newspapers and uploaded on CDA as well as PPRA websites on 06-02-2021 (Saturday), following amendments are hereby made:-

Sl.#	For	Read
i.	Development of Sector D-12, Islamabad (Left Over Work) "Asphaltic Carpeting, Rehabilitation of Roads, Drainage, Foot Path & Cycle Track (Phase-I)"	Development of Sector D-12, Islamabad (Left Over Work) "Asphaltic Carpeting, Rehabilitation of Roads and Drainage (Phase-I)"
ii.	N.I.T Cost Rs. 390,811,491/-	N.I.T Cost Rs. 150,000,000/-
iii.	Bid Security Rs. 11,724,000/-	Bid Security Rs. 4,500,000/-
iv.	Purchase of Bidding Documents Up-to 03-03-2021	Purchase of Bidding Documents Up-to 17-03-2021
v.	Submission and opening of Bids Date 04-03-2021	Submission and opening of Bids Date 18-03-2021
vi.	PEC registration C-3 or above	PEC registration C-4 or above

2. All other terms & conditions of NIT shall remain same.

(Abid Farooq)
Deputy Director
Sector Dev. Division-II, CDA
Room # 16, 2nd Floor, Block# 03, Plot # 04
Sitara Market, G-7 Markaz, Islamabad
Phone # 051-2202107

PID(0) 4689-20

Briefs

PNCA to celebrate Balochistan Cultural Day

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) will hold Balochistan Cultural day to celebrate the beautiful,rich customs and traditions of the province on March 2. A mega musical event will be held which will be featuring renowned artists and musicians including Kehkashan and Banur band to enthrall the audience with their performances. The day will also include special dance performances of Attan and Chaap by 50 performers in a group form. An official of PNCA informed media that, beautiful culture of Balochistan will be highlighted through embroidery, dresses, music and food, which is typically a rare find in Islamabad. He said that Balochistan contingent will feature crafts people, folk artists, folk musicians and dance groups. Balochi musicians will mesmerize the audience with their melodious voices and Baloch people, especially the youth and women will participate in the programme to show their love and affection for their culture and traditions.

CTP gear up operation against beggars

GHULAM MURTAZA

RAWALPINDI: Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Rai Muhammad Iqbal Sunday said that City Traffic Police (CTP) geared up its ongoing operation against professional beggars. He said that special anti beggars squads had been constituted to nab the professional beggars. Directives had also been issued to the squad to register cases against the beggars and the report in this regard should be sent to CTO office on daily basis, he said. CTP along with district police was conducting raids at different roads and intersections and action in accordance with the law was taken against beggars. He said that hundreds of professional beggars were arrested last month while beggar children were handed over to Child Protection Welfare Bureau (CPWB).

Dry weather likely to persist in Capital

ISLAMABAD: Dry weather is likely to prevail in most parts of the country, while cold and dry in north Balochistan and upper hilly areas during next 24 hours. Continental air is prevailing over most parts of the country, Met office reported. In last 24 hours weather remained cold and dry in most parts of the country. Rainfall recorded during this time span remained Kashmir: Kotli 31 mm, Rawalakot 21 mm, Anantnag 19mm, Srinagar (City 09mm), Punjab: Mangla 03mm, Gilgit-Baltistan: Skardu and Astore 02mm. Lowest temperatures recorded on Sunday were Leh -07 °C, Astore, Kalam -05°C, Kalat -04°C, Parachinar -03°C, Skardu, Bagrote, Quetta -02°C, Anantnag and Dir -01 °C. – APP

RDA seals 8 illegal plazas

ISLAMABAD: The Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) during its ongoing operations against illegal and unauthorized commercial cum residential construction activities including plazas, shops, schools and other illegal land use encroachments within the controlled area on Sunday, sealed eight illegal Plazas in Mohra Chhappari, Hayal Dhanyal and Chakri Ghazan areas on Chakri Road Rawalpindi. The operation was carried out by Land Use and Building Control (LU&BC) Wing of the Authority on the direction of DG RDA , Capt (R) Abdul Sattar Isani. – APP

Palestinian envoy lauds RCCI for organizing Build 2021 Expo

Malaysian HC Ikram Bin Mohammad Ibrahim, Palestinian ambassador to Pakistan Ahmed Jawad Rabie, Yemeni Ambassador to Pakistan Mohammed Motahar Alashabi, Nepal Ambassador, and German Ambassador Bernhard Schlagheck visited different stalls at expo



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: A large number of ambassadors, High Commissioners, Commercial Counselors and diplomats visited the Build 2021 Expo and Construction Trade Fair organized

by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) at Topi Rakh Complex Ayub Park Rawalpindi. Ambassador of Denmark in Pakistan, Lis Rosenholm in her tweet appreciated RCCI for its efforts for promoting trade activities and organizing exhibitions.

She also discussed investment opportunities in liveable cities hand in hand with tackling climate changes and creating jobs. She said it was a great visit and I am happy to know that RCCI has become the first Green Chamber in Pakistan by installing a So-



lar system and rain water harvesting and recharge system in the building. Malaysian High Commissioner Ikram Bin Mohammad Ibrahim, Palestinian ambassador to Pakistan Ahmed Jawad Rabie, Yemeni Ambassador to Pakistan Mohammed Motahar

Alashabi, Nepal Ambassador, and German Ambassador Bernhard Schlagheck visited different stalls at expo and appreciated the projects. Chamber President Muhammad Nasir Mirza gave them a short briefing on RCCI current and ongoing

projects and programs. He said that the purpose of the expo is to promote business activities. The expo will provide investors with a wealth of information on the housing and construction sectors, as well as information on various construction projects under one roof.

MCI takes lead in ‘Street Economy Unit’

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad has become the first municipality in Pakistan to set-up a dedicated Street Economy Unit. The initiative is in continuation of MCI's collaboration with Ehsaas program and Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) for implementation of an effective intervention for streamlining street vending in Islamabad, said a news release.

MCI Administrator Syeda Shafaq Hashmi was of the view that governance of street vendors had been a low priority area for city authorities. However, the situation had changed with the interest of Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation Dr. Sania Nishtar in enhancing street livelihood for the poor and mostly migrant segment. Under her guidance, PIDE has facilitated MCI in the structuring of Street Economy Unit. Besides, instituting effectual governance of

street vending, another key objective of this endeavor is to create recognition of street vending as a legitimate vocation and livelihood tool for the poor. Street vending in Islamabad, like other urban centers of Pakistan, is marked with lack of regularization, haphazard vending, ineffective eviction campaigns, congestion, environmental and corruption issues. MCI is striving to pilot a successful Street Economy Unit, which may be replicated in other municipalities of the country.

3-day food festival from March 12

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: A three-day long "Signature Food Festival" will be held at Jinnah Convention Center to get visitors trying, tasting and experiencing delicious food from March 12 to 15. Organized by eleven production and media snuffers, the festival will feature the best cuisine as well as highly esteemed chefs. An organizer of the event told media that, the price will be less (at the event) compared to the rates in the hotels and around 150 stalls would be placed so that visitors can have a full course meal. He said that we want the visitors to taste different and the hotels and restaurants will mainly serve their signature dishes. The stalls will offer juices, snacks, organic food, different cuisines, fast food, and regular vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes, he added. He said that this year, we want to offer entertainment so on all the three days there will be music concerts.

Low income students sought for scholarship

The Punjab government has allocated Rs 1 billion for awarding scholarships to 15,000 students annually

ISLAMABAD: The Punjab government has invited applications from bright students of low income parents, for Rehmat U-Li-Alameen scholarships to assist financially unstable talented students for a better chance at discovering more opportunities. The students of all the public sector colleges and universities in Punjab have been asked to visit the link <https://hedscholarships.punjab.gov.pk/sign-up> to create their account and submit the online application by March 10. The Punjab government has allocated Rs 1 billion for awarding scholarships to 15,000 students annually. A total of 891 under-graduates would be paid Rs 268 million as scholarships till financial year 2023-24, while a sum of Rs 350 million would be paid to some 14,000 intermediate students during current financial year and Rs 700 million per annum afterwards on SSC results basis. The students must have secured at least 60 percent marks in SSC exams from any public sector school and then took admission in a government college within two years of passing the Matric to avail of this scholarship. Also, the students availing any other scholarship are not eligible for the program. Only those candidates are eligible for this scholarship whose family income is less than or equal to Rs. 25,000 per month and the parents must not own more than 5 acres of agricultural land or 5 marlas urban property. – DNA

Lok Virsa continues to present cultural heritage

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) has arranged around hundred cultural events throughout the year 2020 to show the rich culture and heritage of the country. Starting the year 2020 with COVID 19, Lok Virsa has shown tremendous performance through out the year with on-line programmes as well as

live events followed by strict SOPs. An official of Lok Virsa informed APP that they successfully held annual 10-days long mega event Lok Mela to show the culture of all provinces. The objective of the festival was to reinforce and strengthen national integration by promoting the cultural heritage of Pakistan through active participation of all provinces, Gilgit

Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, he added. Furthermore, to pay rich tributes to the Sufi saints, Lok Virsa organized a three-dimensional diorama on Sufis and Shrines where musicians performed by posturing their selves in Sufi saints like Laal Shahbaz Qalandar, Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai and Sachal Sarmast were performed, he added. – APP



ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador Bernhard Schlagheck is a true admirer of Pakistani Truck Art. He wants his 80 years old bicycle painted with the Truck Art. – DNA

Pakistan Medical Commission to launch online application system

The regulations provided for the disciplinary adjudication by the PMC Disciplinary Committee of complaints of negligence, harassment and other violations of code of ethics by licensed practitioners

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) has planned to launch fully automated online application system in March allowing medical graduates and licensed practitioners to apply for licenses, renewals and other services without visiting the commission office. According to an official of PMC, the services would also include addition of qualifications online along with

an online payment methodology without visit to any PMC offices or banks. He said that the pre-existing database of licensed practitioners only had CNICs of less than 35 percent licensed practitioners in their record. The council approved the launch, in March 2021, of the digital license profile project, allowing practitioners to create their digital profile online and, upon biometric verification, update their status and profile online with automated verification

processes. He added the digital license profile would enable the commission to issue licenses to practitioners immediately and in a digital format. It would also secure a practitioner's data and identity as well as would enable a public mobile application for any person to verify the status of a medical practitioner. He said the commission also approved policy allowing licensed doctors who were either not practicing or were based outside

Pakistan to simply notify the commission of their non-practicing status in Pakistan to stop the renewal and any other charges being levied on their licenses. The commission approved the decisions of the disciplinary committee which entail imposing penalties including heavy fines for medical and dental practitioners working without a valid license, as well as suspending and cancelling licenses on account of negligence and placing privileges under review.

Special squads to check noise pollution

ZUBAIR AHMED

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has constituted special squads to check noise pollution which would be authorized to take action against vehicles having pressure horn and impose heavy fines on them. Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Farrukh Rashid has constituted special squads to make the capital noise-free. During the last month, pressure horns from hundreds of vehicles were removed by the police teams and fine tickets were issued to the drivers. He said ITP had launched a campaign as noise pollution affected nerves and injurious to human health, therefore, strict action would be taken against those installing pressure horns. Special squads of ITP have been constituted to conduct regular checking and fining vehicles involved in creating noise pollution or other environmental pollution in the city. The purpose of this whole practice was to end noise pollution in the city, the SSP maintained.

IRSA releases 89,900 cusecs water

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 89,900 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 61,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1412.10 feet, which was 20.10 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 27,400 and 27,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1137.50 feet, which was 99.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 21,600 and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 43,100, 21,300 and 10,300 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 6,400 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 1,700 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala.

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MAINTENANCE DIVISION NO.III (SB)

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited on percentage basis on NIT cost from the contractors resisted with FBR and duly enlisted with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in appropriate category and PEC license having validity upto 30-06-2020-21 for the works as detailed below:-

S.#	Name of work	NIT Cost	Earnest Money	Tender Cost	Date &Time of Receiving of tenders.	Date and Time of opening of Tenders
1	Renovation of bath rooms at G.F, 2 nd floor 4 th floor, 5 th floor & 6 th floor B-Block Phase-I Pak Sectt, Islamabad.	Rs.3392116/-	Rs.101763/-	Rs.2000/-	16-3-2021 at 11.30 am	16-3-2021 at 12.00 PM
2.	Repair/Maintenance/Replacement of false ceiling and fly proofing offices of the Ministry of Interior R & S Block Pak Sectt, Islamabad.	Rs.2819760/-	Rs.84593/-	Rs.2000/-	16-3-2021 at 11.30 am	16-3-2021 at 12.00 PM
3.	Roof Treatment of Car Parking at Block A & B Phase-I Pak Sectt.	Rs.2053462/-	Rs.61604/-	Rs.2000/-	16-3-2021 at 11.30 am	16-3-2021 at 12.00 PM

- CONDITIONS.**
- The tender can be purchased on production of Pay order in the Name of Dy: Director (Maint-III) (SB) of Rs.2000/- from the office of Dy: Director Maint-III (SB) "R" Block Ground floor Pak Sectt: Islamabad During working day upto 11.00 (AM)
 - Tender documents will be obtained from office of under signed upto 12-3-2021
 - Application on original letter pad, having signature of the contractor, valid original PEC Registration, renewal of the firm, income tax/G.S.T certificate active must be submitted. In case of representative, copy of CNIC along with original special power of attorney duly registered by the District Registrar for the specific purpose may also be attached with application
 - Rule 33(1) the procuring agency may reject. all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal. The procuring agency shall upon request communicate to any supplier or contractor who submitted or proposal, the grounds for its rejection of all bids or proposals, but is not required to justify those grounds.
 - Rule 35 procuring agencies shall announce the results of bid evaluation in the form of report giving justification for acceptance or rejection of bids at least ten day prior to the award of procurement contractor.
 - Earnest money in the shape of call deposit in favor of Dy: Director Maint-III from local banks, indicating name of firm must accompanied with the application, No application without call deposit will be entertained, and Cash/Check will not be accepted.
 - The bidders are required to provide the additional documents as per clause (16) of the CDA from W-6, while submitting of the tender, otherwise, it will be liable for rejection
 - In case the total bid amount is less than 10% below the NIT amount. The bidder shall submit call deposit as performance security equal to the different between NIT amount and total quoted amount less 10% of NIT amount. That is required performance security =NIT amount total bid amount 10% of NIT amount. This call deposit shall be in addition to the earnest money for the work and shall be deposited at the time of submission bid. Bids not carrying the performance security shall be reject. That performance security of the successful bidder is released after completion of the project.
 - PEC certificate 2020-2021, Tax certificated in original will be seen before issuance of Tender document.
 - The contractor will provide the CDR, with the name of firm and open CDR will not be accepted and the lowest bidder will be provide 6.5% Security amount including CDA prior to execution of the contractor payment
 - That deposit at Call/Earnest Money should be generated only from firm's accounts.
 - The general/Special Power of attorney may be attested through respective court.
 - That the attorney holder may not be the employee of any Government/semi Government institute.
 - That no such application be entertained without valid PEC license.
 - That only legitimate attorney holder may be allowed to get tender documents.
 - That the relative of tendering authority may not be entertained for participation in the tenders.
 - The Bid Security of all bidders would be deposited in the CDA Bank account and same may be returned after the acceptance of the contract with the successful bidder.
 - The eligibility criteria of the firms with relevant experience i.e at least three number of work in last two financial year may be observed /fulfilled before issuance of tender documents.
 - This notice may also be seen CDA web sites www.cda.gov.pk and PPRA website www.ppra.gov.pk .

PID (I) 4690

(MUHAMMAD RIAZ)

Deputy Director Maint-III (SB)

Briefs

Pak, Saudia to cooperate in tax fields

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Pakistan, Nawaf Saeed Al-Malikey here on Saturday had a call on meeting with Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Muhammad Javed Ghani during which matters of mutual concern pertaining to cooperation on customs and tax were discussed. According to press statement issued by the board, it was agreed in the meeting that relevant departments of both countries would further promote the cooperation in the field of customs and tax and would learn from each other's best practices which would result in increasing the trade volume between the two countries. Chairman FBR briefed the Saudi Ambassador about the recent measures taken by FBR for the mobilization of revenue and facilitation of taxpayers. The ambassador appreciated the recent performance of FBR in the first seven months of current Financial Year and hoped that FBR would successfully achieve the revenue target set for the current year. — APP

‘Govt to complete Bara Kahu Green Enclave-I project’

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Housing and Works Tariq Bashir Cheema has said the government was trying its best to complete the Bara Kahu Green Enclave-I housing project within the stipulated time. “We want the project to be completed in time so that the federal employees can fulfill their dream of having own house,” the minister said the other day.

He said the overall progress of the entire project was more than 40 percent, while the approach road, including 140-meter bridge over the Korang River, was 70 percent completed and the project was expected to be completed by the end of this year, a ministry official informed. He said at the same time, special attention was being paid to gardening activities to create more healthy environment in the Green Enclave. The official said the provision of sui gas, electricity, water supply is being worked on to ensure that all facilities are available to the allottees. The balloting list would be available on the authority's website to facilitate the allottees of Bara Kahu Green Enclave-I, the official informed. In the first phase, the balloting of 2,354 plots of different categories were conducted and those who had been issued POL (Provisional offer Letter) and submitted down payment were included in the balloting. All the allottees were informed through newspapers to submit their dues and to would include in the balloting. The balloting of some 2,354 plots out of a total of 3,281 plots were conducted in the first phase.

SC to hear Khursheed Shah's bail plea on Wednesday

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court of Pakistan will hear bail plea of former opposition leader in National Assembly and senior leader of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah on Wednesday (March 3). According to details, a three member bench presided by Justice Mushir Alam and comprising Justice Sardar Tariq Masood and Justice Yahya Afridi would hear the bail pleas filed by Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah and his son Syed Farukh Ahmed Shah. The court, while fixing the plea for hearing, sent notice to prosecutor NAB.

NAB had alleged that it conducted inquiry against Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah, MNA on receipt of multiple complaints that he was richest man in the Sindh beyond his known sources of income and investigation whereby collected the evidence against him and filed a Reference in NAB Court Sukkur. He was nominated the accused No.1 in the Reference No.17/2019 along with seventeen others and the Petitioner/ accused in connivance with other co-accused persons accumulated assets beyond their known sources to the tune of Rs 1.229 billion which were disproportionate to their known sources of income, it added. — APP

QAU Acting Deans appointed without Chancellor's approval

The appointment of Acting Dean is prejudicial to the other two professors on the panel for each faculty, as they are disfavored by such an action

CITY REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Vice Chancellor of Quaid-i-Azam University, recently appointed the Acting Deans of three Faculties without seeking the mandatory approval of the Chancellor/President of Pakistan, which has caused unrest among the faculty. On February 9 and 10, the Vice Chancellor Dr. M Ali had appointed three different professors as Acting Deans of their respective Faculties, i.e. Biological Sciences, Natural Sciences, and

Social Sciences.

Under the Quaid-i-Azam University Act 1973, there is no provision for appointment of Acting Dean. Rather, the appointment of Deans is the sole prerogative of the Chancellor/President, and any of the three senior-most professors of each Faculty may be appointed as Deans of their respective Faculties. The notification from QAU Administration issued in each case does indicate whether any approval for these acting charge appointments was sought from the Chancellor's office, nor does

it state the University Statute under which the acting charge has been given.

The appointment of Acting Dean is prejudicial to the other two professors on the panel for each faculty, as they are disfavored by such an action. While the other two nominees in each case feel deprived, the faculty in general seems upset at the latest unlawful and unjust act of the QAU Administration.

The University had earlier sent the three cases to the Chancellor/President's office through the Federal Ministry of Educa-

tion and Professional Training, which are still in process. Thus, by appointing Acting Deans before the formal approval, the Vice Chancellor has apparently abrogated the authority of the Chancellor/President.

Commenting on the matter, Dr. M Ali Vice Chancellor QAU said “its stop gap arrangement 13/4, which is legal and practiced since long in all universities of Pakistan.

However, a QAU senior professor said on the condition of anonymity that there was no emergency in appointing the Acting

Deans, the summaries were sent only recently to the Chancellor. Invocation of emergency clause is justified if the Chancellor's office has been dragging its feet for a while.

Moreover, as per the QAU Act, the Vice Chancellor has to report any emergency action “as soon thereafter”, which apparently did not happen in this case. “It's like you are trying to force the chancellor's hand. And it is an attempt to favor a candidate and mislead the Chancellor while usurping his authority,” says the professor.

CDA gears up to enhance beauty of the Capital



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: To enhance the beauty of federal capital before the onset of spring CDA administration has started planting trees on large scale. The CDA administration plans to plant 2.5 million roses, flowering plants and seasonal trees this spring. According

to details, the process of planting seasonal plants and trees along with roses and flowering plants is also underway. Moreover seasonal flowers are also being planted in parks of the city. In this regard, flowering plants have been planted at various places including Margalla Road, Jinnah Avenue, 9th Avenue, 7th Avenue, F-10 Chowk, I-8, Kachnar Park, Silman Park, F-9 Park. Kashmir Highway,

I-9, I-10, I, Green Belt, IJP and other places have been extensively planted with Banyan, Bean tree, Kachnar, poplar, pine and other trees. Work is also underway to plant 10,000 roses of 50 varieties at Rose & Jasmine Garden. Beds of various designs have also been prepared on Constitution Avenue, 7th Avenue, Zoo Chowk, Margalla Road and other major highways.

CDA committed to restart G-10 Ladies Club project

However, now CDA Chairman Amir Ali Ahmed has directed the Engineering Wing to resolve all issues and obstacles and complete the remaining works in the shortest possible time

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) should immediately issue instructions for resumption of work on the long-closed Ladies Club project at G-10 Markaz, to provide effective health and club facilities to the citizens.

Instruct the engineering department to complete the project as soon as possible by removing the obstacles in the completion of the said project in the shortest possible time. According to details, the



Capital Development Authority (CDA) is committed to restarting the Ladies Club project at G-10. The structure of the project is 100 percent complete, while the building is 97,000 square feet covered area.

Bakery facilities, Recreational facilities include movie, theater for 150 to 170 people, cinema, children's play area, 2 banquet halls for banquet facilities, 2 rooms for bride's, swimming pool for swimming in

health and sports facilities, gymnasium, aerobics, 2 squash courts. Multipurpose sports hall, and 2 Lawn Tennis Courts will be available.

Which need to be addressed before starting work. However, now CDA Chairman Amir Ali Ahmed has directed the Engineering Wing to resolve all issues and obstacles and complete the remaining works in the shortest possible time. So that the public money spent on this facility can be used properly and effective health and club facilities can be provided by the citizens.

Rs 63,978.216 m released for water projects

ISLAMABAD: The government has released a sum of Rs 63,978.216 million for various water resource projects under annual Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for fiscal year 2020-21 so far. According to the data of Planning Commission, an amount of Rs 79,380.563 million was allocated for various water resource sectors in the current fiscal year. Out of total allocation, domestic share was Rs 65,882.563 million while foreign component was estimated as 13,498 million. An amount of Rs 52,706.050 million was released from domestic share while Rs 11,272.166 million was received under foreign component so far.

An amount of Rs 16,000 million has been allocated for Diamer Basha Dam (Dam Part), Rs 5,000 million for Diamer Basha dam Project (Land Acquisition and Re-settlement), Rs

1,443.324 million for Balochistan Effluent Disposal in to RBOD, Rs 1,968 million for construction of Basool dam, Rs 1,797 million for construction of Mangi dam, Rs 2000 million for construction of small storage dams (Sindh), Rs 1500 million for construction of 100 small dams in Balochistan, Rs 1,356.346 million for Darwat dam and Rs. 2000 million for Garuk Storage dam. A sum of Rs 7,000 million has been earmarked for Mohmand dam, Rs 3000 million for Nai Gaj Dam, Rs 2,500 million for Naulong Storage dam, Rs 1,500 million for Normal/Emergent Flood Programme and Rs 3000 million for construction of Winder dam. Similarly, Rs 2000 million has been allocated for Kachhi Canal Project (Remaining Works), Rs 500 million for construction of 100 dams in Balochistan and Rs 30 million for construction of Delay Action dam at Zarkhune (Quetta). — APP

Law Reforms to ease out masses sufferings

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: An independent and virtuous judiciary is vital for democracy, governance, security, economic growth, and equity as it ensures the Rule of Law for all citizens. It guarantees protection to the rights of law abiding citizens and serves as a shield against unruly groups or individual's threat to any particular person, community, sect or religion. One of the strongest aspects an independent judiciary owns is to ensure good governance which helps to establish a just, prosperous and well-balanced society. Promotion of this culture

in any state required frequent reforms of the system to meet the everyday requirement of justice and remedies to neglected and disadvantaged class. But, unfortunately in Pakistan, frequent promise of judicial reforms made by successive regimes for decades remained elusive.

The PTI government after coming into power bore the torch of reforms in judicial system and its successive initiatives provided a ray of hope for reformation of the old age judicial system.

It was the manifesto of the PTI to ensure provision of easy justice to the people, especially the weak segments of society.

11,913 federal employees paid education stipends

ISLAMABAD: A total of 11,913 federal employees have been paid educational stipends for their children from federal employees benevolent funds and group insurance funds (FEB & GIF) during current financial year from out of a total of 17, 407 applied for the grant. According to official sources, 1,626 such applications were rejected while 3,868 applications of current year and 5,632 of previous three years were pending in the three Regional Boards of the Federal Employees Benevolent and Group Insurance Funds (FEB&GIF) due to lack of complete documents.

Almost 500 cases have been converted into relevant category upon receipt of fresh documents while in 3,368 claims, objections have been communicated to the employees, the sources said. The pending claim would be settled within one month of receipt of such documents/information, he informed. Educational stipend is paid to the children of federal government employees for post matric studies for a single degree at each level of studies at college or university level excluding PhD as per prescribed rates. — APP

IRS officers approved for promotion

ISLAMABAD: Officers of Inland Revenue Service approved for promotion from BS-20 to BS-21, said a Notification of Cabinet Secretariat. According to notification, the 10 officer which are approved for promotion from BS-20 to BS-21 are Tariq Mustafa Khan, Mir Badshah Khan Wazir, Malik Amjad Zubair Tiwana, Muhammad Azam Sheikh, Syed Mahmood Hussain Jafri, Muhammad Iqbal, Muhammad Abid Raza Bodla, Ms Ayesha Khalid, Karamatullah Khan Chaudhry. While 24 officers of Inland Revenue Service which are approved for promotion from BS-19 to BS-20 are Muhammad Safdar, Muhammad Abu Bakar Siddique, Ms Tajamal Bilquis, Fauzia Adil, and Dr. Razi-ur-Rehman Khan, Shaheed Mehboob, Muhammad Bilal Malik, Barrister Nowsherwan Khan, Imran Shabbir, Fazal -e Subhan, Syed Farooq Jamil, Musarat Ullah Khan, Naib Ail Pathan, Dr.Najeebullah, Zahida Sarfraz, , Waqas Aslam, Naveed Khalid Khan, Abdul Malik Durrani, Rana Waqar Ali, Azhar Erum Memon, Muhammad Nawaz, Javed Iqbal, Sajjad Amjad and Uzma Munir. The Inland Revenue Service officer Muhammad Asad Tahir is approved for Appointment on Acting Charge Basis from BS-19 to BS-20, cabinet Secretariat Notification said. — APP

Around 1,606 FIRs registered against gas pilferers

ISLAMABAD: The two-state owned companies, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) and Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), have collectively detected around 430,194 gas theft cases causing pilferage of 13,266 MMCF (Million Cubic Feet) gas worth Rs 8.855 billion during the last five years. During a period from 2016-17 to 2019-20, the companies have also registered as many as 1,606 FIRs (First Information Reports) against the gas pilferers, according to an official document available with APP. As per the breakup, the gas utilities detected 51,401 cases, pilferage of 3.814 MMCF gas of Rs 2,369 million and started legal proceedings against 457 thieves in 2015-16. In 2016-17, they registered 261 FIRs, identified 85,317 theft cases involving leakage of 2,457 MMCF gas amounting to Rs 1,250 million. Similarly in 2017-18, the companies spotted 85,466 cases, theft of 1,881 MMCF gas worth Rs1, 009 million and registered 263 FIRs against pilferers.

In 2018-19, they detected 110,058 cases, faced 3,086 MMCF gas theft of Rs 2,296 million and registered 257 FIRs, while in 2019-20 companies identified 97,952 cases, pilferage of 2,028 MMCF gas amounting to Rs 1,930 million and registered 368 FIRs. A senior official privy to petroleum sector developments told APP that in line with the government strategy to reduce line loss, the gas companies were taking all possible measures to bring down the Unaccounted for Gas (UFG) ratio gradually in the coming years. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Germany Bernard Schlagheck witnessing cartoons exhibition at Lok Virsa. — DNA

‘LOC ceasefire shall follow improved situation’

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said the ceasefire is the first step while appreciating it Pakistan shall ask the Indian government to show their seriousness by restoring the IIOJK position as it was on August 4, 2019. All the Kashmiri leaders shall be released from the illegal detention and the occupation of their lands shall be reversed

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The defense experts speaking at a webinar termed the Indian willingness to restore the ceasefire agreement on the Line of Control (LOC) with Pakistan is merely an eyewash. Though the experts welcomed the Indian aspiration for peace on the LOC, they termed the move ‘getting a breathing space for their strategic gain’ and to divert the world's attention from the actual situation in the Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). They said the agreement was inked in 2003 that was revoked by the Indian government unilaterally in 2014 to intensify atrocities in IIOJK. Pakistan shall ask India to do more in real terms to improve the peace and human rights situation in the

IIOJK, and to stop unwarranted propaganda against Pakistan on the global forums.

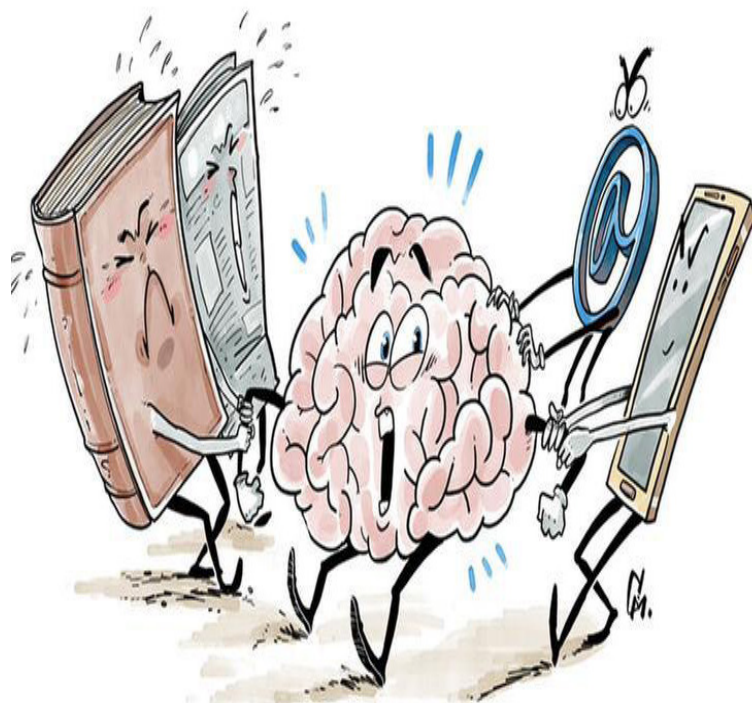
The panel of experts included Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Lt. General (Retd) Talat Masood, and Lt. General (Retd) Muhammad Asad Durrani, Washington-based senior journalist Anwar Iqbal ad Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed. Among others who spoke on the occasion included Dr. Khushboo Ejaz (La-hore), Azhar Aslam (London), Muhammad Waqar Anwar (New Zealand), Sarwat Kazmi, Muhammad Siddique (Karachi), and Ramzan Kakar (Quetta). It may be mentioned here that Pakistan and India on Thursday said that they had recommitted themselves to the 2003 ceasefire arrangement at the Line of Control and agreed to address the ‘core issues’ that

could undermine peace and stability. The surprise announcement was made in a joint statement by the militaries of the two countries in a ‘hotline contact’ between their director general military operations (DGMOs), which had apparently taken place a day earlier. The conversation between Pakistani DGMO Maj Gen Nauman Zakaria and his Indian counterpart Lt Gen Paramjit San-gha was described as “free” and “frank” and held in a “cordial atmosphere”. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said the ceasefire is the first step while appreciating it Pakistan shall ask the Indian government to show their seriousness by restoring the IIOJK position as it was on August 4, 2019. All the Kashmiri leaders shall be released from the illegal detention and the occupation of their lands shall be reversed. He asked India to realize that its Pakistan bashing

strategy has failed miserably. All the nations globally have seen the real Indian face after all the fake makeup initiatives have surfaced recently. For India's face saving, the Prime Minister Modi shall come forward to convene SAARC summit to engage all the countries in peace building efforts, and to launch joint efforts against the challenges of poverty, economic recession, trade and climate change. Lt. General (Retd) Talat Masood prayed that the ceasefire shall last for long though he pointed out that India could not stop itself for long violating the LOC. Pakistan needs to be vigilant about the post-ceasefire movement on the LOC as it could be a strategic move to camouflage. He said the ceasefire means nothing if the situation in the IIOJK doesn't improve, and bilateral relations do not come to a normal.

Shibli leads from the front

HAILING from a novel family and carrying legacy of his great father Ahmed Faraz, Senator Shibli Faraz has successfully lived up to the expectations of his leader Prime Minister Imran Khan in particular and people in general by not only giving new dimensions to advocacy of the government and streamlining the affairs of the information ministry to the satisfaction of the employees and people who are attached to this ministry. An upright and a thorough gentleman, Shibli rightly believes in independence of media and freedom of expression. That is why stakeholders related to the media industry are all praise for him for his being always on their side when it comes resolution of even the longstanding issues. After having interacted with him from the platform of All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) during a recently held meeting, one can find him all agog to address genuine concerns of the media industry. It was with his personal interest that the process of payment of even long pending dues has begun. Besides, the Minister strongly believes in merit and transparency and wants his ministry to be purged of mal-practices. Ever since his taking over of the affairs of the ministry, efforts have been made to put right people on the right job with a view to ensuring smooth and efficient working of the ministry. On diplomatic front the information minister is equally popular and well respected. Diplomats praise him for his keenness in promoting relations with the diplomatic corps with the goal of projecting true and positive image of Pakistan. Keeping in view the interest of the diplomatic community in knowing more about Pakistan and its culture, it is suggested that the information minister may present to them valuable books; souvenirs etc, which are readily available with the Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications (DEMP) to the visiting diplomats. We are sure that this exercise shall already be in practice however level of this exercise may be increased in order to spread the message across rather quickly. The media industry especially the print media is facing hard times mainly because of COVID 19. It therefore needs special attention of the minister to personally look into its problems. One can hope that after his well-deserved re-election to the Senate of Pakistan Minister Shibli Faraz shall intensify its contacts with the media stakeholders for not only perusing them to highlight govt achievements sans prejudice but to address their legitimate issues as well.



FATF hails Pakistan

THE Financial Action Task Force (FATF), in its plenary meeting decided to retain Pakistan on the grey list. The case of Pakistan will be reassessed next at the extraordinary plenary session in June this year. It is hoped that in the June meeting Pakistan shall be able to come out of the grey list. India is trying its utmost to oppose Pakistan in FATF but due to proactive foreign policy of Pakistan and marked improvement in its socio-economic field, the Indian lobby has hitherto failed in its nefarious designs. This was expected; sources from within the PM house claim that the reason for the lack of a diplomatic offensive in anticipation of the review stemmed from the knowledge that June would bring about our removal from the list. The political and military leadership of Pakistan has been working in tandem to get Pakistan out of the so-called grey list. The assessment report shows that Pakistan has made significant progress on the twenty-seven-point plan that was agreed to by Islamabad. If we look at Pakistan's journey, the country has made huge progress from January 2019 when it had to address 25 incomplete points to this day, when it only has three partially complete actionable items. The government deserves credit for showing such an improved level of compliance. Islamabad's hard work has paid off, and now the country is nearing the finishing line. Authorities need to burn the midnight oil to satisfy FATF in the next session to get Pakistan out of the grey list permanently. Govt, PML-N held 'positive talks' over Senate elections: Fawad Chaudhry Remaining on the grey list for such a long period has not cost us politically only. The economic costs are also enormous. According to one report, our placement on the grey list may have resulted in cumulative GDP losses of around \$38 billion. This is a very huge amount. However, it is also true that the plan that FATF handed over to Pakistan was the most rigorous that was ever given to any country. Therefore, our progress is nothing short of commendable. And Pakistan's significant improvement on 24 points shows that we are far away from the once lingering threat of being blacklisted. It is now time to step up diplomatic efforts to make FATF appreciate Pakistan's remarkable journey. Furthermore, Islamabad must also persuade FATF to put India under increased monitoring because of its financial assistance to anti-state actors that are destabilising the region.

US aims to 'decolonize,' but does it really mean it?

Hussain Abdul-Hussain



Biden rejoined the Paris agreement on climate change on his very first day in office. But the US also plans to revive the nuclear deal with Iran, which would allow Tehran to export more than 2 million barrels of oil a day. How does that square with reducing fossil fuel energy, one of the commitments enshrined in the Paris agreement? The Biden team has been selective at the UN too, breaking with multilateral decisions to pursue its own unilateral policy

THERE is a new administration in the White House and a new watchword in US foreign policy: Decolonization. Imperialism, so the reasoning goes, is to blame for all the ills of the world so, to fix it, empires like America must "decolonize." The US, it is said, must see things from the perspective of smaller foreign powers that it has often been at odds with. Those words might describe the worldview of Robert Malley, the new envoy to Iran (not a universally popular appointment). But if Iran is one of those smaller foreign powers, those in the State Department behind the commitment to decolonize are not only misguided, they are woefully misinformed. If imperialism equals occupying and bullying neighboring countries, then Iran, for example, has a long history of it. In 1936, Tehran annexed the Arab Kaab emirate in the south and renamed it Khuzestan. In 1971, Iran occupied three Emirati islands. Yet President Joe Biden, Malley and company don't perceive Iran as a colonizer, only as colonized, which suggests either a lack of historical understanding or flagrant bias. In his book "The Call from Algeria," Malley links the rise of Islamism to the failure of communism in what he calls the Third World. Leaving aside his use of a term that is now deemed offensive, Malley fails to see that Islamism is in fact communism mark II. Both ideologies use populist rhetoric and sanction violence. Had the Soviet Union not collapsed, Islamism would have remained a fringe movement.

If Biden is persuaded by the decolonization argument, the US will up sticks and leave the Gulf, which is exactly what the mullahs have been dreaming of since 1979. The Iranians have hardly made a secret of their intentions: With the US and its military forces gone, the way would be open for Iran to step in as the dominant power in the region, restructuring security and turning neighboring countries into satellite states. Iran has often pressed for admission to the Gulf Cooperation Council, which currently comprises Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman. In fact, Iran would like to go further and replace the GCC with something bigger – which would include not only the Gulf but also the Red Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean, which sounds more like expansionism than decolonizing. The Biden administration is dressing up its decolonization policy as the ditching of Donald Trump's "America First" unilateralism. In reality, the US is being very choosy about just how multilateral it wants to be. Biden rejoined the Paris agreement on climate change on his very first day in office. But the US also plans to revive the nuclear deal with Iran, which would allow Tehran to export more than 2 million barrels of oil a day. How does that square with reducing fossil fuel energy, one of the commitments enshrined in the Paris agreement? The Biden team has been selective at the UN too, breaking with multilateral decisions to pursue its own unilateral policy. Security Council Resolutions 1559 and

1701 call for all militias in Lebanon to disarm and disband. For "all militias," read Hezbollah in particular. Yet the White House – especially when occupied by the Democrats – prefers to talk to Hezbollah rather than enforce UN resolutions. Similarly, on Yemen, the UN Security Council has passed no fewer than nine resolutions imposing an arms embargo, travel ban and asset freeze on any individual or entity connected to the Houthi militia, which is accused of obstructing the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Yet new US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has had the Houthi removed from the US list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations because, he argued, the war in Yemen can only be resolved by talking to the Houthis. Pursuing decolonization and combating climate change appear to give the US the moral high ground. The reality, however, is that foreign policy is never cut and dried or black and white, but rather a frayed mess of gray areas and compromise. The Biden administration seems set to put on a show of "fixing" the world by pursuing decolonization – a term it clearly does not fully understand but will still use to put a gloss on the fact that the US, like all governments, has its own agenda. It will embrace multilateralism when it is expedient. It will "see things from the perspective of smaller foreign powers" when it is advantageous. Under Biden, the US will pick and choose where to dispense its largesse, as all empires do. Impartiality has nothing to do with it.

– *Courtesy: Arab News*

Pakistan's tourism potential

Sherbaz Khetran

Unfortunately, Pakistan lost its appeal for international tourists long ago due to terrorism and uprising of Taliban after 9/11. Even after peace prevailed, there were a number of obstacles hindering the way for the tourism industry in Pakistan. For example, Pakistan's strict visa policy is one of the major reasons to discourage tourism in the country. The entire industry is also jeopardised in Pakistan through different optics and oversensitivity towards foreigners whether they are from western countries or neighbouring South Asian countries

BY offering myriad employment opportunities and a boost to small businesses, tourism is considered one of the major sources of economic activity for any country. The global tourism industry is valued at \$1600 billion and has developed itself as an instrument for creating considerable economic gains. It has also emerged as a major industry for developing and underdeveloped countries. Robust tourism has a lot to offer to any country. Firstly, it increases gross domestic product (GDP), foreign exchange earnings and government revenue like tax collection. Second, it contributes in the generation of job opportunities for locals and foreigners. Third, there is an increase in average income of the local community and improvement in their living standard. Additionally, an improvement and increase in foreign and local investments in development and infrastructure including but not limited to tourism have also been witnessed. Many countries like Malaysia, Turkey, Thailand and UAE have improved their economies through the tourism sector. Pakistan is home to various natural tourist spots and religious sites of ancient civilisations, and is therefore, blessed with natural and historic tourist spots. With immense natural beauty, a rich historical background and cultural diversity, Pakistan can become a hub of tourist activity from across the globe given proper infrastructural development, planning and a vision for the tourism industry by the government. Tourism and culture share great linkages with other industries in the national economy, and

are drivers of economic growth. They help in major indirect earnings across different sectors, and also play a part in enhancing foreign and private investments, trade, local development, and public infrastructure. To better understand the role of tourism in economic development, the model of Malaysia, which is considered a hot tourism destination in the world, should be followed. In 1999, Malaysia's tourism board started a campaign called "Malaysia Truly Asia", that proved to be a success by bringing in over 7.9 million of tourists into Malaysia. It led to the generation of around RM 12.3 billion in revenue. Unfortunately, Pakistan lost its appeal for international tourists long ago due to terrorism and uprising of Taliban after 9/11. Even after peace prevailed, there were a number of obstacles hindering the way for the tourism industry in Pakistan. For example, Pakistan's strict visa policy is one of the major reasons to discourage tourism in the country. The entire industry is also jeopardised in Pakistan through different optics and oversensitivity towards foreigners whether they are from western countries or neighbouring South Asian countries. Moreover, recreational items and free movement are prerequisites for the promotion of tourism. However, in Pakistan, acts like public destruction of confiscated alcohol works as a barrier for foreigners to visit the country. Furthermore, it only depicts the innate hypocrisy of society, where there is a huge difference in theory and practice of the people. Societal malpractices are conducted on a regular basis in society on a large scale. On the other side, fellow Muslim countries

are relaxing their policies to portray a more tourist-friendly image. UAE is the epitome of thriving tourism. UAE has recently allowed live-in relationships and the availability of alcohol in restaurants. Previously, it was only allowed in hotels and clubs. Saudi Arabia has also started to ease its policy by allowing cinema, theatre, women driving and clubs. Mechanisms should be developed which will address such concerns while keeping cultural and religious sensitivities in mind. Dubai is already the hotbed of thriving tourism and attracts a lot of investment from all over the world, including Pakistan in real-estate due to its tourism and convenient business policies. Despite having the best tourist's spots in the world from beaches to mountains, northern areas, vast deserts and oldest civilisations like Mehar Garh in Balochistan and other beautiful scenic locations in KP, Gilgit Baltistan, Sindh and South Punjab, Pakistan has yet to traverse a long road to revive its tourism industry. As a thriving economy, tourism has a lot to offer and Pakistan has a lot to learn in this regard. With optimum allocation of resources in the industry, maximum outputs can be achieved for the country, benefitting both the government and the locals. It is high time for Pakistan to revive its tourism industry by easing its visa policies and by opening up society and accepting the differences of others. It demands a more comprehensive effort on part of the government, civil society and media to help promote the positives of the country and to make it a tourist-friendly destination.

– *Courtesy The Nation*

Briefs

'Asia Cup not possible due to ICC clash'

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Ehsan Mani stated that the ACC Asia Cup 2021 would be impossible this year due to a clash with the inaugural ICC World Test Championship's (WTC) final.

Mani said in a presser at a local hotel in Karachi while revealing the outcomes of the 61st Board of Governors (BOG) meeting where was accompanied by CEO Wasim Khan, National High-Performance Centre (NHPC) Director Nadeem Khan and CFO Barrister Salman Naseer. "Sri Lanka had said it would host [the ACC Asia Cup 2021] in June but there's now a clash of dates as the ICC Test Championship's final match is in June. It is likely to be postponed till 2023," Mani said.

The Asia cup is likely to get postponed as India is close to qualifying for the ICC WTC's final final against New Zealand. The match is scheduled to take place in June at Lord's, London.

"We are waiting for the official confirmation but we are clear it's not possible this year," Wasim further added. Meanwhile, Mani said that the PCB have sought guarantee from the ICC for the players, fans, journalists' visas ahead of the T20 World Cup scheduled to be held in India in October this year.

"We have sought a written guarantee from the ICC in this regard. I have one more meeting with ICC tomorrow where I will once again raise this matter. ICC have said that they will assure us in March" he added.

Myanmar's UN envoy fired after anti-army speech

WEB DESK

YANGON: Myanmar's military rulers say they have fired the country's ambassador to the United Nations, a day after he called for help to remove the army from power. In an emotional speech, Kyaw Moe Tun said no-one should co-operate with the military until it handed back power to the democratically elected government. UN sources told Reuters that as they do not recognise the junta, Kyaw Moe Tun remains Myanmar's UN ambassador. Security forces intensified a crackdown on anti-coup protesters on Saturday.

Local media say dozens were arrested, and that a woman was shot in the city of Monywa. Her condition is not clear. The country has been rocked by protests since top government leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi, were overthrown and detained after the army took power on 1 February. Speaking at the UN General Assembly on Friday, Kyaw Moe Tun urged the international community to use "any means necessary to take action" against the military to help "restore the democracy", saying he was representing Ms Suu Kyi's ousted government.

"We need further strongest possible action from the international community to immediately end the military coup, to stop oppressing the innocent people, to return the state power to the people and to restore the democracy," he said.

Roadside bomb kills 3 in Somali capital

FOREIGN DESK

MOGADISHU: At least three people, including two soldiers, were killed in a bomb blast targeting a military vehicle in the Somali capital on Sunday, police said. Police officials told Anadolu Agency that the bomb targeted army Chief Gen. Abbas Amin Ali and other senior military officials. The general and other military officials escaped unhurt, security sources said, adding that the convoy was attacked on Mogadishu's KM4 intersection while heading to the Defense Ministry. While the number of injured is not known, a civilian was also among those killed. Al-Shabaab, a Somali-based al-Qaeda-affiliated terrorist group, claimed responsibility for the attack.



Match-10



Qalandars beat Kings by 6 wickets in thrilling encounter

Mohammad Nabi supported Kings' score and scored 57 runs off 35 balls with the help of four boundaries and three sixes. Daniel Christian remained unlucky and got run out after scoring quick 27 runs off 14 balls laced with five boundaries

DNA

KARACHI: Sharjeel Khan and Mohammad Nabi helped Karachi Kings to post 186-9 in 20 overs Lahore Qalandars in 11th match of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season 6. Sent into bat first, Kings' opener Sharjeel kept his nerves calm despite watching his partner Babar Azam being bowled out by Shaheen Shah Afridi. Sharjeel made the most of a couple of drop catches and struck five boundaries and six maximums to score 64 runs.

Mohammad Nabi supported Kings' score and scored 57 runs off 35 balls with the help of four boundaries and three sixes. Daniel Christian remained unlucky and got run out after scoring quick 27 runs off 14 balls laced with five boundaries.

Lahore Qalandars have been given a challenging total of



187 to chase against Karachi Kings, in the eleventh match of the Pakistan Super League's sixth season at the National Stadium in Karachi on Sunday. Kings' Sharjeel Khan (64 off 39 balls) and Mohammad Nabi (57 off 35 balls) were able to steer the side to the sizeable total, after an early set back as the side lost three wickets inside of five overs. The build-up to the Karachi Kings-Lahore Qalandars match – arguably dubbed the El Clásico of the PSL 2021 – has been exciting to say the least, considering that both sides come in from similar positions, having won two out of their first three encounters. However, defending champions Karachi Kings have a slight edge over Qalandars due to better net run rate (NRR) as well as the advantage of the outcome of their face-off last year during the PSL 2020 final in which they defeated Qalandars.

Auckland in lockdown for second time in a month

FOREIGN DESK

AUCKLAND: New Zealand's largest city, Auckland, began its second lockdown in a month on Sunday as health authorities try to contain a cluster of the more contagious coronavirus variant first identified in the United Kingdom. The seven-day lockdown of the city of nearly two million people came exactly one year after New Zealand recorded its first coronavirus case. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced the measure late on Saturday, after a new coronavirus case was located in the community which could not directly be linked to earlier cases. The case involved a

21-year-old student who had been infectious for a week but had not been in isolation. "Despite our best efforts to date, recent cases have gone to work when they shouldn't have," Ardern told a televised news conference. "It is more than likely there will be additional cases in the community." Sunday's lockdown follows a three-day stay-at-home order in mid-February after a local emergence of the UK variant of the new coronavirus that causes COVID-19. There are now about 14 cases linked to the cluster. "COVID kills people. We must never lose sight of the reasons we take these measures – it is to save our people's lives and our livelihoods," said Ardern.

Bangladesh under 'no obligation' to take Rohingya

WEB DESK

DHAKA: Bangladesh is under "no obligation" to shelter 81 Muslim Rohingya refugees adrift for almost two weeks on the Andaman Sea and being assisted by neighboring India, Bangladesh foreign minister AK Abdul Momen said. India's coast-guard found the survivors and eight dead crammed on a fishing boat and was trying to arrange for Bangladesh to take them, Indian officials said on Friday. While feeding the refugees and giving them water, India was not planning to take them ashore. But Momen told the Reuters news agency late on Friday that Bangladesh expects India, the closest country, or Myanmar, the Rohingya's country of origin, to accept them. "They are not Bangladesh nationals and in fact, they are Myanmar nationals. They were found 1,700km (1,100 miles) away

from the Bangladesh maritime territory and therefore, we have no obligation to take them," said Momen, who is in the United States. "They were located 147km (91 miles) away from Indian territory, 324km (201 miles) away from Myanmar," he said by phone, adding that other countries and organizations should take care of the refugees. Indian foreign ministry officials were not immediately available for comment. New Delhi did not sign the 1951 Refugee Convention, which spells out refugee rights and state responsibilities to protect them. Nor does it have a law protecting refugees, though it currently hosts more than 200,000, including some Rohingya. More than one million Rohingya refugees from predominantly Buddhist Myanmar are living in teeming camps in Muslim-majority Bangladesh, including tens of thousands who fled after Myanmar's military conducted a deadly crackdown in 2017.

Islamabad XI win friendly match against Karachi XI

He said that sports were an important source of generating business activities worth billions of dollars and Pakistan could also improve its economy by focusing on promotion of sports. Renowned real estate and property developer M/s. Sukoon Vista sponsored the event

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: A star studded friendly cricket match was organized by Media Sniffers between Islamabad XI and Karachi XI, which was won by Islamabad XI. Renowned real estate and property developer M/s. Sukoon Vista sponsored the event. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry was the Chief Guest at the occasion and he along with Senator Faisal Javed distributed the prizes amongst the players. Besides Deputy Mayor Islamabad Zeeshan Naqvi,

many showbiz celebrities including Faisal Qureshi, Agha Sheeraz, Saleem Sheikh, Saood, Tehseen Javed, Adnan Akmal participated in the friendly cricket match. Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry appreciated the initiative of organizing star-studded friendly cricket match between Islamabad and Karachi teams, which provided great entertainment to the spectators at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has deprived people of sports and entertainment activities. He said that sports were an impor-

tant source of generating business activities worth billions of dollars and Pakistan could also improve its economy by focusing on promotion of sports. He said that the spread of coronavirus was now on the declining trend and hoped that in coming days, more sports activities would be held in Pakistan. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan appreciated the decision of the government for allowing 50 percent crowds in PSL matches besides lifting the time limit from commercial activities and allowing indoor wedding ceremonies that would help in generating more business and economic activities in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Thereek insaf Senator Faisal Javaid, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Rentole Raja Asad Zaheer posing for a group photograph along with Karachi Showbiz stars and Islamabad Star Cricket teams players friendly cricket match at Shalimar Cricket Ground. – DNA

'Pakistan only country to prevail against terrorism'

He said that after the inclusion of Pakistan in the Student Direct Stream launched by Canada to fast-track visa processing for international students, Pakistan had become the third largest source country in South Asia for the Canadian colleges and universities

DNA

OTTAWA: Pakistan High Commissioner in Canada Raza Bashir Tarar has said that Pakistan is the only country which has the distinction of prevailing against terrorism, especially urban guerrilla warfare, and it knows the value of peace and is committed to promoting it at all levels. "Pakistan is a responsible international player as it has already served seven times in the UN Security Council and contributed practically to the flagship activities of the UN for global and regional

peace," he said while attending an interview with Canadian radio Connect 91.5 FM today. Speaking about Pakistan's efforts for promotion of peace in South Asia, Raza Bashir Tarar said that incidents such as Pulwama and the subsequent capture and release of Indian pilot by Pakistan as well as the construction of Kartarpur Corridor on the one hand and inhuman treatment of Kashmiris and other minorities, including its farmers in recent days, by the Indian state on the other, were apparent to the outside world which could clearly see the Indian hypocrisy in glossing over



and sidelining the Kashmir issue behind the veil of democracy and economic diplomacy.

He said the core issue between Pakistan and India was Kashmir and the South Asian diaspora in Canada, particularly the Indian community and the local Canadi-

ans could play an important role in promoting peace in South Asia by impressing upon the Indian government that its efforts to pursue a primitive ideology of Hindu supremacy were bound to fail in today's world which firmly sees peace and tranquility as the only way forward to further human progress and development in any society and region. Talking about the low number of Pakistani students getting enrolled in the Canadian colleges and universities despite Pakistan's inclusion in the Student Direct Stream, Raza Bashir Tarar said that it was unjust to suggest

that there was any systemic bias against Pakistani students as the statistics shared by the Canadian authorities with Pakistan in recent days had shown a significant increase in the grant of study permits to Pakistani students despite the fact that grant of visa was a sovereign right of any country. He said that after the inclusion of Pakistan in the Student Direct Stream launched by Canada to fast-track visa processing for international students, Pakistan had become the third largest source country in South Asia for the Canadian colleges and universities.

PSL-6 Fixture

Monday, March 1: Islamabad United v Quetta Gladiators (7pm)

Wednesday, March 3: Karachi Kings v Peshawar Zalmi (2pm); Quetta Gladiators v Multan Sultans (7pm)

Thursday, March 4: Lahore Qalandars v Islamabad United (7pm)

Friday, March 5: Multan Sultans v Karachi Kings (7pm)

Saturday, March 6: Islamabad United v Quetta Gladiators (2pm); Peshawar Zalmi v Lahore Qalandars (7pm)

Sunday, March 7: Multan Sultans v Quetta Gladiators (2pm); Islamabad United v Karachi Kings (7pm)

Wednesday, March 10: Peshawar Zalmi v Karachi Kings (7pm)

Thursday, March 11: Quetta Gladiators v Lahore Qalandars (7pm)

Friday, March 12: Multan Sultans v Peshawar Zalmi (3pm); Islamabad United v Lahore Qalandars (8pm)

Saturday, March 13: Quetta Gladiators v Karachi Kings (2pm); Multan Sultans v Islamabad United (7pm)

Sunday, March 14: Quetta Gladiators v Peshawar Zalmi (2pm); Lahore Qalandars v Karachi Kings (7pm)

Monday, March 15: Islamabad United v Peshawar Zalmi (7pm)

Tuesday, March 16: Multan Sultans v Lahore Qalandars (7pm)

Thursday, March 18: Qualifier (1 v 2) (7pm)

Friday, March 19: Eliminator 1 (3 v 4) (7pm)

Saturday, March 20: Eliminator 2 (loser Qualifier v winner Eliminator 1) (7pm)

Monday, March 22: Final (7pm)

Pak 'recognises' Saudi efforts

From Page 01

Jamal Khashoggi," Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said in a statement issued here.

It added: "We have also noted that the Saudi government termed Jamal Khashoggi's murder as an 'abhorrent crime' and a 'flagrant violation' of the Kingdom's laws and values." The Saudi government has further underlined that it took all possible measures within its legal system to ensure that the individuals responsible were properly investigated, convicted and sentenced and that justice was served, the spokesperson mentioned.

"Pakistan recognizes Saudi efforts in this regard and expresses solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," he added. "Pakistan underscores adherence to the rule of law, respect for national sovereignty, and protection and promotion of human rights by all states, in accordance with their respective Constitutional frameworks and international obligations," the spokesperson maintained.

No progress until a nation examines past

From Page 01

He said Nadana was a seat of learning in the past, which needs to be showcased in the world. He said the government is going to develop this spot as modern village to provide facilities to tourists. He said this will bring the entire area on the world tourism map. Imran Khan said Pakistan has great historic sites in Lahore, Peshawar, and other parts of the country and we have to develop them to attract foreign and domestic tourists, which will generate economic activities and bring prosperity to the area.

The Prime Minister said Turkey earns 40 billion dollars from historic sites' tourism and Malaysia gets around 20 billion dollars from coastal tourism.

He said Pakistan has enormous potential for religious tourism, which include great Buddhist sites, while Sikhs and Hindus too have immense attractions in the form of Nankana Sahib, Kartarpur Sahib, and other Gurdwaras as well as Katas Raj temple.

He said Pakistan is a land of Sufism and anyone having interest in this regard will learn a lot from the teachings sufi saints like Baba Farid, Data Sahib, and Baba Bulleh Shah by visiting their shrines.

Briefs

UN, European states call on Israel to halt demolitions

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations and European members of the Security Council on Friday called on Israel to stop demolitions of Bedouin settlements in the Jordan Valley, and for humanitarian access to the community living in Humsa Al-Baqia. In a joint statement at the end of a monthly session of the Security Council on the conflict in the Middle East, Estonia, France, Ireland, Norway and Britain said they were "deeply concerned at the recent repeated demolitions and confiscation of items, including of EU and donor funded structures carried out by Israeli authorities at Humsa Al-Baqia in the Jordan Valley." It said the concern was also focused on the 70 people or so living in the Bedouin community, including 41 children. "We reiterate our call on Israel to halt demolitions and confiscations," the statement said. "We further call on Israel to allow full, sustained and unimpeded humanitarian access to the community in Humsa Al-Baqia." Humsa al-Baqia sits in the Jordan Valley, a fertile and strategic patch of land that runs from Lake Tiberias to the Dead Sea, which has emerged as a flashpoint in the struggle over the West Bank.

It is in the West Bank's so-called Area C, occupied Palestinian territory that remains under full Israeli military control. Under Israeli military law, Palestinians cannot build structures in the area without permits, which are typically refused, and demolitions are common.

Yemeni govt urges NGO's to save lives of civilians

MARIB: Since the Houthi Coup in September 2014, the governorate of Marib has become a home for more than 2 million displaced people who fled the brutality and oppression of the Houthi militia in search of safety. Since the beginning of February 2021, Marib has endured the largest and fiercest Houthi offensive in which Houthis used all kinds of heavy weapons, including artillery, drone bombs, and ballistic missiles, and in just one night, last night, the city was hit by 10 ballistic missiles. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses its extreme surprise at the silence of the international human rights organizations and their statements that do not hold the perpetrator accountable, while they watch and hear the risks faced by millions of civilians and displaced persons as a result of Houthi assaults that did not respect international human rights law.

Casualties as Russian helicopter crash-lands in Syria

FOREIGN DESK

DAMASCUS: Russia's Defense Ministry says a Russian Mi-35 helicopter made an emergency landing for technical reasons in north-eastern Syria. A Russian military helicopter made an emergency landing for technical reasons in northeast Syria, Russia's Defense Ministry has said. Syria's state media said there were casualties among the crew. Russia joined Syria's war in September 2015 and has since helped tip the balance of power in favor of Bashar al Assad's regime. Russian troops are deployed in different parts of Syria, including the northeast. Syrian regime news agency SANA said the incident happened on Sunday morning near the village of Tel Tamr in northeastern Al Hasakah province. One crew member was killed and others were wounded, the report said, without further details. The Russian Defense Ministry said a Russian Mi-35 helicopter made an emergency landing for technical reasons while patrolling Al Hasakah province. "According to the crew's report, there was no firing impact on the helicopter," the ministry statement said.

Saudi Arabia rejects US intelligence report

The relevant authorities in the Kingdom took all possible measures within our legal system to ensure that these individuals were properly investigated, and to ensure that justice was served

DNA

RIYADH: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has followed the report submitted to the United States' Congress regarding the heinous murder of Saudi citizen Jamal Khashoggi. The Ministry notes that the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia completely rejects the negative, false and unacceptable assessment in the report pertaining to the Kingdom's leadership, and notes that the report contained inaccurate information and conclusions. The Ministry reiterates what was previously announced by the relevant authorities in the Kingdom, that this was an abhorrent crime and a flagrant violation of the Kingdom's laws and values. This crime was committed by a group of individuals that have transgressed all pertinent regulations and authorities of the agencies where they were employed. The relevant authorities in the Kingdom took all possible measures within our legal system to ensure that these individuals were prop-



erly investigated, and to ensure that justice was served. The concerned individuals were

convicted and sentenced by the courts in the Kingdom, and these sentences were wel-

comed by the family of Jamal Khashoggi, may he Rest In Peace. It is truly unfortunate that this report, with its unjustified and inaccurate conclusions, is issued while the Kingdom had clearly denounced this heinous crime, and the Kingdom's leadership took the necessary steps to ensure that such a tragedy never takes place again. The Kingdom rejects any measure that infringes upon its leadership, sovereignty, and the independence of its judicial system. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirms that the partnership between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America is a robust and enduring partnership. This partnership has thrived for nearly eight decades on the basis of mutual respect, and the institutions in both countries have worked diligently to deepen these ties in all aspects, through increased cooperation and consultations to bolster security and stability in the region and the world. We look forward to maintaining the enduring foundations that have shaped the framework of the resilient strategic partnership between the Kingdom and the United States.

Covid-19 boosts Pak-China friendship: Report

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan all-weather friendship gained greater strength and the steadfast strategic mutual trust as well as witnessing in-depth cooperative partnership in the present pandemic during its first year. It was also a clear manifestation of "a friend in need is a friend in deed", says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Saturday. The report says, the true value of a relationship between individuals or countries can be judged during difficult times such as natural calamities and disease outbreaks. As a gesture of friendship, Pakistan's President Dr. Arif Alvi visited Beijing in March 2020 and expressed Islamabad's abiding support and solidarity with China in its fight against the coronavirus. Soon the coronavirus cases started ap-

pearing in different parts of the World. Pakistan reported its first two cases of COVID-19 on February 26, 2020. For a struggling economy like Pakistan's, it was impossible to fight COVID-19 without relief assistance from friendly countries. At a time when every country of the world was focused on protecting its citizens from the virus, China sent a special plane carrying a team of medical professionals and relief assistance to Pakistan on March 28. In addition to the Government of China, Alibaba Foundation and Jack Ma Foundation also donated test kits and facemasks to Pakistan. China also handed over ventilators to treat critical patients in hospitals. A team of eight medical experts from China remained in Pakistan for two weeks and assisted Pakistani doctors and health experts in battling the coronavirus. Chinese assistance was not only

limited to the medical field, as the People's Republic of China also provided grant assistance of \$ 15 million to Pakistan to fight COVID-19. As the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths grew in Pakistan, China also increased its assistance to the country. In late 2020, different pharmaceutical companies developed coronavirus vaccines and mass vaccination programs started in the world. At this critical time, China announced 500,000 doses of Sino pharm vaccine for Pakistan. During the past one year, Pakistan has around 576, 000 recorded infections with over 12,700 deaths linked to COVID-19. Pandemics like corona will come and dissipate. However, this period has further strengthened China-Pakistan friendship. As a Chinese proverb goes, "friends show their love in times of troubles, not in happiness", the report added.

Ten killed in bloodiest day of Myanmar protests

FOREIGN DESK

YANGON: Security forces in Myanmar moved quickly to stamp out protests against military rule on Sunday, firing live bullets at demonstrators in the main city of Yangon and other cities, killing at least six people and wounding several in the bloodiest day of weeks of demonstrations. Police were out in force early and opened fire in different parts of Yangon after stun grenades, tear gas and shots in the air failed to break up crowds. Soldiers also reinforced police. The Myanmar Now media group posted a video of a wounded man lying on the street near the Hledan Centre intersection in Yangon, and said he had been "shot in his chest area by

what appeared to be live ammunition". A man who witnessed the shooting told the Frontier Magazine that the police had fired live rounds at protesters sheltering at a bus station and that "one person died and others are wounded". A doctor at the hospital the man was taken to confirm his death to news agency. Police also opened fire in Dawei in the south, killing three and wounding several, politician Kyaw Min Htike told Sources from the town. An emergency services charity reported two dead in the central town of Bago. Ambulance driver Than Lwin Oo told International news agency he had sent the bodies of the 18-year-olds to the mortuary at Bago's main hospital.

Armenia urged to stop illegally deploying its troops

DNA

BAKU: Baku has urged Yerevan to stop illegally deploying Armenian servicemen on Azerbaijan's internationally-recognized territories and called on international organizations to take relevant steps, the Foreign Ministry reported in a statement posted on its website on February 27. "The Azerbaijani side demands that Armenia puts an end to the illegal deployment of its armed forces on the Azerbaijani territory and calls on the international community to take the necessary measures to put an end to such provocative actions by Armenia. At the same time, it is important that organizations with a mandate to protect human rights strongly condemn the actions of Armenia that grossly violate the human rights and freedoms of the members of its Armed Forces, endangering their lives and health without the need

for legal protection, and take measures to compel this country to refrain from such activities," the statement said. The ministry stressed that Azerbaijan "declares once again that in order to ensure peace and stability, prosperity and sustainable economic development in the region, Armenia has no other alternative than the full and conscientious fulfillment of all its obligations arising from international law, as well as joint statements signed on November 10, 2020 and January 11, 2021". "After the signing of a joint statement on November 10, 2020, which entailed the cessation of all hostilities between Azerbaijan and Armenia, there are cases of sending personnel of the Armenian armed forces for military service in the internationally recognized territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which contradicts the norms and principles of international law,

the basic principles of international human rights," the statement said. The ministry said, quoting international media agencies operating in Armenia that "the personnel of the Armenian armed forces was fraudulently or by coercion involved in military activities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, which caused protests from both the military personnel and their family members. The information stated that the parents of the servicemen openly protested against the enlistment of their children in the military service in Azerbaijan, that the Armenian servicemen were secretly transported through the Lachin corridor and forcibly placed on the territories of Azerbaijan, where their lives were endangered, and they themselves were subjected to torture and inhuman treatment". The ministry described that act as a clear violation of international law.

UNSC calls for global cease-fires

UNITED NATIONS: The UN Security Council has unanimously adopted a resolution calling on all member states to support a "sustained humanitarian pause" to local conflicts, in order to allow for coronavirus vaccinations. Resolution 2656, adopted unanimously on Friday by the 15-member council, will enable the vaccines, which COVAX began distributing on February 24, to reach those living in conflict areas. Briefing journalists afterwards, World Health Organization (WHO) chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus argued that more could be done. While welcoming the historic resolution and upholding the importance of vaccine equity, he said that concrete steps should be taken to waive intellectual property rights to increase vaccine production and get rid of the virus as soon as possible. "The virus has taken the whole world hostage", Tedros said. "The UN Security Council can do it, if there is political will". — APP

Israeli-owned vessel docked in Dubai

FOREIGN DESK

DUBAI: An Israeli-owned cargo ship that suffered a mysterious explosion in the Gulf of Oman has arrived at Dubai's port for repairs, days after the blast revived security concerns about the Middle East's waterways amid heightened tensions with Iran. The hulking Israeli-owned MV Helios Ray sat at dry dock facilities at Dubai's Port Rashid on Sunday. Although the crew was unharmed in the blast, the vessel sustained two holes on its port side and two on its starboard side just above the waterline, according to American defense officials. It remains unclear what caused the explosion, but the incident comes amid sharply rising tension between the United States and Iran over its unravelling 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. Iran has sought to pressure President Joe Biden's administra-

tion to give it the sanctions relief it had received under the accord, which former President Donald Trump abandoned. Emirati officials did not immediately acknowledge or respond to requests for comment on the vessel docking in the country. The blast on the ship, a Bahamian-flagged roll-on, roll-off vehicle cargo vessel, recalled a string of attacks on foreign oil tankers in 2019 that the US Navy blamed on Iran. Tehran denied any role in the suspected assaults, which happened near the Strait of Hormuz, a key oil chokepoint. On Saturday, Israel's defense minister Benny Gantz said an initial assessment found Iran was responsible for the explosion. Gilad Erdan, Israeli ambassador to the US and United Nations, told Israel's Army Radio on Sunday "it was no secret that the Iranians are trying to harm Israeli targets", adding the explosion on the ship bore the hallmarks of other Iranian attacks.

Iran receives China's Sinopharm jabs

WEB DESK

TEHRAN: Iran received 250,000 doses of the Sinopharm vaccine on Sunday that have been donated by the government of China. "This act and those similar to it by the government and nation of China are admirable and will of course remain in the historical memory of the Iranian nation," Kianoush Jahanpour, spokesman of the Food and Drug Administration, told state TV. The delivery came on the same day that Iran's total deaths from COVID-19 surpassed 60,000. The country has also recorded more than 1.6 million cases. After Russia's Sputnik V, the first doses of which were delivered earlier this month and used to inoculate frontline healthcare workers, the Sinopharm vaccine is the second foreign vaccine imported to Iran. It is also to be used as part of the country's national vaccination programme, which from Wednesday moved to vulnerable groups after frontline healthcare workers. According to Alireza Raisi, spokesman of the national anti-coronavirus task force, the government hopes to begin inoculating an estimated 1.3 million vulnerable Iranians before the end of the current Iranian calendar year on March 20, and finish their vaccination one month later. He also said on Saturday that Iran will know soon when exactly it will take delivery of 4.2 million doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine as part of COVAX, a global vaccine initiative by the World Health Organization. Iranian officials have also hinted at the possibility of importing a vaccine from India's Bharat Biotech.

Saudi Arabia 'intercepts ballistic missile over Riyadh'

FOREIGN DESK

RIYADH: Multiple explosions were heard and the night skies above Saudi Arabia's capital, Riyadh, lit up with bright flashes on Saturday as a Saudi-led military coalition announced the thwarting of a missile attack that it blamed on Yemen's Houthi rebels. Brigadier General Turki al-Malki, a spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition, said in a statement the Houthis launched a ballistic missile towards Riyadh and three booby-trapped drones towards the province of Jizan, with a fourth towards the southwestern city of Khamis Mushait. No casualties were reported, although state-run Al Ekhbariya television said fragments of the missile scattered over several Riyadh neighbourhoods, damaging at least one home. The Iranian-aligned Houthis said they deployed a ballistic missile and nine drones at "sensitive targets" in Riyadh and six drones at military sites in Abha and Khamis Mushait.

'Pak widening trade deficit can be restrained'

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM) has asked the government to give the export industry status to the local vending industry, which is fully capable of bridging the huge gap of everising trade deficit not only through enhancing exports but also controlling unbridled imports through 'import deletion' of industrial replacement parts. In a letter, written to the Federal Minister for Industries and Production Hammad Azhar, the association has asked the government that there is a huge possibility of 'import deletion' of industrial replacement parts, in addition to the automotive parts, through public-private partnership (PPP). "Through 'import deletion' we can minimize our dependence on imported goods by using reverse engineering technology in Pakistan under public-private partnership in line with the Chinese model, preventing the rapid outflow of billions of dollars spent on imported merchandise," said Convener Business Development Committee PAAPAM MR. Mirza Sikander Baig in the letter.

Promotion of Pak-Belarus trade ties discussed

The Ambassador highlighted the potential of expanding trade ties between Pakistan and Belarus, especially import of fish products, rice and fruits from Pakistan for the Santa chain stores

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Pakistan to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan held a meeting with Alexander Moshensky, a leading

Belarusian businessman, owner of JV "Santa Bremor" LLC (group of companies) and the Honorary Consul of Iceland in the Republic of Belarus. Besides, he owns 220 retail stores, the third largest retail chain stores in Belarus.

"Santa Bremor products (about 900 items) are sold in 29 countries of the world. The Ambassador highlighted the potential of expanding trade ties between Pakistan and Belarus, especially import

of fish products, rice and fruits from Pakistan for the Santa chain stores. Appreciating the briefing, Moshensky offered to start importing fish products from Pakistan. He also offered to facilitate the

Mission in licensing procedure, a mandatory requirement for approving the fish exporting companies. It was agreed to hold further discussions with textile companies in Brest city of Belarus in the coming months.



Briefs

FBR issues
tax notices
to 2.1 million
Pakistanis

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue has issued notices tax notices to 2.1 people across the country, it said Sunday. These individuals either didn't file their returns, misinformed the tax authorities or hid their income, the FBR said in a statement. The number of tax filers in Pakistan has increased to 2,623,000, according to the FBR. During the same period last year, 2,430,000 people filed their wealth statements.

The FBR seized 57% more contraband as compared to the same period in the last fiscal year. It confiscated consignments worth Rs4 billion in the month of February alone. Point-of-sale machines were installed at 9,952 major retail stores across the country, the revenue authority said. Several shopping centres have also been linked with the FBR's system, it added. The FBR has warned of action against the ones not abiding by the tax laws.

COVID-19
claims 23
more lives

ZUBAIR AHMED

ISLAMABAD: The national tally on Sunday of total active COVID-19 cases recorded 21,836 with 1,176 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 2,502 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours.

As many as 23 corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 22 of them were under treatment in hospital and one in their respective quarantines and homes 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 the Punjab followed by Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Some 38,920 tests were conducted across the country on Saturday, including 11,225 in Sindh, 15,786 in Punjab, 6,361 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 4,338 in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 428 in Balochistan, 314 in GB, and 468 in AJK. Around 545,277 people have recovered from the disease so far across Pakistan making it a significant count with over 90 percent recovery ratio of the affected patients.

Sindh opposes
regular 5-day
classes

KHAYAM ABBASI

KARACHI: The Sindh government on Sunday opposed the decision of the federal government allowing schools to resume 5-day regular classes from March 1, saying the announcement has "created confusion among the students." Speaking to the media, Sindh Education Minister Saeed Ghani said that as per the decision of the provincial government, schools will only allow 50% attendance, adding that regular classes cannot be resumed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Emphasising the importance of following the coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs), the minister added that children going to school will be required to maintain social distancing in the classroom. "How will children maintain social distancing if we allow 100 % attendance?" Ghani questioned, "Once the pandemic end, all children will be allowed to go to school." He said that even though the federal education minister has allowed 100% attendance across schools, the Sindh Education Department has its own steering committee responsible for taking provincial decisions. "The decision to reopen schools was also taken by the committee," he said. The minister also reminded people that while COVID-19 cases have reduced in the province, the pandemic has not ended yet.

Chinese investment to Pakistan
tops with \$402.8m in 7 months

The power sector attracted the highest investment of \$475.8m against \$373m in the same period of last financial year; an increase of 27.6 per cent

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chinese investment to Pakistan tops with dollar 402.8 million during seven months of the current fiscal year.

According to a report published by Gwadar Pro, China's vote of confidence in Pakistan's economy deepens after China stays atop as the sole highest contributor of net foreign direct investment (FDI) when compared to other countries in Pakistan. The net FDI inflow from China remains at dollar 402.8million which is touted highest in the list of inflows from other countries. Chinese net FDI pouring comes at a time when overall FDI from other countries dipped by 27 percent during the

first seven months of the current fiscal year.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) report, others from where over \$100m net FDI were bagged were the Netherlands and Hong Kong, as they invested \$122m and \$105m, respectively, during the first seven months of FY21. The inflows of FDI from the UK (\$83.8m), the US (\$73.5m) and Malta (\$60.6m) were also significant during the seven months.

A drastic change in the inflows from Norway affected the overall inflow of FDI this year. The SBP data shows that during the seven months of the previous fiscal year, the inflow from Norway was \$288.5m.

While in the seven months of the current financial year a net out-

flow of \$25.8m was noted instead of any inflow from the Scandinavian country. Meanwhile, with Chinese investment tend, the inflow of remittances being sent by the overseas Pakistanis, national kitty becomes healthy.

Remittances during the seven months of the current fiscal year were up by 24pc as the country received \$16.5bn. Trust of Chinese investors is blossoming as out of a total of 117 foreign companies registered in SECP, the maximum belonged to China in 2020.

The report added, other investors hailed from Australia, Germany, Iran, Italy, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Lebanon, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, the UAE, the UK and the US.

The highest number of companies was registered in Islamabad (628), followed by Lahore (625) and Karachi (349). SECP has registered 1,956 new companies in November 2020, indicating an increase of 41% as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

The power sector attracted the highest investment of \$475.8m against \$373m in the same period of last financial year; an increase of 27.6 per cent.

Within the power sector, coal power attracted the highest investment as the inflow reached \$271m compared to \$233m in the same period of FY20. The hydel power attracted \$111m and thermal received \$93.9m. The financial business (banks) attracted slightly higher FDI com-

pared to last fiscal as it received \$181.3m against \$178.9m in the same period of last fiscal year. In the oil and gas exploration sector, the inflow declined to \$136.7m compared to \$186.5m last year. The sector has been attractive for the investors but the slow growth in this sector reflects the declining interest of the investors.

The trade sector noted vital change as it attracted \$118m compared to just \$22.3m in the same period of last fiscal year. The FDI in electrical machinery dropped to \$70.5m compared to \$133.2m in the previous year. Financial sector experts said despite all-out efforts and incentives, exports grew slowly while foreign investment could see a change once the country exits the FATF grey list.



ISLAMABAD: Hamad Obaid Alzaabi, the UAE Ambassador in Islamabad, honors the winners of the 8 km and 5 km races, organized in the diplomatic enclave. In this picture Ambassador of Jordan gets his prize from the UAE ambassador. – DNA

ECP asks for avoiding
illegal practices

The candidate would not make any transaction towards the election expenses through an account other than the account opened for the purpose

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has expressed hope that the political parties, candidates, voters and election agents would not indulge in any kind of corrupt or illegal practices as defined in chapter-X of the Elections Act 2017. According to an official of ECP, as per code

of conduct issued for political parties, contesting candidates, election agents and voters for Senate elections 2021, they all should abide by all directions and instructions issued by the ECP from time to time relating to smooth conduct of elections. Contesting candidates, election agents and their supporters would not solicit the support or assistance of any person in the service of Pakistan or any public office to promote or hinder the election of contesting candidate in any manner. He said as per code of conduct the political parties, candidates, voters and election agents would not propagate any opinion, or act in any manner prejudicial to the glory of Islam and ideology of Pakistan, or the sov-

ereignty, integrity or security of Pakistan, or morality or public order, or the integrity or independence of the Parliament, judiciary of Pakistan or which defames or brings into ridicule the Parliament, judiciary or the Armed Forces of Pakistan.

He said while entering into the polling station, each voter would ensure that he or she did not possess mobile phone or other such electronic device or gadget which could be used to take photograph of the marked ballot paper. For purposes of election expenses, a candidate would open an exclusive account with any branch of a scheduled bank before the date fixed for scrutiny of nomination papers and maintain, or cause to be maintained, a register of receipts and expenditures.

The candidate would not make any transaction towards the election expenses through an account other than the account opened for the purpose and a candidate may open the bank account for election expenses with an amount not exceeding the limit of election expenses provided under section 132. (Section 133 of the Elections Act, 2017).

People's role
vital for a
welfare state:
Ashrafi

DNA

LAHORE: Special Representative of the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has stressed people's role for making Pakistan a welfare state. Addressing the Istehkam-e-Pakistan Ulama Convention at Alhamra Hall here on Sunday, he said the foreign policy of the country was completely independent. He said no one would be allowed to disturb law and order in the country, adding that the National Action Plan would be implemented in letter and spirit. Ashrafi said minorities living in the country were enjoying complete freedom and liberty to perform their rituals. He said: "Islam always gives a message of love, peace, harmony and brotherhood." He said that problems of ulama would be resolved and "I will visit cities to help solve their problems on priority." He said a convention would be held in Committee Bagh Mellsii on March 9.

Turkey welcomes
India-Pakistan
cease-fire statement

ANKARA: Turkey on Saturday welcomed the understanding reached between Indian and Pakistani militaries for a cease-fire along the disputed Kashmir border. "We wish that this understanding, which is an important step toward establishing stability and security in the region, will contribute to constituting mutual trust and a constructive atmosphere for dialogue," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hami Aksoy said in a statement. On Thursday, the two militaries announced in a joint statement that they have agreed to adhere to all cease-fire agreements along the Line of Control – a de facto border that divides the disputed Kashmir valley between Pakistan and India.

The statement said the heads of military operations of the two South Asian nuclear-armed neighbors held discussions via a hotline and agreed to address "each other's core issues and concerns that have the propensity to disturb the peace and lead to violence so that sustainable peace is achieved along the borders." Kashmir is held by India and Pakistan in parts and claimed both in full. A small sliver of Kashmir is also held by China. Since they were partitioned in 1947, the two countries have fought three wars – in 1948, 1965, and 1971 – two of them over Kashmir. Some Kashmiri groups in Jammu and Kashmir have been fighting against Indian rule for independence, or unification with neighboring Pakistan. According to several human rights organizations, thousands of people have reportedly been killed in the conflict in the region since 1989. Also, on Aug. 5, 2019, India stripped Jammu and Kashmir of its autonomous status and divided it into two centrally ruled territories – creating fresh tensions in the restive region. – DNA

‘Opposition made
NA-75 controversial’

DNA

SIALKOT: Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Punjab (SACM) on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan has said that the opposition in NA-75 by-election misled the people and made the election controversial. She stated this while talking to media at Koobay Chak, here on Sunday. Dr Firdous said that the NA-75 by-election was made controversial by PML-N through baseless propaganda. SACM said that 11 parties of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), land mafia and drug dealers were standing against Prime Minister Imran Khan as he was committed to eliminate corruption from the country adding that PM was fighting against the cancer of corruption in the country. "All the corrupt elements will have to face the accountability and the government will never spare the corrupts in a bid to purge the country from the corruption," she added. SACM said that the past rulers looted the nation wealth

ruthlessly and had ever done the politics of their personal gains putting aside the national interests. She said that the PML-N leadership should find out the black sheep in her own party (PML-N). "A new league is about to start with PML-N," she added. SACM said that tourism was being promoted in Pakistan to increase Pakistan's foreign exchange and the Punjab government was working to promote tourism, in this regard. She said that the Punjab government was taking steps to promote cottage industry and export processing zone.

Dr Firdous said that Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar was going to give development package for each district. She said that the cabinet had approved Sialkot Ring Road project. SACM said that SDA was set up for the development to the city through planning. Plans will be made through public-private partnerships, she added. She said that Mother and Child Care hospital was going to be built in Sialkot to provide advance medical facilities.

PIA slashes
fares for
domestic
flights

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: With an aim to promote tourism in the spring season, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has announced discounted fares for domestic flights. The national carrier unveiled discounted fares for flights to Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore. The passengers have been offered reduced fares to travel through PIA while carrying 20-kilogram luggage at the price of Rs7,500 for one side, whereas, Rs8,500 will be charged for travelling with 40-kg luggage. According to the PIA spokesperson, the new fares will come into effect immediately. The spokesperson said that the fares have been reduced to facilitate tourists and nationals during the spring season. Earlier in December last year, PIA had introduced special fares to facilitate travellers willing to visit the highest global peaks in Gilgit Baltistan's Skardu and Gilgit. The national flag carrier had announced that it would now be charging a minimum one-way fare of Rs6,915 from passengers travelling from Islamabad to Skardu and Gilgit areas of the federally-administered region.

FATF decision
labelled as
biased

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Sunday said Financial Action Task Force (FATF) decision to keep Pakistan on the Greylist until June is political, disappointing, and against merit. The FATF's decision to keep Pakistan on the grey list until June despite Pakistan's significant progress on the recommended actions have disappointed many, it said. People are terming the decision of the global watchdog as slanted as many countries have taken off the watch list despite their performance was below than that of Pakistan, said Dr Murtaza Mughal, President PEW. He said that Pakistan has complied with 24 of the 27 actions and it is acting to fulfil three remaining conditions to eliminate terror financing, he added. Dr Murtaza Mughal said that Pakistan is doing best to fulfil all the conditions and it has made significant progress which is evident from the unprecedented increase in home remittances. However, we have no other option but to work quickly and show progress on the rest of the action plan otherwise there will be an economic cost, he added.

SC to
announce
opinion on
Senate polls

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court will announce its opinion on the Presidential Reference seeking opinion on holding Senate election through open ballot without a Constitutional amendment today (March 1). A five-member larger bench of the court headed by Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed had reserved its verdict on the reference on Thursday (February 25) after conclusion of proceedings on presidential reference seeking legal opinion to hold Senate elections on open ballot without a constitutional amendment.

Advocate Shajeel Swati counsel for the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had requested the court to announce its opinion by February 28, in order to make relevant arrangements for the Senate elections which are scheduled for March 3. According to a supplementary cause list issued by the SC, the registrar office has issued notices to the attorney general, chief election commissioner, Senate chairman and speakers of the national and provincial assemblies, advocates general for the four provinces, members of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and others.

Direct flights to boost Pakistan-Kyrgyzstan links

Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan Erik Beishembiev urges business community to avail good investment opportunities through joint ventures in pharmaceutical, agriculture, education and tourism sectors

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan Erik Beishembiev has urged business community to avail good investment opportunities through joint ventures in pharmaceutical, agriculture, education and tourism sectors. "Kyrgyzstan is not developed in pharmaceutical sector and offers great opportunities to the Pakistani pharma companies", he said during a meeting with President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry Mian Tariq Misbah. Vice President Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry, former Senior Vice President Amjad Ali Jawa, former Vice President Zeshan Khalil and Executive Committee members were also present.

The ambassador said that his country greatly valued relations with Pakistan and that was why it sought further diversification and strengthening of the relations. He said that Kyrgyz-Pakistani historical relations could be traced back centuries ago.

"Our peoples have long-time and close cultural and spiritual ties", he said. He said that direct flights between the two countries on regular basis would help improve trade and cooperation in tourism sector. He said that both countries were rich in mineral resources, have high skilled human resources, excellent opportunities for developing industry and agriculture, attracting foreign investments for joint production and supply of goods. He said that Kyrgyzstan is interested in development of



short transportation links through its territory between Central Asia and China and Pakistan with access to the Gwadar and Karachi ports, using railway and roads, which are being constructed in the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Today, shortest roads are connecting

China to Kyrgyzstan through two border mountain passes in Kyrgyzstan - Torugart in the North and - Erkeshtam in the South, located only about 200-km from Chinese city of Kashgar. He said that Pakistani businessmen can invest individually or through joint ventures in Kyrgyzstan. He said that Pakistan can use Kyrgyzstan as a gateway to enter into the EU market and can avail benefits from GSP Plus status. Mian Tariq Misbah appreciated the Kyrgyz Ambassador for keeping good liaison with LCCI on regular basis to find new avenues for increasing the trade and economic ties between two countries. He said that very few items are being traded between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan for the last many years. The main reason of such a

low level of two way trade which stood at 2.2 million dollars in 2019 is little knowledge about each other's markets.

He said that Pakistan's exports to Kyrgyzstan are just 2.17 million dollars while the global imports of Kyrgyzstan are touching 5 billion dollars. There is a great scope for Pakistan to enhance its exports to Kyrgyzstan in the sectors of pharmaceuticals, value added textiles, agriculture products, surgical instruments and sports Goods. He said that the pharmaceutical sector deserves special mention as Pakistan has made great strides in this sector after the COVID pandemic. He said that Kyrgyzstan can also help Pakistan to enhance its exports to the EU under the GSP Plus regime.