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Pakistan a reliable partner, says new Indonesian envoy

Detailed News On Page-01

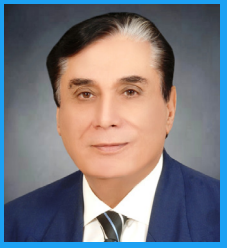
Italian envoy all praise for GB's agri, livestock

Detailed News On Page-08



Corruption cases must not be kept in files

Detailed News On Page-02



Briefs

Search for Ali Sadpara given up

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The search operation for globally renowned Pakistani mountaineer Ali Sadpara and his two other companions is said to have been given up, days after Pakistan Army helicopters returned without finding him. His son said on Sunday that chances of his father's being alive are remote. Sadpara and two other mountaineers with him—John Snorri from Iceland and Juan Pablo Mohr from Chile—had gone missing on Saturday after which a search operation to retrieve them was launched. Helicopters reportedly flew to a height of 7,000 metres on Saturday afternoon in their attempt to locate the missing mountaineers but were unable to find any clue to their whereabouts.

Transparent polls strength of democracy

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz on Sunday said that transparency in elections is the real strength of a democracy. In a tweet, Faraz said that by "opposing the [proposed] open balloting [during the forthcoming Senate polls], the opposition made clear their intention that they don't want the politics of money to end." Opposition parties' hue and cry over the step [open ballot] to ensure transparency in the Senate elections is beyond comprehension, he added.

Presidential ordinance 'attack on SC'

DNA

NAROWAL: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader and former interior minister Ahsan Iqbal had described the presidential ordinance for Senate open voting as an attack on the Constitution as well as on the Supreme Court. Talking to media men in Narowal on Sunday, Ahsan Iqbal said "The ordinance is the worst attack on the Constitution and the worst attack on the Supreme Court."

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CDA retrieves 350 kanal state land during last week — Page 03

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Pakistan a reliable partner, says Indonesian ambassador — Page 08

Biden wants early solution of Kashmir

Another of our priorities is peace and stability in Afghanistan and it is not possible to establish peace and stability in Afghanistan without Pak: Zed Tarar

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The US State Department official Zed Tarar has said President Joe Biden wants an immediate solution to Kashmir issue. In an interview, he said that President Joe Biden has made it clear that human rights are a fundamental issue for the United States. He also said that the US understands that Kashmir is a human rights issue and Washington wants that mobile service and 4G should be restored in Kashmir immediately. Zed Tarar is a Deputy Director of the London Media Hub where he handles media engagement through South Asia. The US understands that Kashmir is a human rights

issue and the US wants the Kashmir issue to be resolved immediately, mobile service and 4G should be restored in Kashmir immediately, he added. He said that the new US President has announced that the superpower has returned to the world. The new US president wants all the problems in the world to be solved together. Spokesman said that the current problem is to control the coronavirus and find a solution to climate change. The current US administration differs in many aspects from the previous administration. Earlier, talking to a British news agency US State Department spokesman had said that Pakistan-US bilateral relations are not only viewed from the angle of China, our other priority is peace and stability in Afghanistan which is not possible without Pakistan. These views were expressed by US State Department spokesman Zed Tarar while talking to a British news agency. During the interview, they also discussed Pak-US relations, CPEC and other important issues. Zed Tarar serves as Deputy Director of the London Media Hub where he manages the Department's media engagement throughout South Asia. Asked about CPEC, Zed Tarar said, "Our position on the Pak-China Economic Corridor is clear. We do not want any of the partners to come under the burden of debt."

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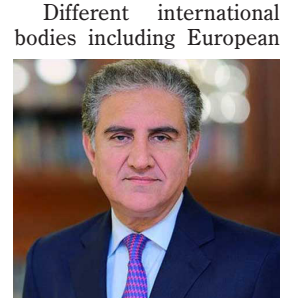
FM welcomes resolution in support of Kashmiris

Suggests PDM not to harm public or private properties during the protest demonstration

STAFF REPORT

MULTAN: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi welcomed the resolution adopted unanimously at New York Assembly to express solidarity with people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi lauded efforts of Pakistani Consul General Ayesha Ali for mobilizing and gaining support of American Pakistanis for the unanimously adopted resolution in support of Kashmiris. "I recognize endeavors of Pakistan's

Consul General Ayesha Ali on this historic development", said FM Qureshi while talking to media persons, after ground breaking ceremony of construction of three roads, costing Rs over 38 million, at Chungi No 14, here on Sunday. Different international bodies including European



Union, House of Commons and some others were also expressing concerns over gross human rights violation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, said Qureshi. On February 5, people from across the country and both sides of Kashmir organized rallies and seminars and renewed the pledged to continue struggle for protection of human rights. Responding to a question about Open Ballot for Senate polls, Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi observed, the whole nation was witnessing that

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BAKU: Center in Baku was illuminated with Pakistani flag to show solidarity with the people of Kashmir. — DNA

Baku Center illuminated with the Pak flag

DNA

BAKU: The center in Baku was illuminated with the Pakistan flag on Kashmir Solidarity Day to highlight the shared stance on Kashmir. The iconic Heydar Aliyev Centre in Baku was illuminated with the Pakistani flag on the "Kashmir Solidarity Day". The gesture was a mark of friendship between the two countries and their principled stance towards the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir, as per a statement issued by the Embassy of Azerbaijan on Kashmir Solidarity Day. The Embassy also highlighted the friendly nature of government and people to people relations maintained between the two countries. People of the friendly Muslim country stand with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. Pakistan was at the forefront of support for Azerbaijan during its 2020 conflict with Armenia over the Nagorno Karabakh issue which led to a brief war between the two sides. Azerbaijan emerged victorious in the 'Second Karabakh War' and liberated several cities and nearly 300 settlements and villages from the Armenian occupation.

Ord. an attack on Constitution: PPP

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: PPP Senator Sherry Rehman on Sunday said that the PTI government has issued ordinances regarding the "overnight", adding that the move is an "attack on the Constitution and the parliament." Rehman, along with other PPP leaders, was speaking during a press conference in Karachi during which she said that the government "does not have a two-thirds majority to pass a constitutional amendment." "Why did the government introduce an amendment

SC larger bench to hear reference

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court has constituted a five-judge larger bench to commence the hearing today [Monday] on a presidential reference, seeking the court's opinion on "open ballot" for Senate elections. The five-judge larger bench will be headed by Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed while its other members include Justice Mushir Alam, Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan and Justice Yahya Afridi. Attorney General Khalid Jawed Khan will represent President Dr Arif Alvi. — DNA

only one month before that it is the job of the parliament to bring about constitutional amendments, adding that the government should have taken the

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Interfaith harmony imperative: EU envoy

ISLAMABAD: European Union Ambassador to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara Sunday said in the modern era, promoting interfaith harmony among different nations and religions was more imperative and a way forward for a better social and prosperous society. The EU was celebrating the World Interfaith Harmony Week with an aim to found all possible common grounds for religious and social harmony, and its contemporary significance among the people having different religions and cultural values, she



said while talking to APP. The ambassador said in today's increasingly complex political and economic world, beset with conflict and intolerance, peaceful coexistence among various religious beliefs was critical for achieving peace and prosperity. She said it was more pressing and imperative to address and tackle the global problems such as COVID-19 pandemic with global responses and joint efforts. "This requires commitment from all concerned.

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Pakistan a reliable partner: Indonesian envoy

With total population of 1.95 billion in South Asia and 75 million in Central Asia, there exist a huge potential market for the regions; urges Pakistan universities to lay foundation for a solid academic cooperation

EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR M BHATTI

"THE newly-arrived Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio talked to Islamabad POST, Centreline and DNA News Agency. Here is the first part of the interview that deals with bilateral relations, education and cultural cooperation. The full text of the interview shall be published in the March issue of CENTRELINE".

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio has said Indonesia attaches great importance to Pakistan as a reliable partner in South Asia and commends Pakistan's active role and contribution to maintain regional peace and stability in the region. "We strongly consider the geo-economic importance of Pakistan, which serves as a hub to connect to Central Asia, South Asia and Middle East". The Indonesian ambassador expressed these views while giving an exclusive interview to Daily Islamabad Post. This is his first-ever interview after taking charge of Ambassador of Indonesia in Pakistan. Ambassador Tugio further said, with total population of 1.95 billion in South Asia and 75 million in Central Asia, there exist a huge potential market for the regions. We should also need to add into this potential, ports infrastructures along 1,046 km coast line of Pakistan that

provides access for trade to Middle East and Africa — thus supporting 'Engage Africa' economic diplomacy initiative of the Pakistani Government.

Various infrastructure developments on land and harbor that being developed by CPEC will strengthen the connectivity not only within Pakistan but also to the wider regions, and will eventually bring benefit for economic development of Pakistan, he added.

The ambassador said, our relationship is now becoming stronger, dynamic and more comprehensive. "I would especially like to mention here the state visit of President of Indonesia Mr. Joko Widodo

to Pakistan in 2018, which opened new avenues of mutually beneficial cooperation. It marked a historic milestone when President Widodo addressed the Joint Session of the Parliament of Pakistan as a special gesture of the democratically elected leader of the largest Muslim populous country and the fourth largest democracy in the world. It was for the second time after President Soekarno, who addressed the highest institution of Pakistan in 1963".

Talking about some positive developments during the last few years the ambassador said they include the accomplishment of the 1st Bilateral Polit-

ical Consultative Forum in 2017, Joint Committee meeting as a follow up of the Defence Cooperation Agreement, relaxation of visa requirements for Pakistani citizens, MoU's with travel agencies to boost tourism, MoU's with universities to promote educational linkages, working mechanism of defence cooperation that includes all spectrum of military cooperation (Navy, Army and Air Force). In addition, Policy Planning Dialogue was initiated by Foreign Ministries of both sides, July 2018 in Islamabad. He said, Indonesia considers Pakistan as an important partner in South Asia and desires enhanced cooperation with

Pakistan at the multilateral forums. Pakistan and Indonesia stand by each other at every platform and support each other for common future of peace, progress, prosperity, stability, and development. Ambassador Tugio added, both countries highly value their ties and encourage all-around cooperation to further strengthen the fraternal bonds between the two nations. Indonesia and Pakistan also work together in promoting the interest of Ummah in global world, and on global issues of shared concern such as climate change and addressing COVID-19 pandemic.

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Briefs

PM's housing initiative benefits 7572 families

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan's initiative of low-income house financing is coming to fruition as Rs 3.35 billion have been disbursed for construction of 7572 units across the country.

Under the Prime Minister's vision to support low income group to build their own houses, the government had allocated Rs 5 billion. The government had engaged a renowned organization Akhuwat which was already running a huge network of interest free loans. Under the scheme, Rs 3.35 billion have been disbursed for the construction of 7572 housing units in different parts of the country.

The recovery ratio of the disbursed amount is 100 percent and the recovered amount is being utilized again to support more applicants as another 2,416 applications are in process of approval. Majority of the project beneficiary families included those who could not afford to construct their own house owing to limited income.

In a video clip issued by the PM Office, smiles on the faces of the beneficiaries manifested their satisfaction for having their own home which otherwise was beyond their capacity. The members of the beneficiary families including men, women and even children thanked Prime Minister Imran Khan for his pro-poor initiative as a step towards modeling of Pakistan as Riasat-e-Madina. The beneficiaries came from Multan, Kasur, Danyor, Attock, Lahore, Bhakkar, Kahna Nau, Bannu, Jahanian, Khanawal, Nowshera, Mianwali, Kasur, Ghizar and other parts of the country.

JUI-F decides to challenge open vote

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to stop the government from holding upcoming Senate polls through open ballot, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam - Fazl (JUI-F) has decided to challenge the Elections (Amendment) ordinance 2021 in the court. Talking to journalists, JUI-F's Central Deputy Secretary Maulana Muhammad Amjad Khan said that his party will move the court against the presidential ordinance. He maintained that they were consulting with legal and constitutional experts in this regard. JUI-F's central general council has been convened on 2nd of March in Sukkur to discuss the current political situation of the country, he said, adding that JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman will brief the meeting.

Earlier on February 6, President Dr Arif Alvi had signed Elections (Amendment) ordinance 2021 that would pave way for the organization of Senate elections through the open ballot.

'Government pursuing UK for return of Sharif'

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Accountability, Barrister Shahzad Akbar on Sunday said that incumbent government was pursuing United Kingdom for return of Nawaz Sharif. Ex Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's period of stay in London has been expired, he stated in an interview with a private television channel. Nawaz Sharif, he said had applied for extension on medical grounds. He made it clear that Nawaz Sharif was a convict in Pakistani courts, and Ex PM should return to homeland for facing corruption cases.

Commenting on Broadsheet matter, he said Pakistan's government had to pay heavy amount due to agreement with Broadsheet. In reply to a question regarding extension to Chairman national accountability bureau (NAB), he said as per law, duration of Chairman NAB could not be extended. To another question about recovery of assets, Advisor to PM said that there was a difference between civil and criminal recovery of assets. - APP

Mega corruption cases against big fish must not be kept in files

The Chairman NAB directed the officers to work with due diligence and honesty. He said that NAB is one of the best anti corruption organizations as compared to other organizations

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Justice (RETD) Javed Iqbal Chairman NAB has said that mega corruption cases against big fish should not be kept in files and these should be taken to logical conclusion as per law. Chairman NAB directed all regional bureaus of NAB that all mega corruption cases against big fish should be taken to logical conclusion within the prescribed time frame so that references should be filed in accountability courts to bring the corrupt elements to justice and in order to recover looted money and deposit in the national exchequer considering its our national duty as per law. He said that all inquiries, complaints and investigations would be completed on merit and transparency and based on solid evi-

dence and documentary proofs. We have to strictly follow the policy and necessary measures would be taken against all those who are involved in corruption through pursuing policy of Zero Tolerance, transparency and merit as per law. The Chairman NAB directed the officers to work with due diligence and honesty. He said that NAB is one of the best anti corruption organizations as compared to other organizations. He directed the concerned DGs to submit the latest report of all mega corrupt corruption cases as well as cases of illegal housing societies within one month so that progress on ongoing cases would be reviewed. Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal Chairman NAB has said that NAB is absolutely committed to eradicate corruption through effective National Anti-Corruption Strategy. He said



that comparative figures for the last three years are indicative of NAB's excellent performance. He said that 59 percent people have shown confidence in NAB as per the report of Gillani and Gallup Survey.

He said that NAB had filed 1230 corruption references in respected Accountability Courts which are under trial in the respected Accountability Courts having worth of Rs. 947 billion. He said that NAB has established a state of the art Forensic Science LAB in NAB Rawalpindi Bu-

reau which has facilities of Digital Forensics, Questioned Documents and Fingerprint analysis which is being utilized for further improvements in the quality of inquiries and investigations in all respects. He said that NAB has introduced a new concept of Combine Investigation Team (CIT) in order to benefit from the experience and collective wisdom of senior supervisory officers, a system of CIT consisting of Director, Additional Director, Investigation Officer and a Senior Legal Counsel has been put in place. This is not only lending quality to the work but also ensuring that no single individual can influence the official proceedings of NAB. He said that NAB has signed MOU with China to oversee CPEC projects being conducted in Pakistan. He said that youth is our future; NAB has signed an MOU with the Higher Education Commission in

order to aware youth about the ill effects of corruption at an early age. More than 50 thousands Character Building Societies have been established in colleges and universities of the country. He said that Transparency International (TI) Pakistan, World Economic forum PILDAT and Mishal have appreciated NAB's efforts in eradication of corruption. He said that NAB has devised a comprehensive Quantified Grading System in order to further improve the performance of NAB Headquarter and all Regional Bureaus. Under the Quantified Grading System, NAB Headquarter and Regional Bureau's are being evaluated on an annual and midterm basis at a given criteria which has proved very successful and the performance of NAB's Regional Bureaus is being increased day by day due to regular monitoring and inspection.

DC reviews typhoid vaccination campaign



ISHAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: 787110 children of age 9 month to 15 years have been vaccinated typhoid injection during the last five days of the ongoing typhoid vaccination

campaign in the urban areas of the district. This was informed to Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali in the review meeting of the campaign. ADCG Khurram Perwaiz, Assistant Commissioner Sadar Umar Maqbool, CEO Health Dr Mushtaq

Sipra, UNICEF representative Habib Leghari and other officials of the Health Department were also present. It was further informed that on first day 147446 children were vaccinated, on 2nd day 163987, 166789 and 159826 on day 3rd and fourth reap-

actively and 149062 children were covered on 5th day of the campaign. Taking a closer look at the targets of the first five days of the campaign, DC said that the targets allocated as per the microplan should be ensured. He said that the issues should be resolved on priority basis and steps should be taken under a coordinated strategy in this regard. The Deputy Commissioner also stressed on the need to continue the process of educating the parents while awareness lectures should also be continuously organized in schools. He urged to ensure the presence of teams in government and private schools, district and tehsil hospitals and health centers. During the meeting, the health official gave a briefing on the implementation and monitoring of the campaign.

'Grievance cell setup to resolve non-Muslim's issues'

ISLAMABAD: A grievance cell has been set up in the office of Special Aide to Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Middle East, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi to resolve legitimate complaints of non-Muslims. Addressing a ceremony in a Church in Islamabad here on Sunday, Ashrafi, who is also Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council (PUC), urged non-Muslims to lodge their complaints against any threats being faced by them in freely practicing their religion. "Every Pakistani being threatened on religious grounds can lodge complaint in the cell," he said. Ashrafi stated that Interfaith Harmony Councils' Conveners have been appointed all over the country, which were constituted earlier to promote religious tolerance among the people of different religions and religious sects. Ashrafi stated that minorities living in Pakistan were not second class citizens. They have all the rights and privileges as enshrined in



the constitution of Pakistan. Islam is a religion of peace, security and compassion, which guarantees protection of minorities' rights in a Muslim state. He stated that Muslims as well as non-Muslims played very effective and imperative role in Pakistan movement. A meeting of all religious schools of thought from across Pakistan would be held in the first week of March 2021 to suggest positive recommendations regarding betterment of minorities in Pakistan. Misuse of blasphemy laws was being restrained in Pakistan and if anyone has any evidence in this regard, they should brought these incidents into the notice of Government. - APP

Coronavirus claims 32 more lives in Sindh

DNA

KARACHI: 32 more people died of the coronavirus in Sindh overnight, lifting the death toll to 4,119 whereas 399 new cases emerged, taking the provincial tally to 251,046. According to a statement issued from the CM House, 9,136 samples were tested, out of which 399 - 4.4 per cent - turned out to be positive. So far 2,800,480 tests have been conducted across the province. A total of 227,599 patients have recovered, including 410 overnight. Currently, 19,369 patients are under

treatment, of them 18,762 are in home isolation, 8 at isolation centers and 599 at different hospitals. The condition of 555 patients is stated to be critical, 69 of whom have been put on ventilators. Out of 399 new cases, 213 were reported from Karachi, including 73 from district East, 68 district South, 25 Korangi, 25 district Central, 18 West and 13 Malir. Badin saw 33 new infections, Hyderabad 31, Jacobabad 16, Matiari 13, Sujawal 9, Tando Khan 8, Jamshoro 7, Sanghar 6, Dadu 5, Larkana and Nausheroferoze 4 each, Kamber and each, Shikarpur and Sukkur 1 each.

Haleem Adil booked for 'disruption'

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: An FIR has been registered against PTI leader Haleem Adil Sheikh and 70 other people for disrupting the Sindh government's anti-encroachment campaign in Karachi's Malir on Saturday. According to the police, the complaint includes cases of attempted murder, interference in government duties, assault on government employees, and financial loss to government property. The case was registered by a resident of Korangi, Ayub, at the Memon Goth police station. On Saturday, the Sindh Building and Control Authority commenced an anti-encroachment operation and demolished multiple illegally constructed farmhouses in Malir's Memon Goth. Sheikh said that a farmhouse owned by his family was demolished in the drive as well. The Sindh government is taking political revenge from me, he claimed, adding that he has obtained a stay order by the Sindh High Court for the farmhouse. On the other hand, Sindh Local Government Minister Nasir Hussain Shah said that the operation was conducted on orders of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Marked improvement in Balochistan's civic life

ISLAMABAD: The civic life in Balochistan is improving to a great extent with successful implementation of the development schemes and strategic initiatives taken by its government to ensure socio-economic development of its people. Boom in business activities coupled with better communication facilities, education and health infrastructure is marking a new era of development in the province where once the life was not as same as in rest of the country. Balochistan's dwellers while talking to APP on Sunday expressed confidence in the Jam Kamal led government and hoped that the province would soon serve as an engine of growth for the country's economy. An official of Balochistan Chamber of Commerce Sikandar Khan said economic activities in the province had increased manifold due to improvement in the road infra-

structure, opening of new trade terminals at different border points, foreign direct investment in its export potential sectors, establishment of economic and industrial zones and above all, promotion of research in agriculture and livestock sectors. It had a direct impact on civic life of the people who were getting more job opportunities, better facilities for travelling, health and education, he added. Khalil Lashari, a resident of Quetta, said visible change in the city governance was witnessed with a number of schools, hospitals and water reservoirs were being set up to fulfill the basic needs of people. He said development work was being carried out in his area on the fast-track basis which had completely changed the outlook of city. "People are getting smooth supply of water, gas and electricity, in addition to better sanitary services," he asserted. - APP

Pakistan Steel Mills workers call off sit-in

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: Protesting employees of Pakistan Steels Mills on Sunday called off their sit-in outside PSM CEO's house on the appeal of the PPP leadership. Sindh Information Minister said the matter of PSM employees' termination has been included in the agenda of the Council of Common Interests (CCI). "The PPP has also approved a resolution from Sindh Assembly in favour of Steel Mills employees," said. He asked

the employees to continue their struggle as the Sindh government and the PPP are with them. The minister is also the head of the three-member Sindh government committee formed on the issue of the Steel Mills. He arrived at the site of the employees' sit-in and attended the funeral prayers of a worker named Sher, who died of a heart attack early on Sunday morning. The minister said that the PPP stands with these employees and feel sorry that another worker has died in this struggle.

He told the protesters, "The Sindh government has written letter to the federal government twice. We will raise your voice at every forum just not rely on the U-turn government." It is relevant to note that the Chief Justice of Pakistan said that he will order the closure of the (PSM) as well as the removal of its employees because the PSM practically does not exist. The CJP's remarks came during a hearing at the Supreme Court related to the promotion of PSM employees last week.

PTI govt has no direction: Sirajul Haq

He asked the prime minister to stop putting blame on the previous governments now and showed the masses what PTI government had so far done for the country

DNA

MARDAN: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Senator Sirajul Haq has said that the PTI government has badly exposed before the public, having no direction and vision to lead the country even after passage of two and half years in power. Addressing a huge public meeting at Mardan on Sunday, he also criticized the PDM for having no public welfare agenda instead of protecting self-interests. "The PTI and the PDM are the sides of the same coin and people are no more ready to trust them," he said amid the slogans of the participants in favor of the JI and against the rising inflation and unemployment. JI KP Emir Senator Mushtaq Khan and JI Information Secretary Qaisar Sharif were also

present on occasion. "U-Turn has become the symbol of Pakistani prime minister in all over the world," said Senator Siraj.

He asked the prime minister to stop putting blame on the previous governments now and showed the masses what PTI government

had so far done for the country. Instead of making Naya Pakistan the PTI even destroyed the old one, he said while referring to



the PTI election manifesto and slogans about brining change in every sector and transform Pakistan into Madina-like-state. He said the time had reached to get rid of the elite ruling over the country for decades. The agents of status quo gave nothing to masses and plundered the country's wealth with both hands, he said. "The JI is the only choice left with the masses now," he said, adding if voted to power the JI would transform the country into a welfare state. He said country needed a uniform education system and state should ensure basic health facilities to the masses. But, he regretted, the ruling class never pay heed to the problems. He asked the masses to take a firm stand to challenge the status quo forces and join hands with the JI to bring real change in Pakistan.

Imran Munyar appointed as MD SSGC

DNA

KARACHI: Imran Munyar has been appointed as new managing director (MD) Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC). According to the SSGC spokesperson, the approval of the appointment of Mr Imran was given by the board of directors. It is to be noted that for the first time in the last five years, a permanent MD has been deputed at SSGC.

After an abundance of consumers filed complaints against overbilling by Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) in gas utility charges, last week, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) had authorized Hydrocarbon Development Institute of Pakistan (HDIP) to inspect meter readings and determine if there's a discrepancy. According to the details reported on the matter, OGRA has brought in HDIP to oversee the complaints made by consumers and inspect if indeed there's an anomaly in gas consumed and bill charged.

Over 70 cops contract COVID-19 in four days

KARACHI: With 78 new cases reported in last four days, around 5887 personnel and officers of Sindh Police had contracted coronavirus so far, informed spokesman to Sindh Police on Sunday. He told that currently 514 officers and personnel were under treatment while 5349 had recovered from the disease. The spokesman said that 24 policemen lost their lives battling against COVID-19. He said all due care was being provided to the affected cops. - APP

Punjab signs agreement to build small dams

DNA

LAHORE: In a bid to utilize water resources in an efficient manner, the Punjab government on Sunday signed an agreement to build small and intermediate dams in the province. According to details, the memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the provincial Irrigation ministry and NESPAK in a ceremony, which was also attended by CM Punjab. Under the MoU, a feasibility study would be carried out using modern drone technique for the construction of small and intermediate dams at 13 hill torrents. Shedding light on the project, CM Punjab said that the pilot project for the construction of the reservoirs would begin in June this year. "The water reservoirs will help in providing water to 200,000 acres of land, besides also minimizing the impact and losses from floods," he said. It is pertinent to mention here that other than Punjab province, small and big dams have been planned and established in other parts of the country also to ensure better utilization of water resources. According to a report, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 25 small dams have been completed in different areas to store flood and rainwater during monsoon for irrigation and drinking purposes in July 2019. Radio Pakistan reported that nine dams, including Gandyale, Chanday Fatehji Khan and Auxilliary Kandar dams in Kohat, Azakhel in Peshawar, Naryab in Hangu, Sharki and Changhoz dam in Karak, Darganatu in Bannu and Jalozi dam in Nowshera have been completed under the annual development program during 2002 to 2019. Similarly, nine water reservoirs including Lagawhar, Karak, Ghole Banda and Mardankhel dams in Karak, Khari Bara in Haripur, Jabba Khattak in Nowshera, Palai in Charsadda, Darmalak in Kohat and Kundal dam in Swabi have been completed under the Public Sector Development Programme during 2003 to 2019.

Briefs

District
govt seals
two petrol
stations

DNA

ATTOCK: District government has sealed two petrol stations and a private bank in Faqirabad Attock during its ongoing operation against illegal and unregistered petrol stations as well as illegal buildings in Attock. An official of the district government said both the petrol stations and private bank building were illegally built. The operation for sealing of these two petrol stations and the building of a private bank was carried out by the officers of district Tehsil administration under the security cover of Attock police, he informed.

Crackdown
launched
against kite
sellers, flyers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have decided to launch crackdown on kite flyers and sellers and to check this practice through monitoring in various areas. Following directions from Inspector General of Police Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman, DIG (Operations) Afzaal Kausar has directed to ensure crackdown against kite flyers and sellers in the district. Police vehicles, carrying ladders to climb on rooftops, would remain on patrol in different areas and the district administration has also banned to sell kite flying items as it puts on risk the lives of others. The metal or glass-coated string creates issues for motorcyclists or in electricity supply after striking with poles. Kite flyers may also fall down from the roofs putting their lives on risk. Special squads would be formed to implement the ban and police would start regular patrols while making announcements on megaphones. Owners of all buildings where kite flying is being carried out will be arrested because deaths and injuries cause as a consequence of kite flying occur every year, chasing fallen kites results in road accidents. DIG (Operations) Afzaal Kausar also appealed parents not to allow children to buy or fly kites because it is dangerous. He also sought cooperation of citizens to make lives of all secure and safe.

Sufi Mustafa
Tabassum
remembered

ISLAMABAD: Famous Urdu poet, Sufi Ghulam Mustafa Tabassum was remembered on his 42th death anniversary on Sunday. Sufi Tabassum was born in Amritsar on August 4, 1899 in a Kashmiri family. He earned a master's degree in Persian language from Forman Christian College (FCC) in Lahore, Pakistan. He worked for and remained with Government College Lahore for his entire career, rising to head the Department of Persian Studies in 1943. Tabassum retired from Government College in 1954. During this period he matured into a great poet, critic and teacher. He taught three generations of students, including Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Noon Meem Rashid and Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi, who later became renowned poets. It was during this period that the best Urdu and Persian poems of Sufi Tabassum were written. After retirement, he formed the Iranian Cultural Centre in 1955 and devoted all his energies to modernise the Persian used by the scholars of the sub-continent. In 1958, he joined the weekly Magazine called Lail-o-Nahar as its Editor. During his editorship, Sufi Tabassum devoted a lot of time to writing for children. When his editorship ended, Sufi Tabassum joined Radio Pakistan as a Script Advisor. There again he distinguished himself as a broadcaster and commentator of literary subjects. - APP

CDA retrieves 350 kanal state land during last week

The land mafia had occupied the said land for years and constructed a house, boundary wall, shades for animals, and other buildings on the said land

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) during last week conducted an anti-encroachment operation in Sector I-15/4 and retrieved 350 kanals of government land. According to a CDA statement, the authority got the occupation of said sector after 16 years. Those who interfered in the CDA operation were arrested, the statement said adding, the anti-encroachment operation was launched under the current



administration of CDA. The land mafia had occupied the said land for years and constructed a house, boundary wall, shades for animals, and other buildings on the said land. Deputy Director of Enforcement Department, assistant directors and other staff took part in the operation. Prior to this, the authority also conducted an operation in Bari Inam area where a home, boundary wall, and three kitchens were demolished. Similarly, the authority also demolished an under construction house, 11 rooms, and two houses in Panjraan.

PHMA expresses full solidarity for Kashmiri people's struggle

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PHMA) on Sunday expressed full solidarity and support to the valiant struggle of the Kashmiri people, who have been resisting repression with their determination for a long time. PHMA zonal chairman Faisal Mahboob Sheikh and chief coordinator Adil Butt, expressing complete solidarity with the peaceful Kashmiris, has said the entire business community was fully supporting them and their cause of independence. Faisal Mahboob Sheikh

said India is facing unprecedented diplomatic humiliation which is a victory for Pakistan. He noted that Modi's all nefarious moves have initiated the process of disintegration of a divided country while tensions with Pakistan will destroy its economy and credibility. He also expressed appreciation to all other Parliamentarians, Civil Society, Intelligentsia, Media, Human Rights organizations, all over the world, who support the just and heroic struggle of the oppressed people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The business community will continue to provide with every kind of support to the Kashmiri people and

will not leave them alone in their struggle, he added. He said that Pakistan will extend every kind of support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir at every forum, reiterating that the Kashmiris would continue their struggle till the achievement of the goal of freedom. PHMA chief coordinator Adil Butt condemned the illegal annexation of Occupied Kashmir by India, with the aim to change the demography of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir as part of their fascist and racist agenda. He said that annexation is an attempt to undermine the United Nations Charter, International Law and relevant UN Security

Council Resolutions which seek the inalienable right of self-determination for the people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In pursuance of his fascist and racist agenda which is inspired by Nazi Germany, since this fascist mindset and practices are similar, the regime of Modi is committing another grave crime against humanity by turning occupied Kashmir into the world's biggest and most brutal concentration camp, with imposing curfew and its completed lock-down, closing of all communications, with thousands Kashmiris arrested, kidnapped, maimed or martyred or raped.

ALP Board okays 11 proposals for funding

ISLAMABAD: Technical Advisory Committee of the Board of Directors of Agricultural Linkages Program (ALP) of Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) had approved 11 research proposals for funding in order to promote and develop agricultural sector in the country. The approval to this effect was given in 47th meeting of Technical Advisory Committee of BOD, ALP, which met here with Chairman PARC Dr Muhammad Khan in chair. The committee evaluated research proposals received under 9th batch of ALP, due to COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was also virtually attended by the other stakeholders, who also presented their input. Executive Director of ALP Dr Muhammad Munir Ahmad briefed about the agenda of the meeting and after technically evaluation, the Committee recommended 11 research proposals for funding against the 20 research proposals presented before the Technical Advisory Committee. The recommendations are further to be evaluated and considered by the Board of Directors of ALP in its next meeting. Speaking on the occasion Chairman PARC urges sustainable research to achieve food security goals and meeting the increasing demand of food. Dr Azeem further asked the committee members to focus on sustainable research to achieve set targets of food security and economic development of the country. - DNA

Acting classes at PNCA in full swing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Acting classes at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) is continued to attract the aspirants of acting and to provide the students with practical experience about acting. Renowned professionals and teachers were giving training with a detailed and unique study plan to equip the students

with the skills they would need to become a professional actor. An official from PNCA told APP that the students are receiving specialist training in voice, movement emotive skills to culminate in a live performance as well as the opportunity to perform in a well publicized web-series. He told the acting classes were in full swing which were attracting a large number of aspirants of acting to

show their skills. He said that course comprised of studying various schools of acting and they discussed the challenges of understanding a character and portraying it in more than one way. Difference between stage, TV and screen acting had also been underlined with theoretical and practical assignments, he said. He added that course will cover all aspects of a theater performance.

Weekly inflation goes up 0.53pc

ISLAMABAD: The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) based weekly inflation for the week ended on February 04, for the combined consumption group, witnessed increase of 0.53 percent as compared to the previous week. The SPI for the week under review in the above mentioned group was recorded at 141.62 points against 140.88 points registered in the previous week, according to the latest data of PBS. - APP

'Temperature, humidity impact severity of virus'

ISLAMABAD: National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) has brought out a special supplement of its "Life and Science" research magazine on the impact of the COVID-19 with having review of all the data and advances made so far to deal with it. "Life and Science" is a quarterly "online multidisciplinary journal of clinical and basic translational science". It reflects the key purpose of "understanding and improving life" through knowledge and action which is the motto of NUMS. The magazine while discussing environmental effects on the virus said that temperature and humidity have combined impact on COVID-19. "Increase in air temperature and humidity decrease the severity of the virus."

Dr AQ Javed Iqbal dies of coronavirus

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Renowned pharmacist, Dr AQ Javed Iqbal has lost his life while battling with coronavirus on Sunday. Dr AQ Javed Iqbal was fighting the pandemic, but could not survive and lost his life. The funeral prayer of the deceased doctor will be offered in Islamabad today and will be laid to rest at F-8 graveyard. During his medical career, Dr Iqbal remained at many key posts in the health ministry and Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP). He also remained vice president of the Pharmacy Council of Pakistan. On Saturday, Pakistan granted approval to Russian vaccine for Covid-19, for emergency use, quoting sources.

Police arrest cheater for looting attendants

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Karachi Company police has arrested a person involved in looting attendants of patients at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS). A police spokesman said Karachi Company police team arrested an accused Shakeel who was involved in looting attendants of patients after intoxicating them at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) hospital. Moreover, Golra police team arrested a lady accused named Hajra Bibi and recovered stolen cash from her. Khanna police arrested an accused Ali Haider and recovered 30 liter alcohol from his possession. Meanwhile, Aabpara police arrested Rizwan Younas and recovered 15 liter alcohol from him. Shahzad Town police arrested an accused Umer Naz and recovered 149 gram heroin from him. Cases have been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway.

Community empowerment vital for development

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speaking at a webinar the participants urged the respective governments to develop a mechanism to ensure the use of collective wisdom and a joint platform to work together for social development. They said the mountain community leaders and political workers shall come together beyond their political, ethnic and regional divide to voice against the exploitation of natural resources, social and livelihood challenges. Being far away from the centres of decision-making, the mountain communities and the region in totality suffer from inadequate decision-making. The mountain development and conservation plans of the government shall include the voices and concerns of the communities and other stakeholders.

Ill-planned infrastructure development and environmentally unfriendly interventions in the name of tourism promotion and livelihood are becoming nature hazards. Climatic conditions are worsening and communities are on the verge of socioeconomic collapse despite. A fistful of experts, government aides and external elements are taking undue advantage of the mountain resources. The webinar "working together to empower mountain communities" was organized by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) and DTN on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion the nature conservation advisor at the Italian organization EvK2CNR Ashiq Ahmad Khan said unfortunately we don't have the culture of working together though it is necessary for the sustainability of the development. Sometimes people

have lesser abilities but they don't invite the better skilled persons to work on community based initiatives. Even, they feel reluctant in empowering the communities. They believe that after empowering communities, perhaps, they would become irrelevant. He said the respective federal and provincial governments should develop an inclusive platform with the support of the private sector to continue with the development initiatives even after the project is over. This is not possible if it is not envisaged in the project at the initial stage and the community is not embedded in it. Well-known mountaineer Nazir Sabir said mountain areas lack basic amenities and social infrastructure which is the prerequisite for the empowerment of communities. We need to provide them facilities at their doorsteps. Women in the

mountain region are disadvantaged in many ways. They lack health, education and equal rights as a person. In addition to the challenges of living in the mountains, like harsh climate and inadequate infrastructure they experience unequal treatment based on traditional gender relationships that deprives them from equal access to health, education, property and wellbeing. Focusing on women empowerment will ultimately improve the social and living conditions in the mountain parts of the country. Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed we need to look into the factors that why several nongovernmental organizations and donor-driven government projects could not come up with the desired results of community empowerment. The vulnerability of communities is increasing due to climate impact, indiscriminate

deforestation, over exploitation of natural resources and shrinking livelihood options. Life is also under stress because of rapid social changes and local political conflicts and natural disasters. Male migration from mountains to urban towns for education and employment is causing a severe shortfall of human resources which is increasing more workload on women. He said Chinese model of community development can be a role model for us where women empowerment and engagement is the focus. chairman Baltistan Association of Tour Operators (BATO) we have networks of travel and tourism organizations but they hardly join hands for collective promotions. Individualistic approach is against the collective good for the region and country but we are more interested in individual initiatives so have more vested benefits.



ISLAMABAD: Despite the ban a horse driven cart plying at Srinagar Highway and needs the attention of concerned authorities. - APP

Briefs

FEBR calls for long-term policies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Friends of Business & Economic Reforms (FEBR) President Kashif Anwar on Sunday said the government has to formulate long-term and consistent policies for high industrial growth and sizeable improvement in exports, as Pakistan's export has been stagnant for a long time. Kashif Anwar observed that the output of Pakistan's large industries has improved by around 7.5% in the first five months of current fiscal owing to sustained growth momentum, which is a ray of hope for economic revival. He said that cut in interest rate and reduction in duties on raw materials is expected to further spur economic activities in the current fiscal year. He said that the growth has now broken a cycle of constant contraction in past over one year. He was hopeful that present trend of positive growth in large-scale manufacturing (LSM) will help achieve the annual economic growth target, besides creating jobs for skilled and unskilled workers. Unless attention is paid to all factors that hamper industrial and exports growth, the country might not be able to achieve the desired results, he warned.

IRSA releases 88,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 88,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 34,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1457.30 feet, which was 65.30 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 12,300 and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1171.25 feet, which was 131.25 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 8,700 and 24,200 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 61,900, 42,900 and 5,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 6,700 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and zero cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. — APP

Parking violations add to disorderly traffic

RAWALPINDI: Wrong and double parking coupled with encroachments on roads and footpaths are the main hurdles in smooth flow of traffic in Rawalpindi city particularly commercial areas of the city. These are also affecting smooth movement of pedestrians in all the business hubs of the city and cantonment areas. Though the city traffic police and civic authorities had launched several special operations, but, there has been no permanent solution to the issue. The most affected areas include Raja Bazaar, Bohar Bazaar, Banni Chowk, Circular Road, Murree Road, Pindora Road, Tench Bhatta, Sarafa Bazaar, Mochi Bazaar, Sadiqabad, Saddar, Lal Kurti, Satellite Town and other bazaars.

In almost all commercial areas, shopkeepers display their items on the footpaths creating problems for the pedestrians. Large portions of footpaths and streets have been occupied by vendors, forcing pedestrians to put their lives in danger by walking on the roads. Ashraf, a shopkeeper in Raja Bazar, said the vendors encroached footpaths and roads violating the directions of the local administration. He said most of the traders also parked their vehicles in front of their shops in violation of traffic rules, adding to the traffic congestion. The administration should remove all encroachments from commercial areas to facilitate the pedestrians and streamline the traffic flow, he said. Pervaiz, a resident of Banni Chowk said illegal and wrong parking had become a major problem day by day. — APP

ICCI organizes mega auto show to highlight automobile sector

Speaking at the occasion, Zulfi Bukhari SAPM on Overseas Pakistanis & HRD and Ali Nawaz Awan SAPM on CDA Affairs appreciated the initiative of ICCI for organizing an impressive automobile show in collaboration with the Centaurus Mall

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with the Centaurus Mall, Islamabad organized a mega show of automobile brands in the open parking of Centaurus to highlight the potential of the automobile sector for economic revival of the country. All major local and international auto brands like cars, SUVs, jeeps, heavy bikes, motorcycles including Toyota, Honda, Isuzu, Benelli, Aprilia, Changan Alsvin, Sigma, antique, vintage and exotic vehicles etc. were displayed for the interest of the visitors. Exclusive auto brands including Lamborghini, Ferrari, BMW, Range Rover, Audi, Mercedes were also on display. This was the first of its kind auto show organized by the ICCI to cater to the needs of corporate and consumers markets. The auto show was free of cost while food stalls, and refreshment counters were also arranged for the convenience of the participants. At the conclusion, a musical concert was held for the entertainment of the people. Syed Zulfiqar Abbas Bukhari (Zulfi Bukhari) Special Assistant to PM on Overseas Pakistanis and



HRD inaugurated the auto show as Chief Guest. Ali Nawaz Awan, Special Assistant to the PM on CDA Affairs was also present at the occasion. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President, Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Mian Akram Farid Chairman Founder Group and a great number of business community attended the auto show. A large number of people from all walks of life including some foreign nationals turned up to attend

the auto show and they took keen interest in various types of auto brands. Speaking at the occasion, Zulfi Bukhari SAPM on Overseas Pakistanis & HRD and Ali Nawaz Awan SAPM on CDA Affairs appreciated the initiative of ICCI for organizing an impressive automobile show in collaboration with the Centaurus Mall. They said that the Covid-19 pandemic has badly affected business activities across the

world including Pakistan and after the reduction in coronavirus cases, organizing such events was very important to revive and boost the economy. They said that with the improvement of Covid-19 pandemic situation, the government would encourage more such initiatives as Pakistan needed to organize trade fairs and exhibitions on a regular basis to boost its trade & exports and stabilize its economy.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) in his welcome address said that the automobile sector was playing a vital role in the development of our economy in terms of revenue generation, foreign exchange, employment creation, and technology transfer, therefore, there was a great need to further promote it to steer the country out of current challenges. He said

that the automobile sector was contributing nearly Rs.50 billion to the national exchequer, providing employment to around 3.5 million people besides playing a key role in the growth of the vendor industry and stressed further supporting this sector would help in creating more jobs, providing better auto solutions to people and generating additional tax revenue. He said that the government should focus on promoting the indigenous automobile industry so that instead of importing most of the vehicles and spare parts, all auto brands could be manufactured in the country. He said that for this purpose, the government should announce special tax incentives to attract maximum local and foreign investors in this important sector. He said that the purpose of organizing a mega auto show in Islamabad was to showcase the potential of the automobile sector and enable the general public of the region to find automobile brands of their choice at one location. He assured that the ICCI would continue to organize more expos/exhibitions in the coming months to highlight the potential of various sectors of our economy and generate more economic activities.

CPEC brings stability, prosperity in region

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will not only push Pakistan's economy on the track of fast development, but also leads the whole region to stability, connectivity, development and prosperity with the active participation of Afghanistan, Central Asian countries and other regional countries. These views were expressed by Cheng Xizhong, visiting professor at Southwest University

of Political Science and Law and senior fellow of the Charhar Institute in his article. While commenting on media reports about a roadmap approved by Pakistan, Afghanistan and Afghanistan for the Mazar-i-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar railway, he believed that the implementation of the project will also create unique opportunities for ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan, stimulating the progressive economic growth of the region by creating tens of thousands of new jobs.

CDA initiates repairing work across the city

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The administration of Capital Development Authority (CDA) initiated work of repairing and restoration of sit out places across the city. In the second phase new sit out place will also be constructed. According to detail, the administration of CDA is committed to provide the best entertainment facilities to citizens and for beautification of the capital city. In this regard, the work on repairing and restoration of neglected sit outs and railings is underway. New sit outs are also being constructed upon the special demands of the masses. In the first phase the department of market and road maintenance has started

CDA starts COVID vaccination

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has started vaccination of health care staff of the authority against COVID-19. The vaccination process was being carried out at the CDA Hospital and in the first phase, the hospital staff and employees of the Directorate of Health Services were being vaccinated. The doze of vaccination to the same employees would be conducted after one month. An official of CDA management informed that as per directives of the Prime Minister, the health care employees including doctors, paramedics, nurses, and other hospital staff would be given priority. The management has directed the staff to contact 1166 in case of any reaction of the vaccine. — DNA

ed work on repairing and restoration of the sit outs at F-6 school road. A new sit out is also being constructed at Agha Khan road in F-6 markaz which will be completed in two weeks. The work of repairing and restoration of guard railing at Sunbal road in F-10 is also underway. Guard railings and sit outs at Super and F-10 markaz will also be repaired. Sit outs and railings at F-6 Nazim Uddin road, F-8, and Margala road will also be repaired and restored.

Training on vaccine adverse events to be held

ISLAMABAD: Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan's (DRAP) Pakistan National Pharmacovigilance Centre (PNPC) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) have planned to arrange a day-long training on 'reporting of COVID-19 vaccine adverse events' here on Monday. This training session is being arranged for capacity building of focal persons on adverse events following Corona vaccine from Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Sindh, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). In Pakistan three Corona vaccines have been given emergency permission and for which 582 emergency vaccination centers have been established. In these centers physicians, pharmacists, nurses and other paramedics will be vaccinated. After giving vaccines to the healthcare professionals, it is the recommendation of WHO and regulatory body that after giving vaccine, a pharmaceutical company is bound to report adverse event if any person has suffered. Similarly, along with efficacy of vaccine, it must be safe and any untoward side effects may be reported to Division of Pharmacy Services, Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP). These 582 centers will remain vigilant to report any adverse event to DHO office and will forward to Expanded Programme on Immunization's (EPI) Provincial focal person and National EPI focal person of Pharmacovigilance.

Cantt authorities directed to renovate footpaths

RAWALPINDI: President Cantonment Board, Brig. Ijaz Qamar Kiani has directed the authorities concerned of Rawalpindi Cantonment Board to repair and renovate broken footpaths besides launching a grand operation against encroachments. President Cantonment Board issued these instructions during his visit to different cantt. areas including Romi Lane, Raja Akram Road, Qasim Market, Peshawar Road, Golra Mor, EME College and directed them to renovate footpaths besides construction of new footpaths to facilitate the citizens. He also ordered for beautification of the existing green belts besides establishing new green areas at available spaces. Brig. Ijaz Qamar Kiani directed the cantt authorities to continue an indiscriminate grand operation against encroachments. He instructed to ensure quality development work and all possible efforts to facilitate the residents. He said, all available resources should be utilized to provide the citizens with modern facilities. Strict action in accordance with the law should also be taken against negligent cantt officials, he added.

Kashmir Cultural Exhibition concludes

ISLAMABAD: A three-day Kashmir Cultural Exhibition came to a colourful conclusion at the National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa). The festival pulled a big crowd and featured Kashmiri artisans-at-work exhibition, Kashmiri cultural pavilions, folkloric song and dance performances, cultural evenings, craft bazaar, stalls of different art works and organizations and many other attractions. For the first time in the federal capital, team of well known stage artist Khabardar have performed live at open air theatre to show solidarity with Kashmiri people. The ceremony ended with a melodious instrumental performance by local musicians who played the famous Kashmiri song 'Mere Wattan Teri Jannat Mein Ayein Gein'. Kashmiri singers presented a number of folk songs and local dances during the ceremony. As per the old Kashmiri tradition, all the male guests were presented with turbans and the women with shawls. — APP

Eight Gamblers arrested

ATTOCK: As many as Eight gamblers were booked besides recovering bet money amounting Rs 94,500, 07 motorcycle, 08 cell phones from their possession and arrested during raids at their gambling dens in Basal Police in attock. Spokesman of police informed that in a crackdown against the anti social elements Attock Basal Police got information that some people were busy in playing gambling in the area during course of action police arrested the 08 gamblers besides recovering Rs 94,500, 07 Motorcycle, 08 mobile phones from their possession. During crackdown, the police seized bet money worth thousands of rupees, motorcycles, cell phones and gambling tools. Those arrested included Ata Muhammad, Asif Ali, Adil, Gulab, Muhammad Sadiq, Maqsood, Amir Afzal and Muhammad Sohail. Meanwhile, Injira police arrested Sher Alam and recovered an unlicensed 30 bore pistol from his possession. — DNA



RAWALPINDI: February 07 - Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Syed Amin Ul Haque, Secretary IT & Telecom, Mr. Shoab Ahmad Siddiqui, DG ISPR, Major General Babar Iftikhar in a group photo during Revolutionizing Animation industry of Pakistan Ministry of Information Technology & ISPR collaborate for development and promotion of Animation Industry in Pakistan in ISPR headquarters. — APP

Experts term nutrition integration with WASH critical

While highlighting different aspects of the initiative, she said that three years pilot interventions are included in the plan with the help of shared work done by Provincial health, WHO and Agha Khan with steering committee already upscale the better services

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Nutrition integration has become a critical challenge that must be responded through the right policies and actions at every level including in social protection and early education. A holistic approach would be a key to respond to this need to ensure a healthy population. The experts from academia, civil society, and private sector, shared this viewpoint with the participants at the webinar 'Nutrition integration for social protection and early education,' organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here Thursday. Head of department public health, Dr Shahzad Ali Khan, termed malnutrition as a huge problem in the country and said that Pakistan has

placed in stunting growth index on 2nd number after Afghanistan which is a quite unfortunate fact. He added further that the worst in all indicators of stunting, wasting, underweight and exclusive breastfeeding. He added further that minimum acceptable diet, meal, and minimum diet diversity in Pakistan is poor in both terms of quality and quantity and hence, it must be improved. Department of Early Childhood Education, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIQU), informed the participants that the ECE worked closely with Pre-schooling in earlier years as it is an important positive element that will make it easier to develop problem solving skills. Senior Research Fellow, SDPI, Dr Shafiqat Munir, was of view that to create resilience in people both financially and infra-

structure outlook is important to manage social-economic issues. He added further that social integration protection can be achieved by creating equal opportunities and equity space in risk and crisis management. Focal Person for Nutrition, Ehsaas and Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety Division, Dr Rozina Khalid, enlightened the participants that EHSAS Program has been addressed Nashunuma Programme with human capital development to materialize the pillars of malnutrition and stunting. While highlighting different aspects of the initiative, she said that three years pilot interventions are included in the plan with the help of shared work done by Provincial health, WHO and Agha Khan with steering committee already upscale the better services.

Aliya Habib, Focal Person Nutrition International, emphasized that highlighting other indicators beyond just the malnutrition are important at policy level and work for their implementation. She added further that the collective integrated policy document needed by both health and education sector. Head of Gates Foundation family planning and advocacy, Dr Yasmeen Qazi, on the occasion highlighted that birth spacing, and mother child health is important subject in terms of nutrition which cannot be separated from women cause. The trend that males do not accept contraceptive further adds to this problem, she said and added further that pre-marriage counselling for young adolescent girl and information about life cycle approach

is also needed, she said. Dr Danish Irshad, Advocacy Advisor, International Consultant Nutrition International, was of view that advocacy efforts should be focused upon the most important issues such as malnutrition, social protection and agriculture, water and sanitation and education to improve the existing situation. Media and think tank could play vital role in expansion of the importance of nutrition education, he concluded. While highlighting social aspects of the issue during an earlier session, Dr Imran Khalid, Research Fellow at SDPI, termed water, sanitation, and hygiene issues of social justice. Along with food availability, he said, we need to focus on food fortification as well keeping in view the situation of malnourishment in the country.

Attacks in Balochistan

As Pakistan observed Kashmir Day, a day where the country shows its support and solidarity for the people of Kashmir, more insidious groups were working to disrupt that solidarity. In separate tragic incidents, blasts targeting Kashmir day rallies went off in Quetta. At least two people were killed and four others injured in an explosion near the DC office on Inscorb Road in Quetta on Friday. Earlier in the day, another blast in Balochistan's Sibi district injured 24 persons, according to police officials and eyewitnesses. No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks but these do follow a certain trajectory of similar previous incidents. Unknown suspects on a motorcycle lobbed a hand grenade at Luni Chowk. The fact that the attacks occurred in the locations where Kashmir Day rallies were being held is not a coincidence—those rallies were targeted because of the message of Kashmir Day. There are glaringly evident links that indicate that India was behind these attacks, considering it has been facilitating disruptions in this area for quite some time. This orchestrated chaos is amped up every time there is some heightened political issue taking place in India itself. Considering the harsh international criticism India has received because of its treatment of farmers, it appears that India is again cheering on unrest in Pakistan to distract from its own issues and in order to deter us from highlighting the negative publicity India is receiving to once again bring light to the atrocities in IIOK.

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World Interfaith Harmony Week and Pakistan

MUHAMMAD ANWAR FAROOQ

Interfaith harmony means bringing peace and tranquility promoting among people by positivity. There is an interrelationship among people of different religious beliefs at the individual and institutional level which projects a positive picture in the polity of nations. Interfaith harmony encourages the dictum to live and lets others live peacefully. World Interfaith Harmony Week is an annual event observed during the first week of February. World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW), conceived to promote peace and nonviolence, was first proposed by King Abdullah II of Jordan at the United Nations in 2010. Recognizing the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people, the General Assembly encourages all States to spread the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world's churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship during that week, voluntarily and according to their religious traditions or convictions. The World Interfaith Harmony Week provides a platform—one week in a year—when all interfaith groups and other groups of goodwill can show the world what a powerful movement they are. This week will allow for these groups to become aware of each other and strengthen the movement by building ties and avoiding duplicating each other's efforts...

Kashmir-The pearl in peril

Uffaq Khalid



The year 2019 is known for one of the dramatic political eruptions in Kashmir.

The year started with India's staged Pulwama attack which led further escalation when India broke diplomatic norms by crossing international borders since 1971 war

Kashmir is usually referred to as "earthly heaven" for its scenic beauty. The mountainous valley has been a center of conflict between the two nuclear giants of South-Asia since the 1947 unjust partition of British India. Both the countries have fought two wars

over their rival claims. The volatile region has long endured instability and political strife. Kashmir, the majestic area in the shadow of Himalayas long stuck between India and Pakistan, has sunk into the state of suspended animation. Curfews have been imposed, lifted and then reimposed. An uneasy stalemate has prevailed for decades, shattered by sporadic military intrusions, crackdowns by Indian police and terrorist attacks.

The year 2019 is known for one of the dramatic political eruptions in Kashmir. The year started with India's staged Pulwama attack which led further escalation when India broke diplomatic norms by crossing international borders since 1971 war. Territorial breach by Delhi was well responded by Pakistan. The air skirmishes led to the kneeling down of Indian pilots and being captured by Pakistan. However, Pakistan quickly returned the captured pilots as a "goodwill gesture".

A climax of sorts came to the Kashmir dispute on August 5th, when the Modi's government amended its legislation to annex the part of Kashmir that it controls, leaving the world in awe. Prime Minister Narendra Modi revoked the Article-370, a 70 year old provision that had granted limited autonomy to the states of Jammu and Kashmir. The states went under the direct control of central government through a bill introduced by BJP's administration. Kashmiris opposed dissolving the region's autonomous status and Pakistan condemned the India's moves globally. Kashmir has been subject to unprec-

edented lockdown even a year after India abrogated the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. People are still bound to live under lockdowns, curfews and communication restrictions. The lockdown has brought a toll on Kashmir's economy, infrastructure and mental health of people. The educational institutions have been closed in Kashmir for a year and children are not able to go out freely.

The repression policy of India in Kashmir has resulted in grave human rights violations by the Indian security forces. The United Nations' report, "Children and Armed Conflict" has verified the brutal killing of 15 children during joint operations of Indian Army and Central Reserve Police Force. According to the report, 68 children have been detained by Indian forces in this year on National-security related charges. According to a Kashmir-based human rights activist, "The lives of Kashmiris are shaped by a sense of injustice and the tendency to accept violence increases with time. All these things have a negative impact on their mental health."

There is widespread panic in Kashmir. Life remains hard in Kashmir with hundreds of check-posts and cyber curfew still in place. The BBC report revealed the use of pellet guns, tear-gas and electric shocks by the occupation forces. The Indian forces arrested more than 500 people since August 5, the report said. "Kashmir is under siege at the moment" but women are the biggest victims of this inhumane siege. The women of IIOJK continued to face unending trauma and

terror of being abducted and molested at the hands of Indian forces in the name of 'Search operations'.

Modi's aggressive Hindutva policy has brought the India and Pakistan at daggers drawn. The anti-Islamic rhetoric of BJP and Modi fostering Hindu nationalism is a clear move to integrate Kashmir and change the Kashmir's demographics. The renewed tensions between the bitter nuclear-rivals over Kashmir dispute have been raising the global anxiety and putting the world on high alert.

The year 2021 marks the 74 years of Indian invasion in Kashmir. For more than seventy years' protracted efforts by the UN officials and UNCIP have failed to settle the dispute. The international community and human rights watch-dogs are not breaking the silence on the massive human rights violations in the valley.

In order to look into the future, there cannot be a military solution to the Kashmir conflict. Both nuclear-rival states need to realize the destructive consequences of military confrontation. Otherwise the conflict would continue to hang over the whole region like the Sword of Damocles.

The both sides must sincerely move forward without any preconditions and grudges for peace initiative. Let the people of Jammu and Kashmir enjoy the opportunity to determine their future in fair and democratic atmosphere. Let humanity live.

— The writer is Research Associate at Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR)

CPEC and multiculturalism

Aamir Rana

Unfortunately, the country had lost its appeal for international tourists long before the post-9/11 wave of terrorism arrived at its shores. The emerging insecurity and violence had made security agencies overly sensitive to foreigners either from the West or the South Asian neighbourhood; in most instances, these foreigners were viewed as potential enemies of the country. In the process, to counter foreign threats, state institutions have developed such strict visa regimes and protocols (not only for international NGOs and tourists but also for investors) that one thinks multiple times before deciding to visit Pakistan

PART from its strategic and regional connectivity outlook, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor had also offered hope for Pakistan's economic revival and industrial transformation. But that hope has gradually been waning. Not only have the power elites not been able to assess and strategise the real potential of the initiative, the implementing apparatus too was seen as disjointed and unprepared. CPEC could also do wonders for the sociopolitical and cultural transformation of the country, which is plagued by a variety of extremist and conservative tendencies. These tendencies are not only damaging the social fabric, they have

also led to a mindset that is retrogressive and uncreative. CPEC was, and still remains, an opportunity to introduce a multicultural character. At the outset, CPEC had encouraged medium- to large-scale Chinese investors to invest in Pakistan. But the nexus of the bureaucracy and conservative industrial class held the Chinese off. At the other end, society, too, was not ready to interact with such a large number of foreigners entering the local market. Security and political factors further complicated the situation.

So far, CPEC has failed to create any kind of sociocultural fusion in society. The mega projects of CPEC, which entail sovereign guarantees, are still ongoing, but the establishment of the economic zones and cooperation in the industrial and agricultural sectors have slowed to a snail's pace in recent years. Chinese investors have other attractive destinations where they can enlarge their profits, especially countries which not only have an appetite for foreign investment but also offer a milieu of sociopolitical and cultural acceptance for foreigners. It goes without saying that multicultural and diverse countries attract more foreign investment. Pakistan has a diverse religious, ethnic and cultural profile but it is struggling to create harmony in diversity. The state and a major segment of society, ie the clergy, have taken the entire societal discourse to the level of exaggerated religious zeal where little space is left to accept or celebrate diversity. As a result, society sees anything that is new and different with suspicion, including foreigners and among the latter especially whose are not co-religionists.

Unfortunately, the country had lost its appeal for international tourists long before the post-9/11 wave of terrorism arrived at its shores. The emerging insecurity and violence had made security agencies overly sensitive to foreigners either from the West or the South Asian neighbourhood; in most instances, these foreigners were viewed as potential enemies of the country. In the process, to counter foreign threats, state institutions have developed such strict visa regimes and protocols (not only for international NGOs and tourists but also for investors) that one thinks multiple times before deciding to visit Pakistan.



The media coverage of a German tourist couple staying in a vehicle in Lahore is just one example of how paranoid our society has become regarding the presence of foreigners in the country. The couple that was on a mission to travel the world in their car was harassed by the local media, who called them spies and described them as 'mysterious'. They were on their way to India but the Covid-19 pandemic and visa restrictions forced them to stay longer in the city.

As compared to other nations in the region, a common Pakistani has minimal chances to interact with foreigners. Pakistani people have more opportunities to interact with other nationals if they are going to the Gulf and East Asian countries for economic reasons or to study abroad. The Pakistani diaspora in the West is sizable but it is not diverse and mainly hails from specific regions of the country. Even they face issues while living in multicultural societies. CPEC has brought thousands of Chinese nationals to Pakistan. They are either

working on projects, or exploring avenues of investment. The Chinese government also encouraged people-to-people contact and arranged visits for the media, academics, politicians, businessmen, and youth in the hope of a better cultural and social understanding of each other. Almost 23,000 Pakistani students are studying in various disciplines in Chinese educational institutions. Initially, Pakistanis were enthusiastic about Chinese nationals and receptive to the idea of visitors, but the cultural gaps have gradually widened. The security situation has also forced Chinese workers to restrict their movement and interaction with the locals. China and Pakistan enjoy an excellent strategic and political relationship and it was expected that the Chinese would be well received in the country. CPEC was also conceived as a social and cultural catalyst for the country, but that enthusiasm is apparently on the wane at the moment.

— Courtesy Dawn

Briefs

Biden wants early solution of Kashmir

From Page 01

Replying to a question, he said that Pakistan-US relations are a historic matter and we have many opportunities to strengthen bilateral relations. Secretary Blinken told Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi that he hoped to strengthen ties, especially in the trade sector. Asked if the new Biden administration would do the same like former President Trump offered to mediate on Kashmir, he said the Biden administration is very different from the Trump administration. Problems at the global level are resolved through dialogue and diplomacy and we believe that direct dialogue between Pakistan and India can lead to the resolution of the Kashmir dispute. In response to another question, he said that looking at US foreign policy, "I do not think that there is any such competition between Pakistan and India. I am handling the same file myself and I have been a diplomat in the Foreign Office for 11 years and I have never had any doubt that Pakistan's relations with the United States are different from the rest of the world." Replying to a question on Pakistan's relations with the United States and China, he said that the impression that bilateral relations between Pakistan and the United States would be viewed only from China's point of view was not correct. Another of our priorities is peace and stability in Afghanistan and it is not possible to establish peace and stability in Afghanistan without Pakistan.

FM welcomes resolution in support of Kashmiris

From Page 01

PTI was making sincere efforts to end menace of corruption. Everyone knew well that there was votes sale and purchase in Senate elections, said Qureshi adding that PTI wanted to close all ways of votes sale and purchase. Qureshi hinted that both Pakistan People Party and Pakistan Muslim League N had promised of open ballot in Charter of Democracy. Now, the both parties backed out of their promise. PTI moved to parliament and trying to seek Opposition's support for amendment in law related to open ballot for Senate elections. PTI lacked two third majority. Similarly, Pakistan Tehreek Insaf also sought opinion of Supreme Court. To another question about inflation, Qureshi observed that different measures were being taken to reduce inflation. About Senate, he stated that Senate was symbol of strong federation. Some powers wanted to destabilize country through incidents of terrorism. These powers also wanted to weaken country's economy. Senate is best forum to discuss issues of national importance. He, however, reiterated that Senate was playing important role in defeating such elements. When questioned about PDM long march, Shah Mahmood Qureshi observed that long march was democratic right of Opposition. The incumbent government will not create hindrance in way of long march, Qureshi maintained. He also suggested PDM not to harm public or private properties during the protest demonstration. PDM should not take law into hand as it would not be service to the society. Qureshi stated that people would not come to streets on call of PDM. The masses wished that PTI should complete its constitutional term. The government was trying its best to resolve problems despite difficulties due to COVID 19. PML N had ruled Punjab for over 40 years. Similarly, Sindh province is being governed by PPP for last 12 years, he said adding that the both parties could not perform. PTI wanted to bring loyal and eligible persons in Senate which could represent party effectively and also defend and promote its ideology, said Qureshi. Party board and Prime Minister Imran Khan will decide about candidates. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi stated that India wished to become permanent member of Security Council. Qureshi added that there was no ban on wishes. He, however, added that a good number countries were not agreeing with India's wish. About Ali Tareen as candidate in Senate Elections, Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi observed that he did not know about it.



RAWALPINDI: Pakistani batsman Mohammad Rizwan celebrates after scoring a century (100 runs) during the fourth day of the second Test cricket match between Pakistan and South Africa at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. – APP

Markram, Dussen put South Africa in dominant position

Linde, who had a dislocated pinky finger on day one, took his fifth wicket of Shaheen Shah Afridi 4 in the 102nd over. This was his maiden five-for-64. Pakistan lead by 369 runs as they scored 298 runs in the second innings for all in 102 overs.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Unbeaten Pakistani wicket-keeper batsman Mohammad Rizwan's maiden Test knock guided the Green-shirts to 298 runs in the second innings against South Africa at Pindi Stadium, Rawalpindi on Sunday. Pakistan scored 298 runs for all in the second innings in 102 overs. Rizwan's unbeaten knock (115 runs) came in 204 balls including 15 fours. Rizwan

achieved his maiden Test century in the 96th over (95.2 ball) which was bowled by George Linde. Pakistan was 129 for 6 on day three and the first wicket on day four for the Green-shirts was taken in the 57th over by Keshav Maharaj when Hasan Ali 5 missed the ball which hit him on the front pad and was given out. Pakistan were on 217 for 8 before lunch but after return Yasir Shah was on 23 runs, when he was dismissed by Linde in the 74th over. Yasir and Rizwan provided

a 53-run-partnership for the 8th wicket. Nauman Ali went unlucky as he was just five runs short from his fifty (45) when he was downed by Kagiso Rabada in the 99th over. Rizwan and Nauman Ali provided a 97 runs partnership to the 9th wicket. Linde, who had a dislocated pinky finger on day one, took his fifth wicket of Shaheen Shah Afridi 4 in the 102nd over. This was his maiden five-for-64. Pakistan lead by 369 runs as they scored 298 runs in the second

innings for all in 102 overs.

When South Africa came to bat they went well till 33 runs in the second innings until Shaheen Shah Afridi took the first wicket for Pakistan (Dean Elgar 17) in the 9th over. South Africa were on 37 for one before the tea break. Opener Aiden Markram took the stand for the Proteas as he scored a fifty in 24th over on just 71 balls including eight 4s and two 6s. He was 0 for 22 seeing off the new ball spell from Shaheen Shah Afridi but has scored at a run a ball

since the spinners (Nauman Ali and Yasir Shah) entered. The visitors did well on and reached 100 runs in the 25th over. Pakistani bowlers seemed helpless as South Africa stood firm after the loss of the first wicket and accomplished 127 runs for 1 at the end of day four. Markram (59) and Rassie van der Dussen (48 runs) provided 94 runs partnership to the second wicket giving the visitors a good start as they need 243 runs left (out of 370) to chase for the last day.

US transit systems seek light at end of pandemic tunnel

DNA

WASHINGTON: It's rush hour Tuesday morning on the Washington Metro. A rail car, which a year ago would have been packed with seated and standing commuters, has just four passengers. Ridership in the US capital's Metro system in December was down 85.5 percent compared with a year earlier. And the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

sees little recovery in the coming two years, projecting just one-third of pre-pandemic usage. To adapt, WMATA proposed a doomsday scenario of cutting rail service frequency to every 30 minutes, closing stations, limiting buses and laying off employees. For the moment that plan is on hold. The dire situation is echoed in transit systems across the United States, amid a pandemic which has kept many people working from

home or traveling by other means. The pandemic "has taken a huge toll on the budgets of the transit agencies," said Paul Skoutelas, president of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), noting that some systems have seen ridership collapse by as much as 90 percent. "Certainly the largest cities get the biggest attention because of how large their transit networks are and the number of people they carry," Skoutelas said.

From N-Korea to UK, defector fights for 'voiceless'

DNA

LONDON: Jihyun Park shares the civic concerns of any other would-be town councillor in Britain, from local education to potholes in the roads. But she is unique in one regard: no other candidate has fled North Korea. Park is believed to be the first defector from the oppressive state to have run for office in any country, other than South Korea, after fleeing human trafficking in China and the brutal privations of a North Korean prison camp. Thirteen years after finding refuge in Britain, the 52-year-old is standing for Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative party in council elections coming up in May, pledging to speak for other "voiceless people". "The UK people welcomed me to this land and I finally found my freedom. I want to pay back," she told AFP in an interview. Park first tried to flee the world's most reclusive state in 1998, when it was in the grip of famine. She and her younger brother trekked to China, where they got separated, and she was sold into a sham "marriage" with an alcoholic gambler. After six years in China and having borne a son, Park was arrested by Chinese police and sent back alone to North Korea, where she was thrown into a detention camp for political criminals and forced to do backbreaking manual labor. Life was

a daily grind of "starvation, prison, torture", she said. Ordinary people were treated "less than animals". Thrown out of the camp after she became ill, Park again journeyed across the mountains into China and reclaimed her son, heading on to Mongolia in 2005 with a group of other defectors, including one who became her husband for real. Giving up on that attempt, for fear of her young son's life, Park headed with the group to Beijing and lived in hiding until a Christian pastor in 2007 directed her to the UN refugee agency. She was eventually granted asylum in Britain with her husband and son in January 2008 and was resettled in Bury, part of the Greater Manchester conurbation in northwest England. The former schoolteacher worked in a Korean restaurant in Manchester, learning English at an adult college, and became a human rights activist, publicizing abuses in her homeland and helping other North Koreans to settle in Britain. "Bury is my motherland," she said, likening her experience of learning English in the gritty market town to being reborn. She joined the Conservatives in 2016. The Centre-right party's policy on asylum-seekers is less welcoming than others, but Park sees no contradiction in running under its banner after being selected to run as a ward councillor in Bury.



GILGIT: Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan Wendy Gilmour visited Ghulkin Gojal Hunza. She is on her mission to Promote Winter tourism and Winter sports in Gilgit Baltistan. – DNA

Himalayan glacier breaks in India

FOREIGN DESK

NEW DELHI: many as 150 people were feared dead in northern India after a Himalayan glacier broke and swept away a hydroelectric dam on Sunday, with floods forcing the evacuation of villages downstream. A witness reported a wall of dust, rock and water as an avalanche roared down the Dhauli Ganga river valley located more than 500 km (310 miles) in the state of Uttarakhand, north of New Delhi. "It came very fast, there was no time to alert anyone," Sanjay Singh Rana, who lives on the upper reaches of the river in Raini village told Reporter by phone. "I felt that even we would be swept away." Om Prakash, chief secretary of Uttarakhand, said 100 to 150 people were feared dead but the actual number had not yet been confirmed.

Interfaith harmony imperative

From Page 01

We must spread the message of compassion and embrace our diversity, based on our common humanity." Referring to the the World Interfaith Harmony Week resolution proclaimed by the United Nations in 2010 which upholds that mutual understanding and inter-religious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace, she said, "In its resolution, the General Assembly pointed out that mutual understanding and inter-religious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace and established World Interfaith Harmony Week as a way to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith."

"It recognises the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people," she added. "Pakistan is a signatory of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), a multilateral treaty adopted by UN General Assembly which entered into force here in 2010. The covenant commits its parties to respect the civil and political rights of individuals, including the right to freedom of religion. The ICCPR is also one of the conventions that is referred to in the GSP+ trade regime, which the EU and Pakistan have signed and which entered into force in 2014," she added. Androulla Kaminara said the EU believed in the freedom of religion or belief – which was enshrined in Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that ensured and protected the right of individuals to practise the religion or belief of their choice – and therefore their dignity.

"Therefore, the EU is supporting initiatives promoting interfaith dialogue," she added. The ambassador said interfaith dialogue was one of the priority areas of the Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP) signed between the EU and Pakistan in 2019. Both the EU and Pakistan, she added, had agreed to work towards "enhancing intercultural and inter-faith dialogue and understanding to promote tolerance and harmony, in particular mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge, people-to-people contacts and education."

Ord. an attack on Constitution

From Page 01

Opposition's viewpoints on board before issuing the ordinance. "Govt did not hold dialogue with Opposition" Adding to Rehman's criticism of the government, senior PPP leader and former Senate chairman Raza Rabbani claimed that the government "did not consult any political parties or PPP parliamentarians before drafting the amendment bill of the Senate elections". "The PTI-led government did not hold any dialogue with the Opposition regarding the amendment," Rabbani said, adding that the ordinance issued by the government in relation to the Senate election is based on "malicious intent."

"The government is making the Senate elections controversial. The law allows us to challenge this ordinance in court," he said. "The cabinet is blind and it seems it cannot read the Constitution." Responding to the PPP's criticism, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communication Shahbaz Gill said that for the past two years, the PPP did not contribute to any legislation of national interest. "It was Bibi (late Benazir Bhutto) who had stipulated the idea of open-ballot voting for Senate elections in the Charter of Democracy," he said. "Why is bringing an end to the 'horse-trading' tradition causing the PPP so much pain?" President ratifies Elections (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 President Arif Alvi on Saturday signed the Elections (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 to pave the way for Senate elections to be held via an "open and identifiable ballot". According to the Ordinance, changes have been brought to Sections 81, 122 and 185 of the Elections Act, 2017.

Protests sweep Myanmar to oppose coup

Massive crowds from all corners of Yangon gathered in townships and headed toward the Sule Pagoda at the heart of the city, also a rallying point during the Buddhist monk-led 2007 protests and others in 1988

DNA

YAGON: Tens of thousands of people rallied across Myanmar on Sunday to denounce last week's coup and demand the release of elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi, in the biggest protests since the 2007 Saffron Revolution that helped lead to democratic reforms. In a second day of widespread protests, crowds in the biggest city, Yangon, sported red shirts, red flags and red balloons, the color of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy Party (NLD). "We don't want military dictatorship! We want democracy!" they chanted. On Sunday afternoon, the junta ended a day-long blockade of the internet that had further inflamed anger since the coup last Monday that has halted the Southeast Asian nation's troubled transition to democracy and drawn international outrage. Massive crowds from all cor-

ners of Yangon gathered in townships and headed toward the Sule Pagoda at the heart of the city, also a rallying point during the Buddhist monk-led 2007 protests and others



in 1988. They gestured with the three-finger salute that has become a symbol of protest against the coup. Drivers honked their horns and passengers held up photos of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Suu Kyi. "We don't want a dictatorship for the next generation," said 21-year-old Thaw Zin. "We will not finish this revolution until we make history. We will fight to the end." There was no comment from the junta in the capital Naypyitaw, more than 350 km (220 miles) north of Yangon. An internal note for U.N. staff estimated that 1,000 people joined a protest in Naypyitaw while there were 60,000 in Yangon alone. Protests also were reported in the second city of Mandalay and many towns across the country of 53 million people. The demonstrations have largely been peaceful, unlike the bloody crackdowns seen in 1988 and 2007.

Briefs

Pope appoints first woman to senior synod post

DNA

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis has broken with Catholic tradition to appoint a woman as an undersecretary of the synod of bishops, the first to hold the post with voting rights in a body that studies major questions of doctrine. Frenchwoman Nathalie Beccuart is one of the two new undersecretaries named Saturday to the synod, where she has been a consultant since 2019. "With the nomination of Sister Nathalie Beccuart and her possibility of participating in voting, a door has opened." The synod is led by bishops and cardinals who have voting rights and also comprises experts who cannot vote, with the next gathering scheduled for autumn 2022. A special synod on the Amazon in 2019 saw 35 female "auditors" invited to the assembly, but none could vote. The Argentine-born pope has signaled his wish to reform the synod and have women and laypeople play a greater role in the church. He named Spaniard Luis Marin de San Martin as the other undersecretary in the synod of bishops. Beccuart, 52, a member of the France-based Xaviere Sisters, has a master's degree in management from the prestigious HEC business school in Paris and studied in Boston before joining the order. — APP

'Intercepted armed drone launched by Yemen rebels'

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia intercepted an armed drone launched towards the kingdom by Yemen's Huthis, state media said Sunday, a day after the US moved to delist the rebels as a terrorist group. The Saudi-led military coalition "intercepted and destroyed an armed drone," said spokesman Turki al-Maliki in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency. "It was launched systematically and deliberately by the terrorist Huthi militia to target civilians and civilian objects in the south of the region." The incident was not immediately claimed by the Huthis. The US State Department on Friday said it had formally notified Congress of its intention to revoke a terrorist designation against the rebels, which had been announced at the end of the administration of former president Donald Trump. The delisting move came a day after US President Joe Biden announced an end to US support for Saudi-led offensive operations in Yemen. — APP

Batik dye causes blood-red flood in Indonesia

PEKALONGAN: An Indonesian village was inundated by crimson-colored water after flooding hit a fabric dyeing Centre in central Java, sparking a social media frenzy. Residents of Jenggot, near the town of Pekalongan, were seen wading through blood-red water on Saturday and many shared images of the rare phenomenon online. Officials later confirmed the unique colour came from harmless fabric dye used by several batik factories in the area. Pekalongan itself is well known for its batik textiles industry, with many cottage industries flourishing across the town. "They did not dump the dye on purpose, but several home industries were flooded and the dye packages were carried away by the water", local disaster agency official Dimas Arga Yudha told AFP Sunday, adding that the batik dye was not toxic or dangerous. Local officials deployed pumps to drain the flooded area it was cleared in less than an hour. Floods are very common across the Indonesian archipelago, especially during the rainy season. In January at least 21 people died and more than 60,000 were evacuated after a series of major floods hit South Kalimantan. Others however, have simply emigrated, adding to the worries about how long Reghin's violin-making tradition will last. — APP

Yemen foreign minister welcomes visit of European ambassadors

We touched on the issue of the safer oil tanker and explained that the Houthi militia continues to recant from its commitment to allow the international technical team to access the tanker so as to assess its condition, as they had agreed

DNA

YEMEN: MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & EXPATRIATES, H.E. DR. AHMED BINMUBARAK HAS welcomed the visit of the Head of the European Union delegation and the ambassadors of Germany, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Ireland, Finland, Sweden, and the Deputy Ambassador of Norway accredited to Yemen. This visit sends an important political message that expresses the support of the European friends to the Yemeni government in its efforts to normalize public life and to realize peace and to restore security and stability. Today, we discussed a number of issues, and wherein we made clear that the cowardly terrorist bombing of the Houthi militia with ballistic missiles on Aden International Airport when the new government Cabinet had arrived at the airport was aimed at terminating the peace process and prolonging the war. However, the attack failed to achieve its goals, and it only increased



the government's cohesion and steadfastness to undertake its responsibility to end the militia's tampering with the security and stability of Yemen; and to put an end to its criminal behavior and the never-ending violations on the rights of the Yemeni people. illuminated how the Riyadh Agreement was a significant historical event for renewing hope for a better future and affirming that the approach of dialogue and reconciliation is the most

effective way to resolve differences and to defuse the conflict, and that the constructive political atmosphere prevailing in the interim capital Aden, will positively reflect on the government's performance and enable it to focus on improving public services as an urgent priority. And we will continue to work with our brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to complete the implementation of the Riyadh Agreement. We touched on the issue of the safer

oil tanker and explained that the Houthi militia continues to recant from its commitment to allow the international technical team to access the tanker so as to assess its condition, as they had agreed. It is another indication to the international community of the importance of exerting maximum pressure on the Houthi militia in dealing with their methods of manipulation and deception used, which is also a reason for protracting the war and impeding in reaching a political settlement in Yemen, despite all the concessions made by the government in all rounds

of negotiations undertaken with the Houthi militia. We affirmed that the government is moving towards a comprehensive national reconciliation and in a political partnership with the international community, to establish the necessary foundations to achieve a real, lasting and comprehensive peace in Yemen, stressing peace is the only way to solve the political crisis in Yemen and to address the catastrophic humanitarian repercussions.

Journalists say Hungary drone law stifles reporting

DNA

BUDAPEST: When Hungarian journalist Gabi Horn was called in by police last October about her investigative news site's drone footage of a business tycoon's estate, at first she thought a corruption probe had been opened. "It turned out instead we had been reported for suspected 'illegal acquisition of data'," said Horn, 53, who works for the Adatszo.hu outlet. While that criminal case was eventually dropped by prosecutors, it came as a new law was adopted that Horn is convinced is aimed at hindering such investigations. The government says the new regulation on aerial drones, in force since January 1, protects privacy and sets safety standards. But it also punishes the

publication of drone footage of property without the owner's permission with up to one year in jail. "That makes it harder for journalists to investigate suspected misuse of public money and EU funds," Horn told AFP at Adatszo's office in Budapest. The law adds to press freedom and corruption concerns that have dogged headline Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government since it came to power in 2010. In 2019 the Reporters without Borders watchdog described the degree of media control in Hungary as "unprecedented in an EU country". Corruption monitor Transparency International meanwhile relegated Hungary in its latest annual index to joint bottom place in the EU alongside Romania and Bulgaria.

Senate to judge Trump over riot

WASHINGTON: One year after his first impeachment, former president Donald Trump finds himself the subject of an unprecedented second trial beginning Tuesday in the Senate, whose members must determine whether he incited a deadly assault on the US Capitol. The 100 senators will also step into controversial, uncharted territory when they sit in judgment of a president who is no longer in office, a deeply damaged political figure who remains a potent force in his party even without the power of the White House. At the heart of the coming week's high-stakes proceedings is the January 6 melee, when several hundred pro-Trump rioters stormed Congress, fought police and sought to stop the ceremonial certification of Joe Biden's election victory. The uprising, which some Democratic lawmakers say was an attempted coup by domestic terrorists, has

been described as the most dangerous attack on American democracy since the 1860s Civil War. It left members of Congress — who were ruthlessly targeted by the insurrectionists — so shaken, and the nation so enraged, that Democrats immediately began the process of impeaching Trump just two weeks from the end of his term. On January 13 the House of Representatives indicted him for "incitement of insurrection," forever branding Trump a twice-impeached president. No other commander-in-chief has been so disgraced. Yet no US president has ever been convicted in a court of impeachment, and the odds are that such a record will stand. One of the main goals of Democrats driving the trial would be to ban Trump from holding federal office in the future, were they able to win a conviction. — APP

Passage of Kashmir resolution in NY hailed

Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Chairman Shabbir Ahmed Dar in a statement issued in Srinagar while hailing the resolution also congratulated Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan for raising the Kashmir issue globally

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In India illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Hurriyat leaders and organizations have welcomed the adoption of a resolution on Kashmir by the New York assembly in connection with the Kashmir Solidarity Day in the United States. Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Chairman Shabbir Ahmed Dar in a statement issued in Srinagar while hailing the resolution also congratulated Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan for raising the Kashmir issue globally. "The sincere and well-directed efforts by

Prime Minister Imran have started showing results," he said. "The friends of Kashmir and Pakistan Consulate General have been successful in their tireless efforts to make American people aware about the background of the Kashmir dispute," he said and added that the reaction shown by Indian consulate on the resolution shows that India is under tremendous international pressure on Kashmir. APHC-AJK leader and Vice Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Mass Movement Abdul Majeed Mir in a statement in Islamabad while welcoming the resolution also thanked Pakistani Ambassador

Asad Majeed Khan for playing his robust role in the passage of the resolution. He said that it was a great achievement of Pakistan at the diplomatic front and hoped that the country would continue to raise its voice for Kashmiris' right to self-determination at all international forums. The APHC-AJK leader hoped that all the major powers of the world would play their role in resolving the Kashmir dispute. He said it is the moral responsibility of the United Nations to raise its voice against the ongoing killings, torture, sexual violence against women and indiscriminate arrests in Jammu and Kashmir.

'No talks until US lifts sanctions'

On January 4, Iran announced it has stepped up its uranium enrichment process to 20 percent purity, far above the 3.67 percent level permitted by the deal, but far below the amount required for an atomic bomb

DNA

TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Sunday the US must "completely lift" sanctions first, followed by verification by Tehran, before the Islamic republic returns to its nuclear deal commitments. "If they want Iran to return to its commitments... America must completely lift sanctions, and not just in words or on paper," Khamenei said in a televised speech to air force commanders. "They must be lifted in action, and then we will verify and see if they have been properly lifted, and then return," he added. The 2015 landmark deal has been hanging by a thread since US President Don-



ald Trump's decision to withdraw from it in 2018 and reimpose sanctions on Tehran. Tehran a year later suspended its compliance with most key nuclear commitments to the deal. The new administration of US President Joe Biden has expressed willingness to return to the deal, but insisted that Tehran first resume full compliance. On January 4, Iran announced it has stepped up

its uranium enrichment process to 20 percent purity, far above the 3.67 percent level permitted by the deal, but far below the amount required for an atomic bomb. And it may restrict by February 21 nuclear inspections if US sanctions are not lifted or other key parties to the deal do not help Tehran bypass them, according to a law passed by the parliament in December. According to Khamenei, Iran has "a right to set conditions for the continuation" of the deal as it has upheld its end, unlike the US and the three European members of the deal — Britain, France and Germany — who have "violated all their commitments". "No one in the Islamic republic cares for the nonsense claimed by those not entitled to anything," he said. Khamenei insisted that the condition set by Tehran for the US is Iran's "definite policy". Iran "will not turn back from" it, he said. On Monday, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif asked the European Union to coordinate a synchronized return of both Washington and Tehran into a nuclear deal, after a diplomatic standoff on who will act first.

6.0-magnitude quake hits southern Philippines

MANILA: A strong earthquake hit the southern Philippines on Sunday, though there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, the US Geological Survey and local officials said. The 6.0-magnitude quake struck the town of Bansalan on Mindanao island at 12:22 pm (0422 GMT), the USGS said in a bulletin. The quake was recorded at a depth of 15.6 kilometers (9.7 miles), it said, slightly shallower than at first reported by the agency. "It was strong, but things did not topple or fall off," Major Peter Glenn Ipong, the police chief of Bansalan, told AFP by telephone from the epicenter. Ipong and civil defense officials in the region reported strong shaking but said there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The USGS in an earlier bulletin put the epicenter two kilometers east of the neighboring town of Magsaysay before revising the location to Bansalan. The Philippines is regularly rocked by quakes due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", an arc of intense seismic activity that stretches from Japan through Southeast Asia and across the Pacific basin. The region around Bansalan, a town of 60,000 people, was struck by three deadly quakes over a two-week period in October 2019, killing at least 10 people. — APP

Ulema delegation of Egypt visits Data Darbar

LAHORE: A five-member Ulema and Mushaikh delegation of Jamia Azhar Egypt, led by Sheikh ul Azhar Dr Ahmad Altayab, visited Mazar of Hazrat Data Gaj Bakhsh Ali Hajveri here on Sunday. They performed traditional chador-laying ceremony on the grave of the saint and offered dua. The delegation consisted of Dr Abdul Rehman Hamad, Dr Muhammad Abdul Baseer Khizeeri, Dr Muhammad Alraskhala, Dr Ahmad Shible and Dr Khalid Abdul Nabi. Later, the delegation, along with Punjab Minister for Auqaf Syed Saeedul Hasan Shah, visited different departments Data Darbar complex. The minister briefed them about the steps taken for development and security of the mazar by the Auqaf Department. They also visited the Quran o Seerat Academy at Upper Mall and attended a meeting there. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Azhari Mission Dr Abdul Rehman Hamad said that the opportunity of six-month course of Khatib would be provided to Ulema and Mashaikh. He said that steps would be taken to establish Almoahid ul Azhari in Lahore. Later, the minister presented special gifts to the guests.

Fears for future of Romania's master violin makers

REGHIN: Surrounded by violins hung from the ceiling and lined up on shelves, Vasile Gliga looks proudly on the fruits of his labors. From his factory in the central Romanian city of Reghin, Gliga has been one of the city's world-famous instrument makers for more than 30 years. His business is one of the city's large-scale producers in a city that also hosts master craftsmen turning out just a handful of instruments a year. The secret to his success, he says, is simple: "Putting a little of your soul into it." Gliga turned out his first two violins in a box room in his flat in 1988 when was 29. Last year however his business sold 50,000 instruments — from violins to double basses — only two percent of them going to Romanian customers. Romania is the EU country that exports the most violins outside the bloc, according to Eurostat's 2018 figures. But like many in his trade, Gliga worries he may be one of a dying breed. For Romania's renowned luthiers — the craftsmen who specialize in making stringed instruments — face a twin challenge: cheaper competition from abroad and finding the next generation of craftsman to carry on their tradition.

Incentives for industry bearing fruits

Former Vice Chairman Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association Kashif Zia said the government has successfully resolved the liquidity problems of exporters by speedy payment of rebate and refund claims

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In the modern world, industry in any country provides a foundation for economic growth and well-being of people. The states and the government always desire vibrant industry to avoid recessions and stand firm even during odd times. For, this goal they put in all efforts that not only boost their exports but also save from unnecessarily borrowing. But slumps, corruption, nepotism and ad-hocism often jeopardize this growth and this happens very often in the developing states where the ruling elites ruin national infrastructure for their personal gains. Pakistan also experienced this dilemma when during previous regimes the industrial sector was badly affected to poor policies. Many industrial units were closed

down because of ill-conceived policies while those functioning had to reduce their capacity up to 40%. The worst hit sector was the power loom where most of owners had to dispose of their machinery at throw-away prices. However, the present government focused on industrial sector's revival and formulated viable and business friendly policies. Economic situation world over due to Covid also provided local manufacturers in Pakistan to grab export opportunities. The industrial units started their operation with the full installed capacity because of hefty export orders ensuring massive job opportunities. The government very wisely handled the situation during the pandemic. It not only secured the jobs of workers but also accelerated the pace of industrial development. The government focused on export oriented industry and maximum facilities were provided to these units

while State Bank of Pakistan introduced out of box solution to extend financial support to the needy units. The colonization industrial city M-3 has been geared up while Allama Iqbal Export Processing Zone is also nearing completion. The industrial units and SME sector has 30% more orders than their installed capacity. It has forced them to expand their units and set up new units to fulfill the foreign commitments. It is expected that at least 4000 new air jet power looms will be added in the system which will definitely give a quantum jump to the national exports. President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed said it is very encouraging that Pakistan has achieved historic increase in export during October (US\$ Two billion) to December (US\$ 2.357 billion). "The increase was unexpected due to the domestic as

well as global meltdown." "The government offered liberal policies for import of machinery under Long Term Financing Scheme. Under this scheme, various industrialists are currently importing 30000 to 35000 high speed air jet looms that would industry shift to digital machinery," he said and mentioned to a few days back inauguration of digital high-end unit. "This trend will help create maximum job opportunities and it is expected that during next two to three years around 10 million jobs could be offered in Faisalabad alone," he claimed. Orders have been issued for speedy colonization of existing and new export processing zones under Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC). "We appreciate the serious efforts of the government in simplification of procedures, FDI and ease of doing business." The Government has also assured uninterrupted en-

ergy to five major export sectors fixing the electricity and gas prices at affordable rates, he said. "It has restored confidence of industrialists and would help us to cross the target of textile export by 2025." Former Vice Chairman Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association Kashif Zia said the government has successfully resolved the liquidity problems of exporters by speedy payment of rebate and refund claims. "The government has maintained strategic balance in giving much needed confidence to exporters as well as payment of their claims." He said, earlier a major chunk of exporters' finances was stuck up due to non-payment of refund claims. As, now the process of payments starts, it would definitely energized the industry. "Moreover, the proposed 5-year textile policy will help exporters to double their exports if the policies continued unhindered."

Briefs

2nd tranche of Chinese vaccine on way

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is likely to get the second batch of a Chinese-made Covid-19 vaccine, Sinopharm, within next 24 hours. Sources said China will provide another half a million doses of the vaccine. They said all measures to procure a Russian vaccine, Sputnik-IV, have also been finalised. The sources within the health ministry said the government green-lighted procurement of the Russian jab for a limited period. Moreover, the country is likely to get doses of AstraZeneca vaccine from COVAX by the end of this month. A countrywide Covid vaccination drive started Wednesday last. 0.5 million doses of the Sinopharm vaccine gifted by China is being used in the first phase. Sindh has been provided 84,000 doses of the vaccine, Punjab 70,000, KP 65,000, and Balochistan 10,300 doses. On Monday, a special Pakistan Air Force (PAF) plane carrying the first batch of COVID-19 vaccine had reached Islamabad.

Khatam-i-Nabuwat to be protected at all costs

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Prisons Fayyaz-ul-Hasan Chohan has said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, was custodian of Khatam-i-Nabuwat. He said was addressing 'Haq Chaar Yaar' conference here on Sunday. He said that no one could dare abolish laws related to Khatam-i-Nabuwat and Namoo-e-Risalat. Prime Minister Imran Khan was the only leader who highlighted Namoo-e-Risalat in United Nations and at other international platforms, he added. Chohan said that the governance system of Riyasat-e-Madina as well as Khulfa-e-Rashideen was based on welfare and well-being of people. The minister said that the PM established shelter homes (Panagahs) and 'Langar Khanas' (free food centres) following the system of Riyasat-e-Madina and Khulfa-e-Rashideen, adding that it was a dream of Imran Khan that no one sleeps hungry and shelterless in the country. For the sake of political point scoring, the opposition was leveling baseless allegations against the government regarding acceptance of Israel, he added. - APP

Infrastructure under CPEC will transform model

DNA

BEIJING: Infrastructure construction under CPEC will emerge as a model, according to China International Contractors Association (CHINCA). Gwadar Port reported on Sunday, that CHINCA summarized the development of Chinese international projects in BRI countries in 2020 last week. Fang Quchen, the Chairman of CHINCA, remarked that infrastructure construction under BRI and CPEC will transform and upgrade their model in several respects. The summary says in 1979, the annual value of China's overseas contracts was only \$34 million, and in 2020, the number exceeded \$250 billion, an increase of nearly 8,000 times in the past 40 years. Fang said, Asia, the largest benefited destination area of China's infrastructure assistance, has accounted for more than 50% of the newly signed and completed contracts globally in 2020. Among them, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Saudi Arabia are key host countries. In recent years, Chinese projects in Pakistan have focused on energy, housing and roads. From 2020, the construction of rail transit, such as high-speed rail and subway, will also rise under CPEC.

Pakistan a reliable partner, says Indonesian ambassador

Front Page 01

TALKING about the cultural relations Ambassador Adam Tugion said he believed that culture has the power to reduce the distance and to unite the people with different background, region and traditions. Happily, the Indonesia-Pakistan friendship has a strong foundation of shared values and similarities in culture. It is true that the similarities are primarily based on the Islamic faith and traditions, but the relationship goes even deeper in the history of our two nations as both remained part of the great Buddhist and Hindu civilizations and later their population gradually converted to Islam. It is important therefore, that we constantly nurture these cultural bonds which are greatly valued by our peoples. The promotion of cultural ties is an important part of our efforts to strengthen the people-to-people contact to further foster the bonds of friendship. Pakistan and Indonesia are also desirous to increase cooperation in the fields of education, science & technology. To foster cultural & academic linkages, the Embassy continues to engage the Pakistani educational and cultural institutions, students and other segments of the civil society. Edu-



cation is one of the areas that offer some great potential for the bilateral cooperation to benefit from and bring the people of the two countries even closer. In recent years, academic cooperation has seen some significant improvement as number of MoU's on academic cooperation between 10 Indonesian universities with equal number of university partners in Pakistan had been signed and more were under process or consideration. Following the success of the Indonesian government scholarships of KNB and Dharmasiswa in Pakistan, there has been growing interest among the Pakistani students to pursue higher education programs in Indonesia. More recently, master

and doctoral level partially funded scholarships offered by some Indonesian universities have also received encouraging response from the Pakistani students. Therefore, in view of the Pakistani student's interest, there is opportunity for the universities of the two countries to capitalize and lay foundation for a solid academic cooperation. Another attractive area of cooperation with big potential is tourism. It is generally about leisure and pleasure but it also promotes cultural exchange and provides opportunity to people of various cultures to meet and understand each other. It also brings people of the similar taste and profession together and opens up windows of



ISLAMABAD: Editor Islamabad POST, Ansar Mahmood Bhatti and Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugion. - DNA
many opportunities. These days, tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. In addition to the opportunities for recreation, tourism industry has emerged as a big source to generate employment opportunities, grow service sector and help earn foreign exchange. Hence, tourism spurs the overall economic growth worldwide. Despite very cordial and brotherly ties and having the great existing tourism potential that our two countries offer, it is important to find why the two-way tourists' traffic is almost limited. Recent statistics of 2019 suggests that tourist arrival in Indonesia from Pakistan has remained very low with only 14,000 tourists from Pakistan. Pakistan on the other hand is an absolutely stunning country blessed with famous mountain peaks, beautiful green valleys, Mughal architecture, Gandhara art and civilization, religious tourism sites and deserts filled with remnants of ancient civilization. Both the countries can share experiences to develop infrastructure and hospitality industry to facilitate tourism. - (Full text of the interview shall be published in the March issue of CENTRELINE magazine)

Pakistan's dossier an eye opener: Dr Moeed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Security Dr Moeed Yusuf has said that the EU DisinfoLab report and Pakistan's dossier highlighting the Indian state-sponsored terrorism on its soil were eye opening evidence for the world. India had failed to crush the Kashmiris' freedom struggle post revocation of the special status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Its illegal actions had rather increased hatred among all the Kashmiris and dragged it into a quagmire, the SAPM said in an exclusive interview with APP on the Kashmir Solidarity Day. "The problem is that the next logical action to be taken by the world should be based on moral, ethical and legal grounds to hold India accountable and punish the perpetrators within India involved in violence and human rights abuses along with demographic changes and genocidal acts being perpetrated in IIOJK is not considered." Dr Moeed said India should be held accountable for illegal occupation of the Jammu and Kashmir and penalised for massacre, mass rapes and maiming of innocent Kashmiri youth, women and children. The SAPM said February 5 this year was different for two reasons. Firstly the Kashmiri people had been under military siege for another full year since last February 5 amid communication blockade and a domicile law aimed at diluting the demography and their culture. It was unbearable for any Pakistani.

Italian envoy all praise for GB's agriculture, livestock

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese on Sunday said Gilgit Baltistan has huge potential in agriculture and livestock and transfer of technology would be must to promote the value addition in these sectors. Gilgit Baltistan is potential region for promoting the agriculture, live stock, horticulture and tourism and Italian government can cooperate to enrich the true potential of these sectors. Ambassador, Andreas Ferrarese said this in follow-up meeting with Chairman Pakistan Federation Chamber of Commerce and industry (FPC-CD) Capital Office, Qurban Ali here. The Ambassador said currently Italy was providing technical assistance in Agriculture and horticulture upgradation through modern machinery, value addition in agriculture, livestock and tourism sectors in the region, said a news release. He said Pakistan was working to expand it to Agricultural items including dairy and livestock, olives and olive products, plastics, processed food and construction sector in



Italian market. Andreas Ferrarese underlined the importance of promoting cultural connectivity with Pakistan and regional cultures to promote bilateral trade. The Ambassador said that dairy and Agriculture and livestock, cherries and cherries products, processed food and the construction sector were the areas where Italy could extend its cooperation with Pakistan. He also agreed to provide ease for the family VISAs to Pakistani businessmen and traders to further promote business to business ties between Pakistan and Italy. "Simplification of the VISA process and procedure is the top priority of the Italian embassy in Islamabad" he said.

He said that this would help business communities from both the countries to enhance mutual interaction for exploring new avenues of mutual businesses and investment to increase the bilateral trade between both sides. The Ambassador said that Chief Minister, Gilgit Baltistan Khalid Khurshid is also ready to enhance cooperation in different potential sectors for trade and investment. He was of the view that Italy can extend its cooperation to equip and train the local youth with modern skills and technology to enhance their contribution in the local economy. Andreas Ferrarese said that "We are living in the era of economic diplomacy and economic trade relations are the assurance for peace, harmony and stability between the countries." He said that both sides want to achieve their economic and trade integration through the cooperation and exchange of culture and art to cement bilateral relations. The Ambassador said that green economy, transfer of technology for industrial sector including livestock and agro industry, education and health are major areas of focus to extend the bilateral cooperation with Pakistan.

UN recognizes threat to Pak

NEW YORK: A new United Nations report has acknowledged the action taken by Pakistani government against individuals engaged in terrorist activities, and goes on to say that terror group Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was responsible for over 100 'cross-border' attacks within three months last year. On its part, Pakistan has consistently highlighted the terrorism threat from the TTP. In its 27th report to the United Nations Security Council, under the United Nations (UN) monitoring team that tracks Al Qaeda, Islamic State and other extremist groups points to the arrests in Pakistan of "individuals engaging in terrorism financing and the freezing of the assets of designated individuals and entities". Diplomats noted that the UN acknowledgment of Pakistan actions comes at a time when India continues to blame Pakistan for inaction against the designated groups. Reporting on the activities of the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), the UN report saw the 'reunification of splinter groups (of TTP) that took place in Afghanistan'. The report records that 'five entities pledged alliance to TTP in July and August (2020), including the Shehryar Mehsud group, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, Hizb-ul-Ahrar, the Amjad Farooqi group and the Usman Saifullah group (formerly known as Lashkar-e-Jhangvi)'. The report cautions that the merger of TTP has enhanced the threat of terrorism to Pakistan and the region, as it has 'increased the strength of TTP and resulted in a sharp increase in attacks'. In this regard, the UN reported 'TTP was responsible for more than 100 cross-border attacks between July and October 2020'. The report said that, based on estimates, the TTP's fighting strength ranged between 2,500 and 6,000. Last year, Pakistan handed over a dossier to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the Indian sponsorship of TTP and JuA. Both terrorist groups have been designated by the 1267 Sanctions Committee of the Security Council. - DNA

Sindh: Over 7000 health workers vaccinated

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: Sindh has administered corona vaccine to overall 7000 frontline workers so far as inoculation drive continues across the province. According to the health department figures, during the vaccination drive for the frontline health workers, 912 anti-viral vaccine shots administered at Karachi's Khaliq Dina Hall vaccination center, 329 health workers received jabs at Jinnah Hospital. 727 vaccine shots at Dow University, 1608 vaccine shots at Qatar Hospital Orangi, 743 vaccine jabs at Sindh Government Hospital, New Karachi, while 431 frontline workers were vaccinated at Liaquatabad Hospital in Karachi. Moreover, 258 anti-viral vaccine shots were administered to health workers at the Children Hospital, New Karachi, 743 workers vaccinated at Sindh Govt. Hospital, Korangi, 881 health workers were administered Covid vaccine in Malir.

Maryam Nawaz's eldest daughter injured

LAHORE: Mehrunnisa, the eldest daughter of PML-N vice-president Maryam Nawaz got injured in an accident and is recovering in Intensive Care Unit (ICU). According to PML-N spokesperson Maryam Aurangzeb, Maryam Nawaz's eldest daughter was rushed to a hospital in Lahore with severe head injuries where surgery was performed. "Mehrunnisa is currently in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), but thank God she is out of dan-



ger now," she said in a statement. After hearing news of accident Maryam Nawaz has cancelled her trip to Hyderabad. She appealed for prayers for speedy recovery of Mehrunnisa. In a statement, she said that the PML-N vice president has cancelled her Hyderabad departure to participate in the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) public gathering scheduled on February 9. - DNA

Russian vaccine approved

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has granted approval to Russian vaccine for Covid-19, for emergency use, quoting sources. The DRAP has approved Sputnik V vaccine for emergency use, sources said. The registration board of DRAP has granted permission of use under section VII of the Drug Act 1976, according to sources. The Russian made vaccine has been third Covid vaccine approved by the regulatory authority for emergency use in Pakistan. - APP

FM Qureshi talks to his Iceland counterpart

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Iceland Mr. Gudlaugur Thór Thordarson spoke with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on telephone on Sunday regarding the missing Icelandic mountaineer John Snorri. Foreign Minister Qureshi apprised Foreign Minister Thordarson of the specific steps taken by the Pakistani authorities to search and rescue the missing mountaineers. He reassured that Pakistan will spare no effort and will extend all possible support in this regard. Foreign Minister Thordarson appreciated ongoing search and rescue operation for John Snorri and other members of the team by Pakistani authorities and thanked for the assistance being extended. - DNA

ICC has territorial jurisdiction over territory of Palestine

Judge Marc Perrin de Brichambaut appended a partly separate opinion on the reasons for which article 19(3) of the Statute is applicable in the present situation

DNA

RAMALLA: The Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court ("ICC" or "Court") decided, by majority, that the Court's territorial jurisdiction in the Situation in Palestine, a State party to the ICC Rome Statute, extends to the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, namely Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. On 20 December 2019, the ICC Prosecutor announced the conclusion of the preliminary examination of the Situation in Palestine. The Prosecutor determined that all the statutory criteria under the Rome Statute for the opening of an investigation have been met. A decision on opening the investigation in this situation is in the remit of the ICC Prosecutor. On 22 January 2020, the Prosecutor seized the Chamber under article 19(3) of the Rome Statute, requesting a ruling only on the scope of the Court's territorial jurisdiction in the Situation in the State of Palestine. In today's decision, Pre-Trial Chamber I recalled that the ICC is not constitutionally competent to determine matters of statehood that would bind the

international community. By ruling on the territorial scope of its jurisdiction, the Chamber is neither adjudicating a border dispute under international law nor prejudging the question of any future borders. The Chamber's ruling is for the sole purpose of defining the Court's territorial jurisdiction. Pre-Trial Chamber I examined the Prosecutor's request as well as the submissions of other States, organisations and scholars who participated as amicus curiae and groups of victims. The Chamber held that, in accordance with the ordinary meaning given to its terms in their context and in the light of the object and purpose of the Statute, the reference to '[t]he State on the territory of which the conduct in question occurred' in article 12(2)(a) of the Statute must be interpreted as a reference to a State Party to the Rome Statute. The Chamber found that, regardless of its status under general international law, Palestine's accession to the Statute

FOR THESE REASONS, THE CHAMBER HEREBY

FINDS that Palestine is a State Party to the Statute;

FINDS, by majority, Judge Kovács dissenting, that, as a consequence, Palestine qualifies as '[t]he State on the territory of which the conduct in question occurred' for the purposes of article 12(2)(a) of the Statute; and

FINDS, by majority, Judge Kovács dissenting, that the Court's territorial jurisdiction in the Situation in Palestine extends to the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, namely Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

in both English and French, the English version being authoritative.

Judge Péter Kovács appends a partly dissenting opinion.

Marc Perrin de Brichambaut appends a partly separate opinion.

Judge Péter Kovács, Presiding Judge

Judge Marc Perrin de Brichambaut

Judge Reine Adélaïde Sopé Alapini-Ganso

followed the correct and ordinary procedure and that the Chamber has no authority to challenge and review the outcome of the accession procedure conducted by the Assembly of States Parties. Palestine has thus agreed to subject itself to the terms of the ICC Rome Statute and has the right to be treated as any other State Party for the matters related to the implementation of the Statute. Pre-Trial Chamber I noted that, among similarly worded resolutions, the General Assembly of the United Nations in Resolution 67/19 "[reaffirmed] the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to independence in their State of Palestine on the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967". On this basis, the majority, composed of Judge Reine Adélaïde Sophie Alapini-Gansou and Judge Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, found that the Court's territorial jurisdiction in the Situation in Palestine extends to the territories occupied by Israel since

1967, namely Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. In addition, the Chamber found, by majority, that the arguments regarding the Oslo Agreements, and its clauses limiting the scope of Palestinian jurisdiction, are not pertinent to the resolution of the issue of the Court's territorial jurisdiction in Palestine. Such matters and other further questions on jurisdiction may be examined when and if the Prosecutor submits an application for the issuance of a warrant of arrest or summons to appear. Judge Marc Perrin de Brichambaut appended a partly separate opinion on the reasons for which article 19(3) of the Statute is applicable in the present situation. Judge Péter Kovács, Presiding Judge, appended a partly dissenting opinion, in which he disagrees on the fact that Palestine qualifies as '[t]he State on the territory of which the conduct in question occurred' for the purposes of article 12(2)(a) of the Statute, and that the Court's territorial jurisdiction in the Situation in Palestine extends - in a quasi-automatic manner and without any restrictions - to the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, namely Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.