

Islamabad POST

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PM for curbing money laundering

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday urged countries he termed "havens" to provide a commitment to "immediately and unconditionally return all foreign assets that are shown to be stolen or whose legitimacy cannot be explained". He also called for the development of international anti-money laundering legal instruments while addressing the virtually held launching ceremony of the Final Report of the High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Development Agenda.

Rigging unacceptable, says Fazal

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Fazal (JUI-F) President Fazal-ur-Rehman has on Thursday said that rigging in NA-75 Daska and NA-45 Kurram by-elections is unacceptable and rejected the results of both constituencies. The JUI-F chief talked to media in Peshawar and said 600 fake postal ballots were recovered from NA-45 before the start of polling. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidate was allowed to contest the poll instead of being disqualified, he said.

Peace upto India: Moed

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Security and Strategic Policy Planning Dr Moeed Yousuf on Thursday said India has spoiled the peace and it was her responsibility to create an atmosphere for regional peace. The SAPM was expressing his views on the recent interaction made between Pak-India Director Generals Military Operations over the established mechanism of hotline contact, said a press release. Dr Moeed said: "We have repeatedly called for peace as our PM has always wanted peace in the region."

ECP orders re-polling in NA-75

ECP decides to suspend Daska DC, DPO, AC, declares by-polls held in NA-75 as null and void

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday declared by-polls held in NA-75 as null and void, and issued the order to hold polls again in the constituency on March 18. The PML-N had requested the ECP to hold polling again in the Daska constituency as the February 19 election was marred by controversies and clashes. In the short order, Chief Election Commissioner, Sikandar Sultan Raja said after the arguments heard and record perused the ECP has come to the conclusion that "the election in the subject constituency has not been conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in a transparent manner". "The arguments heard and record perused. From the perusal of available record produced by the parties, the Returning Officer as well as collected by the Commission through different sources, we have come to the conclusion that a conducive environment was not available for the candidates and voters of the constituency and

PTI to appeal; PML-N hails verdict

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz Thursday said it was a matter of pride for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) that today the state institutions were free and independent. "We respect the decisions of institutions. We are trying to hold elections on whose transparency no one can point a finger," he said. The ECP had issued a short order and the PTI would review the legal options in consultation with its legal team, he added. Meanwhile, The PML-N hailed the decision and said the ECP order would be remembered in history. Senior PML-N leader Mohammad Zubair said that a conspiracy had been hatched to rig the elections which was exposed, and added, "The ECP was surprised on the rigging tactics employed."

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan, India DGMOs establish contact

A.M.BHATTI

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan and India on Wednesday agreed on strict observance of ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) and other sectors, with effect from Wednesday midnight. The agreement took place as the Director General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of Pakistan and India held discussions over the established mechanism of hotline contact, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. "In the interest of achieving mutually beneficial and sustainable peace along the borders, the two Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs)

An important step towards peace: FM

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi termed the agreement "an important step" in reducing tensions in the region and a way forward towards peace. He said Pakistan desired to maintain peaceful relations with all its neighbours including India. Of all the Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) between Pakistan and India, he said, the ceasefire agreement was the most significant.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Malaysia Ikram Mohammed Ibrahim meeting with tribal elders during his recent visit to tribal areas. The high commissioner also visited Torkham border. - DNA



RAWALPINDI: Jumah Enaad Saadoon Khatab Al Jibori, Minister of Defence of Iraq calls on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ. - DNA

COAS lauds Iraqi anti-terrorism efforts

The Iraqi defense minister praises Pak continued efforts for peace and stability in the region

NEHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Special Representative to Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi Thursday said that the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were being strengthened in all spheres of life with each passing day. He said this in a statement issued after his meeting with Saudi ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf Said Al-Malki at Saudi embassy. Ashrafi expressed his satisfaction over "successful laparoscopic surgery of Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Muhammad Bin Salman for appendicitis at King Faisal Specialist Hospital"

Iraqi Defence Minister on Thursday called on COAS Gen Qamar Bajwa at GHQ. During the meeting, matters pertaining to regional security and mutual interest, as well as measures to enhance mutual defense cooperation came under discussion. Both leaders pledged to work together for security and stability in the region. The Iraqi defense minister praised Pakistan's continued efforts for peace and stability in the region. During the meeting, the Army Chief offered cooperation to Iraq in defense and related fields and said that Pakistan attaches great importance to its fraternal relations with Iraq.

PDM gears up to give govt tough time

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: PML-N vice president Maryam Nawaz lashed out at PM Imran Khan on Thursday, claiming that his support was dwindling within the PTI. PPP chairperson Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and the PML-N vice president had earlier met to discuss political developments as the Senate elections loom near and the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) gears up to give the government a tough time in the polls. Maryam spoke highly of the

PDM's joint candidate from Islamabad, former prime minister Gillani. "Yousaf Raza Gillani is not only the PDM's candidate but he has an affable personality," she said, adding that the PML-N fully backs him as its joint candidate for the Senate seat. "I hope every pro-democracy party will not vote for the PTI [in the Senate elections] because we think the PTI is guilty of crimes against the people and Imran Khan is guilty of crimes against the nation," added Maryam.

Continued on Page 06

Punjab candidates elected unopposed

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission Punjab on Thursday announced that all candidates for the Senate election from Punjab have been elected unopposed, said the election commission. The candidates were elected after all

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Continued on Page 06

Regular classes from March 1

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Shafiqat Mahmood on Thursday announced that all educational institutions across the country will resume regular (5-day) classes from Monday March 1, ending almost a year of online classes. In a Tweet, Shafiqat Mahmood confirmed that all previous restrictions imposed in some major cities on schools to conduct staggered classes, were only till Feb 28. He said that this decision is applied to all educational institutions situated in cities where restrictions pertaining to pandemic were imposed. The minister further clarified that all educational institutions will continue to observe normal corona SOPs such as physical distancing, mask wearing and ensuring hand washing facilities.

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Protests rock Armenia after PM warns of coup attempt - Page 07

'Pakistan-Afghan relation going stronger than ever' - Page 08

Pak to stay on FATF grey list

Pakistan has largely addressed 24 of the 27 action items

IP REPORT

PARIS: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Thursday said that Pakistan remains under "increased monitoring" when it comes to terror financing, therefore, it will remain on the grey list until June 2021. Speaking via a live video link, FATF President Dr Marcus Pleyer said that while FATF recognises Pakistan's counterterrorism efforts, there are still some serious deficiencies that the country needs to address. "Out of the 27 conditions, three still need to be addressed," he said. "I recognise Pakistan's efforts, and out of the six tasks that it had to complete, three had

been [done] in an outstanding manner, but it substantially needs to work on the remaining three, particularly in terms of terror financing." Pleyer stressed that Pakistan must continue to work on the items that it has committed to and make sure that it meets all the requirements, adding that FATF will once again review Pakistan's efforts in June 2021. Replying to a question related to terrorists' prosecution in Pakistan, he said that the body is "not an investigative organisation," and that it "does not look at single

incidents but takes a look at the entire framework" [to decide a country's status]. "Pakistan has committed to a high-level [...] and its not a time to put it on the blacklist," he said. "The deadline for Pakistan [to meet the 27 conditions to get off the grey list] had expired, that is why the body had urged Pakistani authorities to ramp up their efforts in dealing with the items." Regarding India, he said that the country has been subjected to the "same rules as others," adding that the watchdog would take a look at India when the time comes. Pleyer added that

FATF continues to monitoring financial crimes and terror financing which have become more complicated due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. The decision comes after a three-day virtual meeting of the FATF that began on February 22, during which steps taken by Pakistan against money laundering and terror financing were reviewed. In this context, Pakistani officials had said that if decisions are to be based on merit, then the country's name will be likely removed from the FATF's grey list. According to sources, Pakistan submitted a detailed report on the implementation of the remaining six points that the FATF tasked the country with.



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Briefs

PTI, allies on same page: Ch Sarwar

DNA

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Chaudhry Sarwar on Thursday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and its allies are on same page over upcoming selections of Senate. As per details, Federal Minister Tariq Bashir Cheema called on the Governor Punjab to discuss political situation of the country and other matters of mutual interest. During the meeting, Chaudhry Sarwar said that vote will only get respect by ending practice of horse trading and conducting Senate election through open ballot. He reiterated that Prime Minister Imran Khan's government will complete its constitutional term. On the occasion, PML-Q leader Tariq Bashir Cheema again voiced support for government and urged opposition parties to play positive role in national interest.

'Complete Pakistan by liberating Kashmir'

DNA

LAHORE: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan has described Kashmir and Pakistan as inseparable and urged the youth to strive hard for the liberation of Kashmir to complete the state of Pakistan.

He made these remarks while addressing a Kashmir seminar organised by the School of Media Studies of Punjab University. The event was also addressed by Vice-Chancellor Punjab University Prof Dr Niaz Ahmed, Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, journalist Dr Mujahid Ali Mansoori, Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Shami, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences Prof Dr Umbreen Javaid, Director School of Communication Studies Prof Dr Noshina Saleem while faculty members and a large number of students participated. "The state of Pakistan is incomplete without the inclusion of the state of Jammu and Kashmir and without the participation of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. If they (Kashmiris) are not with you, you are not complete as a state," Masood told a motivated crowd of youth amid a round of applause.

Addressing directly to the students of Mass Communication, the President urged the students to build a narrative of hope and optimism to take the state of Pakistan to the front rank of nations of the world in the next ten to twenty years. "It is your sublime objective because you are architects and builders of Pakistan," he said. Saying that father of nation defied and turned an impossible into a possible by creating a separate homeland for the Muslims, AJK President asserted that he wanted to see the same spirit of making an impossible into possible in the youth of the country for transforming Pakistan into a genuine Islamic welfare state.

Business community demands removal of NHA high official

The business community has approached the higher ups of the NHA headquarters complaining against the deputy director. The business community is of the view that the said official raises unnecessary and unwarranted objections on applications seeking NOCs for various businesses

DNA

GUJRANWALA: The highhandedness and rude behavior of Deputy Director of National Highway Authority (NHA) Wazirabad has forced people to run from pillar to the post to get their jobs done. According to details the NHA Dep-

uty Director Tariq Hussain Jatoti is taking a heavy toll on the business community by creating hurdles for them. He is demanding undue favours even for genuine work. The business community has approached the higher ups of the NHA headquarters complaining against the official. The business community is of the view that the

said official raises unnecessary and unwarranted objections on applications seeking NOCs for various businesses. The business community that is considered backbone of Pakistan's economy, is literally humiliated at the hands of this official, who seldom comes to the office. According to complaints, this official attends office only two days

in a week i.e Thursday and Friday. Rest of the week he is disappeared from the scene due to which all files seeking his signatures for onwards submission to the headquarters, remain unattended. The business community has accused Jatoti of immoral activities at his residence. According to them he invites his clients at his residence where he

makes under hand deals. The said official is so power full and well connected that nobody can dare transfer him from his post. The business community has threatened to stage protest demonstration against these officials in case he was not transferred from his post. They also threatened to block the G.T. Road in favour of their demand.

Abbasi wants those who rigged by-polls exposed

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Thursday said case has not been lodged against those who rigged the NA-75 Daska by-poll. The erstwhile premier talked to media in Karachi and said presiding officers were kidnapped but no action was taken. He held PM Imran Khan responsible for the vote theft. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said, "Is it not a crime to abduct presiding officers? The sanctity of public mandate is being violated by PM's ministers, advisers and administration. Re-election should be held in the entire NA-75. "If a former prime minister can be summoned to court, so should be the ones who stole the votes. There is no need of election reforms, only implementation on the law and the constitution is required. "The institution of accountability is itself accountable. Commissions are formed here to protect the culprits, and same has been done in the Broadsheet case.

'PTI members revolting against PM'

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader and Senator Maula Bakhsh Chandio has said that the government is in tatters, support has been taken away and now Imran Khan is struggling to run the country. Senator Maula Bakhsh Chandio said that there have been revolts in PTI against Imran Khan from Sindh to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The party and the alliance which were based on oppression were destined to break and they have, he added. He said that earlier, the nation was fed up with Imran Khan's false promises, and now his own party members have realized his true nature. Power leaning on false promises and borrowings is not sustainable, he said.

Court orders govt to de-freeze Sanaullah's salary account

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: An anti-narcotics court on Thursday ordered the authorities concerned to de-freeze PML-N Punjab president Rana Sanaullah's salary account. Judge Shakir Hassan announced this verdict on an application of the PML-N MNA seeking to de-freeze his bank accounts. The court ordered that the account Sanaullah uses to receive his National Assembly salary be de-frozen with immediate effect. His lawyer contended before the court that the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has got four different bank accounts of his client frozen, including the National Assembly salary account, due to which he is facing hardships in managing his day-to-day financial matters.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador to Uzbekistan, Syed Ali Asad Gilani called on Foreign minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi at ministry of foreign affairs. – DNA

CDA starts campaign to remove wall chalking, pamphlets from city

According to detail, CDA is working to enhance the beauty of city side by side maintaining the cleanliness. In this regard, the administration of CDA has started actions for removing the illegal wall chalking, advertisement stickers, and pamphlets

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Administration of Capital Development Authority (CDA) has begun work on removing wall chalking, pamphlets, and advertisements from markets, under passes, roads, and other places across the city. Applications will be given in the relevant police stations against those involved in illegal wall chalking. The work of art and calligraphy at under passes and bridges is also underway to enhance the beauty.

According to detail, CDA is working to enhance the beauty of city side by side maintaining the cleanliness. In this regard, the administration of CDA has started actions for removing the illegal wall chalking, advertisement stickers, and pamphlets. Process of removing illegal wall chalking and advertisements at roads, markets, bridges, underpasses, bazars, and other buildings and bus stops is continued. The authority is also filing the cases against those involved in illegal chalking and advertisements. Wall chalking and

advertisements have been removed from Jinnah Avenue, 7th Avenue, 9th avenue, Srinagar Highway, Sohrawardy road and some other places. Sign boards, Street boards, markets, polls, and transformers will be restored in their original form by removing the illegal wall chalking and advertisements. On the other hand, steps are being taken to enhance the beauty through art and calligraphy work at under passes, bridges, and other important places. Students are also being involved in this campaign.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Maliki receives Lieutenant General Bilal Akbar (rt) Ex-Chairman POF Pakistan Ordnance Factory at Saudi embassy. – DNA

Islamabad relaxes corona restrictions

MURITZA HASSAN

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad administration has issued a notification following yesterday's National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) meeting reviewing the coronavirus situation in the country. The notification issued by the Islamabad administration says that SOPs have been changed due to reduction in coronavirus cases. NCOC had decided to allow opening mausoleums, cinema halls and indoor weddings from March 15; however, Coronavirus SOPs must be strictly followed in

these places. In addition, it was decided to increase the number of spectators allowed in PSL matches; from 20% to 50% of stadium capacity. In the group stage, 50% spectators will be allowed to watch the match in the stadium, while in play-off matches, stadiums will be at full capacity with strict adherence to coronavirus SOPs. Restrictions on opening hours of shopping areas and parks and the requirement for 50% staff to work from home have also been withdrawn, but SOPs including face masks and social distancing will continue to be implemented.

NHA holds e-kachehri under PM directives

ISLAMABAD: As per directive of Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Imran Khan on reaching out to the public through holding Khuli Kachehri by organizations under the Federal Government, National Highway Authority's, Member Coordination Mr. Asim Amin held E-Kachehri at headoffice of the Authority through NHA official Facebook Page and answered to the questions placed by the people all over the country. In his opening remarks, Mr. Asim Amin (Member Coordination) said, Balkasar-Mianwali-Muzaffargarh Road, after federalization, has been given in the control of National Highway Authority. NHA now is planning and designing for its upgradation and dualization. In order to provide immediate relief to the travelers' NHA is awarding contracts to make these road potholes free. He said, NHA is also working for dualization of 1264 KM long Indus Highway starting from Peshawar to Jamshoro and Hyderabad. Indus highway is being completed with the cooperation of Asian Development Bank. He said dualization of Indus highway will be completed by 2027 it is worth to mention distance of Indus highway is 450 KM less as compared to GT Road (N-5) between Karachi and Peshawar. – Staff Report

Hashoo group to launch PC LEGACY Hotel

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Soon to open in the scenic valley of Nasirabad, Hunza, PC LEGACY Hunza will be the second hotel by Hashoo Group in their recently introduced brand of hotels by the name of PC LEGACY, following PC LEGACY Naran. The brand "PC LEGACY" is a new chain of four-star hotels by Hashoo Group, who already own and operate Pearl-Continental, Marriott, and Hotel One across Pakistan. PC LEGACY will bridge the gap for travellers between the five-star and the select service hotels.

In this connection, an agreement was signed between Pakistan Services Limited and Linked International Pvt Ltd. at Islamabad Marriott Hotel on Thursday, 25th February 2021. "In line with the Prime Minister's vision, our goal is to develop sustainable infrastructure of hotels in Northern Pakistan. We plan to promote domestic tourism by offering state-of-the-art travel and lodging facilities to visitors at the most beautiful destinations of Pakistan. Our focus is, and will always remain, Pakistan" expressed Mr. Murtaza Hashwani, Deputy Chairman and CEO of Hashoo Group.

Mr. Faisal Sawani, Director, Linked International Pvt Ltd. said, "We are proud to partner with such a prestigious group of hotels that has decades of hospitality management experience and we are very confident that this project will be a huge success". The agreement was signed by Mr. Haseeb Gardezi, Chief Operating Officer Hospitality Division Hashoo Group and Mr. Mehboob Bhulani, Linked International Pvt Ltd. Located at Nasirabad Hunza, this new development will be launched in 2021 and will have a combination of 60 chic rooms, state-of-art meeting and conference facilities, multi-purpose banquet hall, health and fitness facilities, restaurants, and cafes overlooking the majestic Rakaposhi Mountains. Opening of this four-star hotel will not only boost economic activity in the area but will also provide prospects for domestic employment. Hashoo Group has always focused on developing and building skillset of the local community while also ensuring that they provide equal employment opportunities to both genders.



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Briefs

PAC directs to hold DACs meetings regularly

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday strictly instructed all the relevant federal ministries for regularly holding meetings of Departmental Accounts Committee (DACs) to resolve audit objections, including misappropriations of their relevant departments. The committee met here at Parliament House in the chairmanship of MNA Rana Tanveer Hussain, chairman of the committee. The committee was informed that PC-1 was prepared, approved and sent for the require funds. "Pak PWD would start repair and maintenance work on houses soon after funds.

The committee recommended that funds should be allocated for the repair of the government houses. The committee further directed that an inquiry should be conducted in payments without approval of contract agreements Rs. 719.077 million. Chairman of the committee directed that responsibility should be fixed in the case and share its report after completion of inquiry. The committee also directed Pak Public Works Department (PWD) to give priority to low category government employee's houses in repair and maintenance.

PNCA resumes puppet shows

ZUBAIR AHMED

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Thursday has resumed rendering of children's favorite puppet show, which was cut off due to COVID 19, here at PNCA Auditorium. The shows comprised of stories reflecting need for clean, green environment for improving health, eradication of social issue like poverty and intolerance.

The teachers who came with the children termed the puppet show as a positive entertainment for the children and said that it is an effective means of training them which should be continued regularly. Children were also taught entertainment through various stories and sketches as well as prevention of addictive diseases especially COVID19. The puppet show also raised awareness of the importance and benefits of masks and puppet followed the principle of social distance between each other to educate children.

PNCA has arranged this show to educate children through puppets about social issues and importance of education for a healthy society. Before the pandemic, the council used to regularly hold puppet shows for children, providing them with a source for entertainment and education.

IESCO issues power schedule

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule:- On Dated 26th February From 08:30 AM to 12:30 PM Sports Complex, Farash Town, G-9 Express, G-13/3, NPF, Bhara Kahu, Sunny Bank, Cecil, Barian, Patriata, Shahdara, 6 th Road, Zafarul Haq, Gulshanabad, Jinnah Road, Westridge, Amin Town, Eid Gah, Tipu Road, Chaklala, Sawan Garden 2, Major Riaz, Humayun, Khasala, Thalian Gulshan Saeed, Chahan, Nara, Kombeli Sadiq, Jhatta Hathial, Bahal, Sher Shah Suri, Pormiana, Lalazar, Lalruk, Burhan, Islampura, CH Khan, Akhori, Senka, Hazro, Wesa, Mansar, Soni, Mathial, Mort, CMH Army Feeders and surrounding areas will be remain without power. - APP

COMSATS signs general agreements with Sri Lanka

The MoU signed between ITI-Sri Lanka and ICCBS-Pak would provide platform for cooperation in the areas of natural products/medicinal plant chemistry, food chemistry, biotechnology, nanotechnology, tropical disease research, and analytical services

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Three Centers of Excellence of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), a Pakistan-based intergovernmental organization of 27 developing countries, signed general agreements for collaboration in various fields of science and technology in the presence of Prime Ministers of Pakistan and Sri Lanka, during his visit to Colombo.

The agreements were signed by the Industrial Technology Institute (ITI), Sri Lanka, with the International Center for Chemical

and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), Pakistan, and the COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Pakistan. ITI was represented by its Director General, Dr. Radhika Samarasekera, while ICCBS and CUI were represented by the Pakistani High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Maj. Gen. (R) Muhammad Saad Khattak.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between ITI-Sri Lanka and ICCBS-Pakistan would provide platform for cooperation in the areas of natural products/medicinal plant chemistry, food chemistry, biotechnology, nanotechnology, tropical disease research, and analytical services. Under the MoU, the parties would



undertake academic and research cooperation in terms of scholarships, fellowships, hands-on train-

ings on sophisticated equipment, joint supervision of students, conducting bi-institutional workshops, exchange of research scientists and faculty members, exchange of academic materials and publications, setting up of analytical service laboratories, etc.

On the other hand, the Intent of Cooperation (IoC) signed between ITI-Sri Lanka and CUI-Pakistan would provide basis for cooperation in education, research and capacity building through joint training programs, conferences and seminars; joint academic and research activities; exchange of researchers, staff and faculty members; short-term and long-term fellowships; implementation

of short-term training courses; publishing joint research journals; sharing of scientific resources, etc. Reflecting on this development, the Executive Director COMSATS, Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidi, SI and HI, today talking to the press ensured that the signing of the aforementioned MoU/IoC would facilitate COMSATS' Network of International S&T Centers of Excellence in achieving its mission of promoting South-South and Triangular cooperation for finding S&T-based solutions to the sustainability issues in the global South, and at the same time, would bring Pakistan and Sri Lanka closer for mutually beneficial cooperation in science, technology and innovation.

Labour colony to be established in Attock

FAISAL MUNIR

ATTOCK: Punjab Minister for Social Welfare and Bait Ul Maal Syed Yawar Abbass Bokhari said that present government would establish labour colony for labourers to provide them better residential facilities. He was addressing as chief guest at an oath taking ceremony of newly elected office bearers of All Pakistan PWD workers union (CBA) here. All Pakistan PWD workers union zonal Chairman Mohammad Fayyaz, divisional secretary Mohammad Masood and a large number of workers of the provincial

and district government departments were also present on this occasion. He said that hospitals would be equipped with the ambulance service as the present government was making all-out efforts for country's development and also uplifting living standard of the people. Bokhari said that the Punjab government truly believes in the philosophy of inclusive growth and social sector development while education and health sector reforms will be instrumental in putting the province of Punjab on the right track of composite economic growth. He said that special atten-

tion was being paid to education, health and social welfare sector to provide maximum relief to the masses. He said that after successful operation of five shelter homes in Lahore, more would be built at Sargodha, Rawalpindi, DG Khan and Bahawalpur this year while the rest of the divisions will be covered during the next financial year. He said that for better service delivery, present government has decided to revise the existing laws for enhancing efficiency and better utilisation of resources of Punjab Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal Department. Bokhari said shelter

homes were being run in different districts in a better manner and thousand of needy people were being benefitted.

Talking about the development of Attock district, he said that mother and childcare hospital having capacity of 350 beds will be constructed in Attock at the cost of Rs 7 billion while DHQ Hospital Attock will be upgraded. He said that Punjab government under the leadership of Chief Minister Usman Buzdar has inducted 36000 doctors and paramedics while 18 new hospitals will be built in different districts of the province.

Rs. 5 billion being ploughed in IFL Ehsaas scheme

"The recent injection of Rs. 5 Billion will boost the expansion of the programme across the lagging districts which were not included in the first phase"

ISLAMABAD: The scope of Ehsaas Interest Free Loan (IFL) programme is being expanded through providing an additional amount of five billion rupees by the government. This was revealed during a review meeting convened by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation with the Ehsaas' executing agency, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF). The meeting assessed the progress of the IFL in 110 existing districts and discussed the roadmap to upscale the programme across 28 new districts in lagging regions. Launched in July 2019, Ehsaas IFL is the country's biggest programme for poverty graduation, which will impact 14.7 million vulnerable people in four years with half of them women including youth, persons with special needs, transgender, minorities and marginalised communities.

Overall, Ehsaas interest-free loans worth Rs. 41.9 billion have been disbursed to 1.19 million borrowers so far, of which 45 percent are women across the country. "Part of broader Ehsaas framework, Ehsaas IFL is steering the socio-economic transformation of low-income communities countrywide, supporting them financially to establish small scale enterprises to improve their economic conditions. From July 2019 onwards, on average 80,000 interest free loans are being disbursed every month", commented Dr. Nishtar. She said "The recent injection of Rs. 5 Billion will boost the expansion of the programme across the lagging districts which were not included in the first phase."

She continued, the expansion to new 28 districts will be premised on the human development index ranking of districts, poverty profiling and economic needs of the districts so that dependence of populations at the bottom of economic pyramid can be reduced on government's social safety programmes in these areas." Currently, the range of the interest free loans is Rs. 20,000 - Rs. 75,000.

Int'l tender for Ring Road likely next week

The minister directed to fix the timeline for projects completion and further increase the pace of progress. He said once time line is fixed, there should be no delay in the given time

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar was informed on Thursday that the international tender for Rawalpindi-Islamabad Ring Road project had been prepared and it would be published in the newspapers by next week. The minister was briefed on the project by Commissioner Rawalpindi Muhammad Mehmood in a meeting held here to review progress of development work on flagship project of the twin cities.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Capital Development Authority (CDA) Ali Nawaz Awan and top official of the planning ministry attended the meeting.

Muhammad Mehmood informed the minister that the proposed length of the Ring Road was 64 kilometers which would start from Rawat and pass through Motorway M2 and M3 and



end at Sangjani point. Road would consist of six lanes and eight interchanges. Briefing about the progress of Ring Road project, the Commissioner Rawalpindi said the feasibility study of the project had been completed and alignment had also been finalized.

Further the minister was informed that the 65 kilometers road way, up to Sangjani had also been identified while the payment process for acquisition of land had also been started.

Appreciating the work done by Rawalpindi administration, Asad Umar said the project would be very helpful in improving the traffic system in Rawalpindi city as the long standing issues of city's traffic would be resolved. He said with this project the economic activities in the area would also speed up.

The minister directed to fix the timeline for projects completion and further increase the pace of progress. He said once time line is fixed, there should be no delay in the given time.

Police launch campaign to promote PR

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have launched campaign to promote relations with public and ensure positive image of police among citizens. Following directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman, Capital police have launched campaign to enhance police-public coordination and ensure trust building measures.

Following this campaign, police officials would hold 'Open Kuthceries' and ensure community policing through interaction with people in mohallahs, markets, traders, religious scholars, teachers, civil society organizations, minority community and people from various walks of life.

IGP Islamabad said that such steps would create sense of security among citizens and inculcate friendly police ecology in the city. Common citizens would be able to access police officials through this campaign and trust on police would increase, the IGP said. He said that public issues would be resolved and high vigilance against anti-social elements as well as law and order situation to be ensured through such interactions.

AEO Australian education expo attracts students

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: With world gradually moving back to normal, the day when international borders of top study destinations of the world will open for foreign students, is coming closer. It is time that the students gear up and start preparing themselves to realize their dreams to study at top ranked international universities.

With over 5000 alumni and 200,000+ IELTS registrations, AEO Pakistan over the past two decades has established itself as Australian & Global Education Specialists, the most trusted IELTS Official Test Centre and now the official OET Test Centre

in Pakistan. AEO Pakistan operates as the official Liaison office for over 40 leading Australian Universities/Institutions and facilitates the enrolment of International students at these Universities / Institutions. Since 2002, AEO Pakistan has been conducting Australian Education Expos providing an excellent opportunity to Pakistani students planning to Study in Australia. Over the years thousands of students have benefitted from AEO expos held twice annually, across all major cities of Pakistan.



This February once again AEO Education Expo is being organized across 9 major cities of Pakistan i.e., Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi, Multan, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Abbottabad, Peshawar and Hyderabad. The AEO expo is providing an ideal platform to prospective students across the country, to get free expert advice and counselling about how to apply to study in at top ranked international universities in Australia, USA, Canada and UK. Representatives of more than 19 universities/institutes are participating at the expo providing golden opportunity for Pakistani students to get free guidance and counselling for their future study endeavors.

MCI conducts mock-drill at Centaurs Mall

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On the instructions of Syeda Shafaq Hashmi, Administrator, Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI), the Emergency and Disaster Management Directorate (E&DM) Fire and Rescue teams conducted a real-time mock-drill at the Centaurs Mall on Thursday. The Director Emergency & Disaster Management and the City Chief Fire Officer (CCFO), District Islamabad, led the drill.

The drill had four major components, artificial smoke and fumes spread, fire alarm/emergency in the building, emergency evacuation drill and aid and rescue of the trapped victims inside the premises, using special Urban search & rescue team, supported with the canine unit(s) and paramedics.

The special snorkel measuring 29 meters as well as 68 meters procured from Finland was in the Mock-Exercise, together with the largest fire-fleet of District Islamabad. The Fire fighters entered all the sophisticated parts and corners of Centaurs Mall, and also tested the installed equipments, emergency exits and their effectiveness, reservations which had been recorded to General Manager of the Mall.

Kite flying continues despite ban

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District police on the special directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younas have chalked out a plan to check and control kite flying and aerial firing and take strict action in accordance with the law against kite flying ban violators. According to a police spokesman, over 2500 cops including 135 police teams, 30 Dolphin squads, 10 Elite Force personnel and a large number of cops on Thursday deployed on rooftops to monitor the situation and net the lawbreakers.

Drone operators have also been deployed to search and monitor the kite flying and aerial firing, particularly in congested city areas. The CPO urged the parents, teachers, ulema and civil society members to come forward and play role against kite flying and aerial firing which has become a menace as it's a dangerous game and taking lives of innocent citizens.

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For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman
Mobile: 0300 8553342

Briefs

Govt asked to start work on judicial complex

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday directed the government to initiate work on the construction of judicial complex within a month.

The court also instructed to set up a committee comprising secretaries of Interior, Law and Justice, and Planning Division to oversee the work. Chief Justice Athar Minallah, while hearing the case, remarked that the court did not want to interfere into the executive's powers but it would not tolerate violation of the people's fundamental rights. The chief justice observed that the condition of district courts (Katchehri) was related to the basic rights of common litigants.

The court asked the government to apprise it regarding progress in construction of lawyers' complex on next hearing. The Secretary Law and Justice informed the court that the PC-1 of the judicial complex would be approved today. On this, the chief justice said the work should be started in next 30 days. No one had paid attention to address the problems of Islamabad's citizens in last 60 years. The judges were ready to work in difficult conditions, but the executive should arrange a place for them, he said. — APP

Food security problem escalating

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Thursday said the issue of food security is intensifying in Pakistan which should be handled properly at the earliest. The price of food items is increasing continuously which requires policy and administrative action by the government, it said. Coronavirus has dented efforts to reduce poverty while the food mafia banked on the opportunity to maximise profits on the cost of masses, said Chairman Pakistan Economy Watch Brig. (retd) Aslam Khan. He said that the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan regarding agricultural development is laudable and it should be implemented without any delay.

Aslam Khan said that the agriculture sector needs government and private investment, loans, ample water, quality seed, pesticides and urea to improve the situation. Before the coronavirus pandemic, food security had posed a serious threat to our national security but the threat has become even more noticeable since the pandemic which has the potential to aggravate poverty, he observed. He said that the government should invest heavily to make agricultural infrastructure sustainable, remove trade distortions, improve crop production, storage and transportation. Issues like the degradation of agricultural lands and forests, loss of biodiversity and pollution in rivers as well as canal system should also be tackled without delay, he demanded.

DPO inks MoU with 9 private hospitals

ABBOTTABAD: District Police Officer (DPO) Abbottabad Zahoor Babar Afridi Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 9 different private hospitals, laboratories and medical stores to provide better, inexpensive medical and lab facilities to the police force and their families. Representatives of Hira Hospital, Jinnah International Hospital, Chughtai Lab, Agha Khan Lab, Shaheen Medical Store, Jinnah Pharmacy, Idrees Medical Store, Azam Medical Store, Dwestren Pharmacy, Healthways Laboratory and Abbottabad Laboratory were present at the signing ceremony.

According to the understanding between Police, hospital, laboratory and medical store owners police force employees would be granted a medical certificate and they would be entitled to relaxation in treatment and others. While talking to the delegation the DPO said that the objective of this move is to provide better, inexpensive treatment facilities at private hospitals with lab facilities and medicines to the police force of the Hazara division and their families where your cooperation would be the key.



RAWALPINDI: Iraqi Defence minister Lt. Gen. (Retd) Jumma Enad Sadoon called on Federal minister for defence production Zobia Jalal at ministry of defence production. — DNA

'Pakistan to continue support to Afghan owned peace process'

He viewed that Afghan traders, students, visitors specially patients would greatly benefit from the liberalised visa policy

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser Thursday said that peace in Afghanistan was imperative for regional economic development and connectivity. He said that Afghan peace process would be beginning of an era of peace and prosperity in Afghanistan and the region. Pakistan would stand firm with Afghan led and Afghan owned peace process, he added. He said this in a conversation with Special Representative of the Afghan President Omar Daudzai who met him here along with a delegation. During the meeting, Pak-Afghan relations and the political situation in the region and issues of mutual interest came under discussion. Speaker Asad Qaiser said Paki-



stan strongly desired a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan which was in the best interest of Pakistan and the entire region. He said that Pakistani and Afghan people were not

only neighbours and brothers but also have strong historic linkages. Constructive engagement between political leaderships had brought two nations more closer, he added.

The speaker said Pakistan had consistently supported an inclusive, broad based and political peace efforts in Afghanistan. He opined that the parties to the peace process

should avail this opportunity and engage constructively for durable peace in Afghanistan.

He said positive progression in the peace negotiations depicts the commitment of the Afghan leadership in the peace process, adding that there was no military solution to the Afghan issue. Apprising the Special Representative about the initiatives by the Parliament and the executive, the speaker said that Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentary Friendship Group in National Assembly while taking the lead, discussed and forwarded recommendations for removing impediments in strengthening bilateral relations and trade. He said that Pakistan had removed tariff barriers and impediments in Afghan bilateral and transit trade.

PUCAR concludes musical instruments competition



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Council of the arts concludes singing and Musical Instruments Competition under Talent Hunt Program 2021. In the singing competitions, Mohammad Taha Javed came first; Ghulam Raza and Mohammad Komil came second and third respectively. While in



the musical instruments competition, Shahzeb Jackson came first, Mohammad Adnan came second and Sushil Sagar came third. Naheed Manzoor, Director Waqar Ahmed distributed prizes among the children who secured positions in music. World renowned Singer Babar Niazi, Raees Ahmed and Prof. Shahbaz Ali performed the duties of judges in the Talent Hit

program. Addressing the function, Naheed Manzoor said that Arts Council has always strived to nurture talent. Talent Hunt Program shows the love of Punjab Chief Minister Usman Bazzdar for art and culture. Usman Bazzdar is keen to nurture artists and new talent in the province. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that the hidden talents of the children have come to light through the competitions. Our young generation is very creative. I am very happy to see youngsters are singin old classical songs in the competition. The future of classical singing in Pakistan is still bright Hundreds of students from schools, colleges and universities participated.

NCC reviews power sector projects

ISLAMABAD: National Coordination Committee on Foreign-Funded Projects (NCC-FFP) on Thursday reviewed the Progress of Power Sector Projects and earlier implementation of these projects. Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Makhdoom Khuro Bakhtyar and Federal Minister for Energy Omar Ayub Khan, co-chaired the meeting of National Coordination Committee on Foreign-Funded Projects (NCC-FFP) on energy sector at the Ministry of Economic Affairs in Islamabad, said a press release issued by Ministry of Economic Affairs. Secretary Economic Affairs Division, Noor Ahmed

representatives of PM's Office, Finance Division and Provincial Departments and head of the line departments also attended the meeting. In this follow-up meeting, the NCC-FFP reviewed the compliance status of forum's decisions made in light of previous meeting held on 5th November, 2020. It was informed that 14 foreign-funded projects including power generation, transmission and distribution amounting to US\$ 3,418 million with the support of development partners including Asian Development Bank, World Bank & Islamic Development Bank are under implementation. — APP

'Hygienic food basic right of every citizen'

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Interior Senator A. Rehman Malik on Thursday said that a healthy society is not only vital for better quality of life but it also boosts the quality of human capital and socioeconomic development of the country. While addressing a seminar here, Rehman Malik said that adulteration and unsafe food are the major causes in the growing of diseases in the country, said a press release. Rehman Malik said that it is alarming that health issues are rapidly increasing in the country because of unsafe and unhygienic food. He said that safe, secure and

hygienic food is the basic right of every citizen and it is the foremost responsibility of the state to ensure the availability of safe and hygienic food to its citizens. Rehman Malik said that unfortunately in our country unsafe and unhygienic food is being sold in our markets without any fear. He said that across the country including the capital there is no formal authority to monitor food quality and there exist no mechanism. He said that not only that dead meat and adulterated milk is being sold but substandard food is being served in restaurants and also in the canteens of schools and other educational institutions. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Poland Piotr Opanklinski witnessing an exhibition in Islamabad. — DNA

Govt. asked to preserve regional native languages

Abdul Rehman Khan said that Urdu was the national language of Pakistan but over 70 regional tongues were spoken in different parts of our country including Punjabi, Pashto, Sindhi, Balochi, Seraiki etc.

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Abdul Rehman Khan, Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that mother language was a key part of civilization and culture of a region as it promotes identity, communication, social integration and development, therefore, the government should take all possible measures for the preservation of local mother languages of different regions of Pakistan. He was speaking as Chief Guest at a seminar organized by the Islamabad Founder Lions Club to mark the International Mother Language Day. Islamabad Founder Lions Club President Sheikh Amir Waheed presided over the seminar. BasirDaud, Mohammad Naveed Malik, Engineer Azharullah, Fahim Khan, Nasira Ali Naina, FaizanShehzad, Asiya Chaudhry, ZeeshanSadiq, SabaRukhsana Mir, Hamza Malik and Yasir Ha-

bib and others attended the seminar. Abdul Rehman Khan said that Urdu was the na-



tional language of Pakistan but over 70 regional tongues were spoken in different parts of our

country including Punjabi, Pashto, Sindhi, Balochi, Seraiki etc. He said that there was a need for us as a nation to encourage regional mother tongues and initially teach children in their mother tongue as it was very easy for them to study in their mother tongue. He said that mother language also played an important role in promoting national unity and solidarity, therefore, everyone should play a role for the promotion of regional mother tongues. He demanded the government to take steps to preserve the history and culture of all the regional mother tongues and provide all possible facilities for their transmission to future generations. He appreciated the efforts of Islamabad Founder Lions Club President Sheikh Amir Waheed and Secretary Muhammad Naveed Malik for organizing the seminar on the occasion of International Mother Language Day and thanked them for inviting him as a special guest in this important event.

FGEI launches tree plantation drive

RAWALPINDI: Federal Government Educational Institution (FGEI) (Cantt/ Garrison) Thursday formally launched its 'Clean & Green Pakistan' tree plantation campaign here.

The campaign is part of the FGEIs social responsibility programme. According to the spokesman, FGEIs has vowed to plant as many as 400,000 saplings to be planted in public educational institutions across the country under the campaign. DG FGEIs Major General Muhammad Asghar has directed that all staff and students should realise their responsibility and participate in tree plantation drives so that they plant as many trees as they can.

Furthermore, he urged the institutions to play their role in the success of the plantation campaign. He underscored the dire need for measures to control environmental pollution and protect human lives, adding that trees play an important role in eliminating environmental pollution. — APP

PSEB, PSX ink MoU to promote IT companies

ISLAMABAD: In yet another major step towards ensuring sustainable growth of Pakistan's IT Industry, Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) of Ministry of IT & Telecom on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX). Managing Director, PSEB Osman Nasir, and Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, PSX Farrukh H. Khan, signed the MoU. Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Aminul-Haque also witnessed the ceremony, said a news release. On the occasion, Syed Amin Ul-Haque, said that the MoU was a giant leap forward for development of Pakistan's IT Industry. The goal was to increase the number of listed technology companies on PSX Main Board and GEM Board which would in turn help to strengthen financial ecosystem for IT sector growth and contribute to efforts for building a strong brand image of Pakistan's IT industry in the international markets, he added. The minister said, "Due credit goes to Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan for reducing corporate governance rules from 21 to 3 and for making it easier for technology firms to register on PSX" he added. Amin said that small to medium enterprises make up a big chunk of business enterprises in the country. SMEs constitute nearly 90% of all enterprises in Pakistan. They contribute about 40% to the annual GDP and employ about 80% of the non-agricultural labor force. The growth enterprises play a major role in a country's economy. They provide a large number of jobs and contribute significantly to the GDP of a country. The minister that the IT & IT-enabled Services (ITeS) export remittances comprising of computer services and call center services have surged to US\$1.230 billion at a growth rate of 23.71% in the FY 2019-20 in comparison to US\$994.848 million during the same period despite the current global economic challenges thereby demonstrating the resilience of Pakistan's IT sector. — APP

Zafarullah suggested for direct form of Senate election

ISLAMABAD: The speakers at webinar suggested the government to go for direct elections in Senate, as practiced in strong democracies the world over like Germany and the United States. The suggestion was given by Zafarullah Khan, Convener, Parliamentary Research Group while responding to a question at a Webinar on Understanding the Spirit of Senate of Pakistan here on Thursday. The National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Centre of Excellence, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad had arranged the Webinar in connection with the forthcoming elections of Senate, scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 3, 2021. Responding to question, Zafarullah Khan said the Senate will go for elections on 48 seats—24 in Islamabad, 11 each in Punjab and Sindh, and 12 each in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. — APP

Gradual progress

IN the face of immense economic stagnation following the pandemic, reports of the Consumer Confidence Index improving signal that Pakistan may be on the track to normalcy. An improvement of 1.8 percent, however marginal it may seem, is an optimistic indicator of the public's recovered confidence in the economy and financial situation as well. Regardless, the need for new employment opportunities still remains and the government must ensure its institutions, along with private corporations, are empowered to offer avenues to earn an income to the people. The CCI report is often developed through a quarterly analysis of the population's financial status and the country's economic standing alongside the degree of unemployment prevalent. An improved percentage is a reflection of how the average population has partaken in enhanced spending and saving techniques in the last quarter of 2020. When compared to the initial hit of Covid-19, this is a promising achievement. However, as it stands, there are still major sectors of the industry that experienced complete bankruptcy or shutdown due to various stages of lockdowns and suspension of business activities. This bolstered unemployment and subsequently, limited the certain economic freedoms that the public enjoyed. Furthermore, keeping up with rising inflation is another factor to consider when looking to understand the difficulties faced by the average individual. It is vital that the government recovers ground by enhancing the number and quality of employment opportunities in all provinces. If the private sector is incentivised to follow suit then the next CCI report is bound to indicate a faster rate of progress.



Circular debt

THE Power Division Additional Secretary Waseem Mukhtar's presentation before the National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance indicates the government's failure to curtail the rising circular debt of the power sector. His acknowledgement that the circular debt would go up by Rs436 billion during the current fiscal year (FY) suggests that the rot is deep. Sadly, the problem is not going anywhere anytime soon despite the recent 15 percent increase in the consumer tariff. What is even more alarming is the possibility of further burdening the consumers with "non-tax adjustments and tariff increase" as the Additional Secretary told the panel. But are these adjustments and tariff increases any solution to get rid of the spiralling circular debt? They might not offer the way out we hope they will. Our worst fears are coming true; shifting the entire load on consumers is not a prudent approach. The government needs to adopt a holistic policy to overhaul the power system for greater efficiency and sustainability. The government already knows the areas where it needs to make interventions, yet there has been little done to address them. For instance, distribution losses alone are costing us massively. To this day, successive regimes have done nothing to address this issue. Though the government is initiating a project with assistance from the World Bank (WB) to reduce these losses, we cannot say anything about its success as of yet. Nevertheless, what is clear is that the government's efforts to address the challenge of circular debt are proving insufficient. So far, the focus has been on the finance side, such as improvements in recovery etc., which alone cannot take us forward. Until and unless the state understands that the circular debt is caused by institutional weaknesses, weak governance and a lack of financial sustainability, the problem is not going anywhere.

Children in IOK: Tainted chalice of innocence

Sadia N Qazi



The violations of human rights in IOK by the Indian security forces are massively determined by their use of pellet guns on the Kashmiris. Thousands have been critically injured and dozens died at the barrel of this noxious weapon. Hundreds of people including children are blinded. Some of them even got injured while they were in their home and became victim of stray pellets

AND when all the wars are over, a butterfly will still be beautiful." — Ruskin Bond, *Scenes from a Writer's Life*

WHAT'S more beautiful than the innocence of childhood? Laced with dreams of wonderland and stories of utopian fantasy, it is a time in life laden with perfection and prettiness of the creative little minds. Everything seems beautiful in the haven of childhood innocence — far away from the brutal realities of life. But this innocence of the children of Kashmir is being snatched at a tender age by the tyrant atrocious cycle of violence whipping the Kashmiris in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, for the last seven decades. Children who grow in active conflict zone like the IOK are deprived of a normal childhood as they are shoved into the harsh actualities of life too soon. As they open their eyes, they are exposed to violence and become aware of the struggle of the Kashmiris for their freedom. There are countless tales of the sufferings of these children. It's unfathomable to fully comprehend the horror these children experience every day. Every trip to the market comes with an uncertainty if all of the family members will be back safe and sound. Their homes are barged by the paramilitary Indian forces and they witness their elders, fathers and brothers being dragged, beaten, arrested and women of the house disrespected. Going out on the streets, they are unsure of what quandaries await them. Young boys can be questioned and beaten for no reason at all. Young girls can be harassed and be subjected to inappropriate behaviour. Last year, a viral photo of a toddler posed on the slain body of his grandfather shocked the world. Shooting an elderly man in front of a three-year-old wasn't enough, adding insult to the injury, he was made to sit on dead body of his grandfather as the photos were taken and shared. The photo was received with anger and disgust from all around the world. That child will grow up but he would be traumatized for the rest of his life and that viral photo on the internet will haunt him incessantly. The violations of human rights in IOK by the Indian security forces are massively determined by their use of pellet guns on the Kashmiris. Thousands have been critically injured and dozens died at the barrel of this noxious weapon. Hundreds of people including children are blinded. Some of them even got injured while they were in their home and became victim of stray pellets. Dozens losing their lives and hundreds losing their sight, Amnesty International compiled a

109-page book displaying the ill-fated victims of pellet guns to draw the attention of international community. Asrar Ahmed, an avid student and zealous cricketer was returning home from playing cricket when he was hit when SF opened fire at a crowd. Hiba Janonji an 18-month-old baby was playing at home when she was hit by a pellet damaging her eye. This happens everyday and children become victim of violence. Violence is not new for Kashmiris. Striving hard, enduring brutalities, they have lost thousands of precious lives. The number of children enduring physical injuries and traumas are in thousands. In August 2019 New Delhi revoked the special status of IOK ripping off whatever little autonomous identity the Kashmiris had. Modi's oppressive action instigated a strong reaction. As a result, the valley was caged into a lockdown and curfew was imposed converting IOK into a prison. To contain the repercussion, the road connectivity was bunged, internet jammed and all media and news agencies were barred from the valley. During the lockdown a fact finding commission stated that around 13,000 boys were picked up from their homes. The girls and women were reported of sexually molesting during these raids. Amid the lockdown, Covid-19 hit badly. The lockdown of one and half years, where the Kashmiris suffered isolation and disconnection, has affected the economy, society and mental health. The shortage of basic necessities and means to buy breadominously condensed. Schools are closed since the onslaught of curfew. Partially curfew has been lifted in certain areas, but parents are reluctant to send their kids to school in the time of uncertainty as violent street clashes are frequent. During the pandemic, the world adapted to the new normal and schools all around the world switched to online studies and virtual school. Continuing education amid the pandemic was essential not only to retain children's engagement with their curriculum but also to keep kids occupied in depressive environment taking care of their mental health as online studies warranted them to develop routine and exert capabilities in constructive and learning activities. When the pandemic hit, it was already six months to the lockdown. The UN declared the access to internet a basic human right. Blocking internet to suppress the freedom of speech is a declaration of human rights violation by the Indian government. The right to education is also denied to the children living in IOK as internet hasn't yet been restored. At few places, broadband services are opened up but the

speed is kept so sluggish that neither student can engage in online classes, nor can access any study materials online. J&K region has more than 2.5 million students and around 10,000 schools. Recently, a report compiled by a Delhi-based group of human rights activists and psychiatrists published in November 2020 cites that commotion began in August lockdowns had an intense effect on children's lives and their mental health. Quoting health professionals' assessments that anxiety, panic attacks, suicidal tendencies, and symptoms of post-traumatic stress were growing among children: "There is no school, no routine or structure, no healthy recreation, and no sense of safety or predictability, which are essential for normal growth and emotional development." A research conducted in 2006 found high levels of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in a group of 100 children ranging between the ages of 3 and 16. A 2016 study by Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience and ActionAid projected that more than one in 10 people, including adults, had a mental disorder, ranging from anxiety or depression to PTSD. Many children suffer anxiety and panic. They cannot go out to playgrounds anymore as it is perilous. They do not have friends any longer as they do not go to school or mingle freely with other children in the neighbourhood. They are being snatched off their childhood. Even if the educators or schools attempt to produce online content, it is impossible to access those online. As the world moves forward with stepping into pioneering interactive virtual platforms, Kashmiri children are left behind. The entire conception of childhood has suffered a methodical transfiguration in the lives of children in IOK. From these children the right for a normal happy childhood is cruelly taken away. They do not enjoy kindergarten or learn happy nursery rhymes while playing with toys. They are not nurtured under the adoring warm care of their parents in a setting where they sense freedom and safety. Relatively their memories of childhood are filled with horrors inconceivable entailing an environment fraught with fear, endless gory violence, insecurity and chaos. They no longer have fantasy filled imaginings of butterflies and pirates or big dreams for a buoyant tomorrow; they just dream of freedom, safety and the security of their loved ones by their side. The chalice of innocence of the children in IOK is contaminated with the poison of blood, violence, death and pain.

— The writer is freelance columnist

Israel's supporters attack critics to avoid the issues

Ray Hanania



That is what Che's satire was trying to address: The fact that Israel insists it embraces human rights, but its policies say otherwise. Israel has carefully created two sets of laws and policies, one for its Jewish citizens and another for the non-Jews. I have previously written about those 65-plus discriminatory laws that are outlined in detail by Adalah

WHENEVER someone criticizes Israel, the first thing you hear is that they are "anti-Semitic." There is a simple reason for this: Israel's supporters use accusations of anti-Semitism as a means of silencing the critics and preventing a public discussion on the issues. That happened this week, when Michael Che, a comedian on the popular US TV entertainment and comedy show "Saturday Night Live," criticized Israel for failing to provide vaccinations to Palestinians. As co-host of the show's satirical segment, "Weekend Update," Che said: "Israel is reporting that they've vaccinated half of their population, and I am going to guess it is the Jewish half." The American Jewish Committee and other groups denounced Che's joke as being anti-Semitic. That is about the worst thing you can say about anyone and it can often be a career killer in America, where sensitivities about Israel trump concerns about the truth. But what is the truth? Well, I reached out to someone I trust and who is honest and balanced in dealing with controversial issues: Ahmad Tibi, a Palestinian member of Israel's Knesset and leader of the Arab Joint List. He told me that about a third of the Palestinian citizens of Israel had received a coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccination. But he added that many others simply do not want the vaccination. "There is a problem of Arabs going, agreeing to get the vaccines, a hesitation of the Arab community. There are a lot of vaccines," Tibi said. However, the 1.8 million Palestinian citizens of Israel only represent a small portion of the non-Jews under Tel Aviv's control. There

are about 3 million Palestinians living in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, plus another 1.8 million in Gaza. Why are those Palestinians important to this issue? Well, Israel has settled more than 400,000 people in illegal settlements throughout the West Bank, plus close to another 200,000 more in East Jerusalem. It is vaccinating those settlers, but not the Palestinians who live under its occupation. Satire is often used to help the public find the truth of a matter through the maze of lies, propaganda and public relations spin. We should be grateful to Che for having the courage to use satire to raise this issue and help us get to the truth. But I don't believe the defenders of Israel, such as the American Jewish Committee, want the public to see the truth because the truth is an ugly imbalance. Israel has been criticized for its discriminatory policies against both its non-Jewish citizens and the non-Jews who live under its occupation. That is not a discussion the supporters of Israel want to have because the country's fundamentally discriminatory policies disqualify it from being a true democracy. A country can't be a democracy if it discriminates against some of its citizens on the basis of their race or religion. In Israel, Christians and Muslims are treated differently than Jews. That is what Che's satire was trying to address: The fact that Israel insists it embraces human rights, but its policies say otherwise. Israel has carefully created two sets of laws and policies, one for its Jewish citizens and another for the non-Jews. I have previously written about those 65-plus discriminatory laws that are outlined in detail by Adalah, the Legal Center for

Arab Minority Rights in Israel. "The discrimination in these laws is either explicit — 'discrimination on its face' — or, more often, the laws are worded in a seemingly neutral manner, but have or will likely have a disparate impact on Palestinians in their implementation," Adalah states on its website. "These laws limit the rights of Palestinians in all areas of life, from citizenship rights to the right to political participation, land and housing rights, education rights, cultural and language rights, religious rights, and due process rights during detention. Some of the laws also discriminate against other groups." It is thanks to these discriminatory laws that families like my own, which is from Jerusalem, are denied basic and fundamental property rights. However, thanks to Che's satire, we can now talk about the reality of the situation for non-Jews inside Israel and under occupation. Che is not anti-Semitic and he does not owe anyone an apology. He has raised an important issue, using humor to help the public better understand complicated issues that are twisted and distorted by false stereotypes. His satire shone a spotlight on an important issue that needs to be discussed without demonizing people. He raises an important point that the pro-Israel groups want to avoid. Someone needs to answer the real questions: Why and how is discrimination impacting people in Israel, and why is Israel concerned for the health of the settlers who live in the Occupied Territories, but not their Palestinian neighbors?

Briefs

Pakistan-Saudi bilateral ties strengthening

From Page 01

in Riyadh the other day and conveyed good wishes on behalf of Prime Minister Imran Khan and Pakistani nation. Pakistani nation was praying for the well being and good health of Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman. Speaking on the occasion, Saudi envoy said the relationships between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan were very strong. He thanked Pakistani leadership and nation for praying for the health of Saudi crown prince Muhammad Bin Salman. -

PDM gears up to give govt tough time

From Page 01

The PPP chairperson Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the government had suffered defeats in the recent by-elections, from Pishin to Sialkot. "The people have rejected them in every by-election," he said. "I believe two decisions taken by the PDM - one to contest the by-elections and the other to partake in the Senate polls - have completely changed the political situation and has made the government anxious," added Bilawal. The PPP leader said that the PDM was not bringing about a no-confidence movement against the government at the moment and was only contesting the Senate elections.

"We [PDM] took the decisions to contest the by-elections and the Senate elections together. When it comes to sending this government home, we will also decide as to when we will do that, through consensus," he added.

In response to a question, the PPP chairperson said that the PDM was contesting an election and its constituency was the parliament.

Punjab candidates elected unopposed

From page 01

challengers withdrew their nomination papers. Today was the last day for the withdrawal of nomination papers. The names of the candidates who have been elected from Punjab are: Azam Nazir Tarar (PML-N), Syed Ali Zafar (PTI), Dr Zarqa (PTI), Saadia Abbasi (PML-N), Sajid Mir (PML-N), Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui (PML-N), Ijaz Chaudhry (PTI), Aun Abbas (PTI), Kamil Ali Agha (PML-Q), Saifullah Sarwar Niazi (PTI), Afanullah Khan (PML-N). According to the break-up, five Senators each from the PML-N and the PTI have been elected while one, Kamil Ali Agha, has been elected unopposed from the PML-Q.

ECP orders re-polling in NA-75

From Page 01

the election in the subject constituency has not been conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in a transparent manner, incidents of murders, firing and injuries, bad law and order situation in the subject constituency creating harassment for voters and other circumstances leading to make the process of results doubtful/unascertainable."

The order added: "This commission in the exercise of powers under Article 218(3) of the Constitution read with section 9(1) of the Elections Act, 2017, declares the poll held on 19.02.21 in the subject constituency (NA-78, Sialkot-IV) as void and orders fresh poll/re-poll in the entire constituency on 18th March 2021."



ISLAMABAD: Special representative to the Prime Minister on religious harmony and Middle East, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi in a meeting with ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf Bin Saeed Al-Maliki. - DNA

Clashes in Yangon as FB bans all military accounts

Pro-military demonstrators marching in downtown Yangon, the country's biggest city, stabbed one man, and punched and threw rocks at others, according to local media, after anti-coup demonstrators and residents of the area banged pots and pans to express their disapproval of the rally

FOREIGN DESK

YANGON: Scuffles broke out between opponents and supporters of Myanmar's coup on Thursday, as Facebook took down all accounts linked to the country's military and banned advertisements from military-controlled companies on its platforms. Pro-military demonstrators marching in downtown Yangon, the country's biggest city, stabbed one man, and punched and threw rocks at others, according to local media, after anti-coup demonstrators and residents of the area banged pots and pans to express their disapproval of the rally. Myanmar's military, known as the Tat-

Indonesia, Thailand seek peaceful solution

BANGKOK/JAKARTA: Myanmar's military-appointed Foreign Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin met his Indonesian and Thai counterparts Wednesday in Bangkok, where they discussed ways to seek a peaceful solution to the political crisis in Myanmar. Disclosing to reporters the three-way meeting that took place at Don Mueang airport, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said she asked the Myanmar official to "prioritize the safety and wellbeing" of his country's people. "The safety and well-being of the Myanmar people must be protected. Their wishes must be heard," Retno told a virtual press conference upon her arrival in Jakarta from Bangkok. The minister said she spoke in the 20-minute meeting "about the importance for all ASEAN member states to respect the principles stipulated in the ASEAN Charter and I keep delivering this message loudly and clearly." - Foreign Desk

madaw, seized power on February 1 alleging fraud in an election last November that returned Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) to power for a second term. The coup has prompted daily protests across the country, with tens of thousands taking to the streets to demand an end to military rule as well as the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other detained leaders.

Thursday's rally by pro-Tatmadaw supporters was the "first sizeable pro-military demonstration" in Yangon, according to the Frontier Myanmar magazine. About 1,000 people joined in the march, the Reuters news agency said. Some military supporters were photographed with clubs and knives.

Kazakh president orders ban on foreign ownership of farmland

WEB DESK

NUR SULTAN: Kazakhstan will permanently ban foreigners from owning or renting farmland in the vast Central Asian nation, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has said, ending a lengthy dispute that once prompted anti-government protests. Kazakhstan is a major producer of grains, oilseeds and meat in the former Soviet region sandwiched between China and Russia. Five years ago its authorities decided to attract foreign investment into agriculture by opening up the farmland market.

But, unusually for the tightly controlled nation of 19 million people, the plan was met with street protests where demonstrators expressed concerns that giant neighbour China would eventually snap up all the fields and pastures. The government then shelved the plan until this year. On Thursday, Tokayev said the foreign ownership ban would remain in place. "The land (ownership) issue has always been very important to our people. It is a cornerstone and a sacred symbol of our statehood," Tokayev said at a meeting with an advisory council.

India plans new social media controls

WEB DESK

NEW DELHI: Chafing from a dispute with Twitter, India plans to oblige social media companies to erase contentious content fast and assist investigations, according to a draft regulation. New Delhi's planned Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code - a copy of which was seen by the Reuters news agency - come as various nations around the world try to assert tighter control over powerful Big Tech firms. Facebook faced a global backlash from publishers and politicians last week after blocking news feeds in Australia in a dispute with the government over revenue-sharing. In India, Twitter

ignored orders to remove content over farmers' protests, heightening the zeal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government since 2018 to tighten regulation for content it deems disinformation or unlawful.

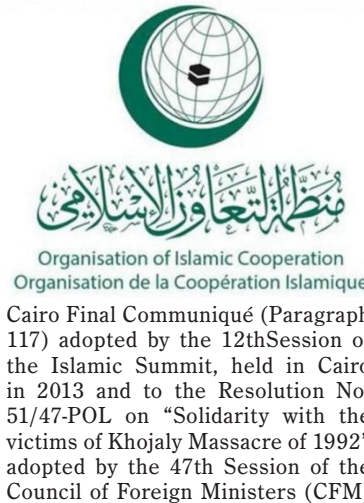
The latest draft rules - which would be legally enforceable - say companies should remove content as early as possible but not later than 36 hours, after a government or legal order. They must also assist in investigations or other cybersecurity-related incidents within 72 hours of a request. Further, if a post depicts an individual in any sexual act or conduct, then companies must disable or remove such content within a day of receiving a complaint, the rules added.

OIC observes Khojaly massacre anniversary

DNA

RIYADH: OIC has issued a statement on 29th anniversary of Khojaly genocide. "On the occasion of the 29th anniversary of the commemoration of the genocide that took place in the town of Khojaly, Republic of Azerbaijan, the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Dr. Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen, has paid tribute to all those who lost their lives in the 1992 massacre.

The OIC General Secretariat reiterated that the Khojaly incident was a result of the illegal occupation of Azerbaijani territories by the Republic of Armenia. It referred to the



held in Niamey, Republic of Niger on 27-28 November 2020, which considered the actions perpetrated against civilian Azerbaijani population in the occupied town of Khojaly, as war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

On this sad occasion, the Secretary General reaffirmed the CFM resolutions calling for political settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict on the basis of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in accordance with the generally accepted norms and principles of international law and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions," the statement reads.



BERGAMO: Real Madrid's Isco (L) vies with Atalanta's Mario Pasalic during a UEFA Champions League round of 16 first leg football match between Atalanta and Real Madrid. - Agencies

IT, Telecom industry developing robustly in Pak

BEIJING: Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque on Thursday said that Pak economy is showing signs of improvement in the sector of Information Technology (IT), banking and telecoms industry. Addressing a webinar on Post-COVID-19 Global Investment Climate and Opportunities for Pakistan, he appreciated China's efforts and achievements in the global response to the epidemic, and thanked China for its support and assistance to Pakistan in the fight against the epidemic. Timely measures taken by the Pakistani government including providing construction incentives, 10 Billion Tree Tsunami, etc have played a crucial role in combating COVID-19. He affirmed the positive significance of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that even during the pandemic there was no undue delay on the project. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is an important part of CPEC, and bilateral

trade between Pakistan and China remains vigorous. Mineral, leather sporting goods, agricultural products, etc are all emerging sectors, he added. Ambassador Haque also believes in the bright future of developing tourism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to China Economic Net (CEN), Kiyoshi Taniguchi, Principal Economist, Asian Development Bank, stated that Pakistan's structural challenges include economic mismanagement, lack of resilience to external shocks and lack of competitiveness. Although high cost of finance is a concern, access to credit to the private sector, especially to SMEs, is a more critical binding constraint. Investments in Pakistan have been historically low compared to other countries. Increasing FDI will require addressing the impediments including poor risk assessment, weak political stability, inconsistent policies and difficult business environment, he said.



Sulaiman S. Mehdi, Chairman of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) said that during the second wave of pandemic in Pakistan, the Government initiated smart lockdown measures and maintained an open mode of industrial production, which was clearly sensible. In a sense, Pakistan is the beneficiary of the second wave of the epidemic as social expenditure has been converted into savings and entered Pakistan in the form of remittances. Besides, as industries in countries such as Bangladesh and India were

completely blocked, export orders shifted to Pakistan, particularly in the textile industry. Very little motivation for traveling abroad which also helped preserve the foreign exchange reserves as well, he emphasized. Growth in KP indicated more finance support from federal government, urban agglomeration, regional trade remittances from abroad, Sulaiman S. Mehdi further said. KP can attract investments in industry, construction, agriculture, livestock, mining and tourism, and all these investments can be managed through friendly private sector policies, he said. Charles Schneider, Senior Sector Specialist IFC, WBG shared his opinion in the context of a definitely improving security environment of KP. KP Province needs targeted investment methods, focusing on where the country and the province have comparable investment experience so far. Pakistan can

learn from foreign direct investment projects. Project management methods are necessary to deal with strategic investors. Amjad Pervez, Chairman Jump Start Pakistan, stressed the important role of overseas Pakistanis in helping to sustain the challenges currently facing Pakistan. It's pertinent to encourage the confidence of overseas Pakistanis to invest and create the prosperity and abundance of the country. Pakistani companies need access to reach global markets which can help SMEs to obtain financing. He underlined the necessity to develop entrepreneurial human capital in Pakistan as well. Participants, while being optimistic, deliberated and brainstormed ideas aimed at speedy economic recovery of Pakistan in the post-pandemic area. They also highlighted the challenges that Pakistan needed to address for a sustained economic growth. - APP

PSL-6 Fixture

Friday, February 26: Lahore Qalandars v Multan Sultans (3pm); Peshawar Zalmi v Quetta Gladiators (8pm)
Saturday, February 27: Karachi Kings v Multan Sultans (2pm); Peshawar Zalmi v Islamabad United (7pm)
Sunday, February 28: Karachi Kings v Lahore Qalandars (7pm)
Monday, March 1: Islamabad United v Quetta Gladiators (7pm)
Wednesday, March 3: Karachi Kings v Peshawar Zalmi (2pm); Quetta Gladiators v Multan Sultans (7pm)
Thursday, March 4: Lahore Qalandars v Islamabad United (7pm)
Friday, March 5: Multan Sultans v Karachi Kings (7pm)
Saturday, March 6: Islamabad United v Quetta Gladiators (2pm); Peshawar Zalmi v Lahore Qalandars (7pm)
Sunday, March 7: Multan Sultans v Quetta Gladiators (2pm); Islamabad United v Karachi Kings (7pm)
Wednesday, March 10: Peshawar Zalmi v Karachi Kings (7pm)
Thursday, March 11: Quetta Gladiators v Lahore Qalandars (7pm)
Friday, March 12: Multan Sultans v Peshawar Zalmi (3pm); Islamabad United v Lahore Qalandars (8pm)
Saturday, March 13: Quetta Gladiators v Karachi Kings (2pm); Multan Sultans v Islamabad United (7pm)
Sunday, March 14: Quetta Gladiators v Peshawar Zalmi (2pm); Lahore Qalandars v Karachi Kings (7pm)
Monday, March 15: Islamabad United v Peshawar Zalmi (7pm)
Tuesday, March 16: Multan Sultans v Lahore Qalandars (7pm)
Thursday, March 18: Qualifier (1 v 2) (7pm)
Friday, March 19: Eliminator 1 (3 v 4) (7pm)
Saturday, March 20: Eliminator 2 (loser Qualifier v winner Eliminator 1) (7pm)
Monday, March 22: Final (7pm)

Pakistan, India DGMs establish contact

From Page 01

agreed to address each other's core issues and concerns which have propensity to disturb peace and lead to violence," the ISPR statement read.

The two sides "reviewed the situation along LoC and all other sectors in a free, frank and cordial atmosphere".

"Both sides agreed for strict observance of all agreements, understandings and cease firing along the LOC and all other sectors, with effect from midnight 24/25 February 21," it said. The ISPR said both sides reiterated that existing mechanisms of hotline contact and border flag meetings would be utilized to resolve any unforeseen situation or misunderstanding.

PCB to welcome 50% crowd for PSL matches

KARACHI: National Stadium can now host 50 percent of the crowd for remaining matches of Pakistan Super League (PSL), the Pakistan Cricket Board announced today. The official announcement came after the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) yesterday allowed PCB to host 50 percent crowd, however, the decision on increased crowds for Lahore-leg matches will be made in due course. The online ticket sales for the remaining Karachi-leg matches will start from Thursday (today) at 10 pm on the e-ticketing platform 'Bookme.pk' while the fans can also book tickets via Bookme helpline (03137786888).

PCB Chief Executive Wasim Khan: "We are most grateful to the NCOC for allowing the PCB to allow up to 50 percent of spectators for all remaining preliminary round matches and up to 100% spectators for the play-offs and final. "As a starting point, we have decided to immediately increase crowd attendances for all Karachi-leg matches to 50 percent. However, we will continue to assess how the crowds follow and implement the SOPs before we make a decision on crowd attendances for the Lahore-leg matches.

Briefs

Australia passes media law

WEB DESK

CANBERRA: Australian lawmakers on Thursday passed the final amendments to a new media law that forces tech giants like Google and Facebook pay for news. Tweaks to the law were made after Facebook last week blocked access to Australian news outlets on its pages. Australian regulators have zeroed in on tech giants such as Google and Facebook for their online advertising dominance and their impact on struggling news media. The original legislation would have forced firms like Facebook to pay media organizations for news shared on the social network. The government can now assess whether companies like Facebook have made a contribution to the Australian news industry before deciding where payments are necessary. It also lets Facebook and other tech giants strike their own deals with local companies. Ahead of Parliament passing the law, Facebook defended its blanking out of media outlet pages for Australian users, while pledging to invest at least \$1 billion (\$22 million) to support journalism. In a blog post on Wednesday, Facebook's head of global affairs Nick Clegg said that to comply with the law as originally proposed would be unworkable and unfair. Clegg contended that a misunderstanding about the relationship between Facebook and news publishers was at the heart of the controversy.

EU leaders to consider vaccine passports

FOREIGN DESK

BRUSSELS: Leaders from across the 27-nation bloc will meet via videoconference on Thursday to thrash out joint approaches to the COVID-19 crisis.

The topics include unilateral border closures and restrictions, the slowness of the EU's vaccine rollout and the thorny issue of so-called vaccine passports.

Tourist-reliant southern European nations such as Greece and Spain are urging the rapid adoption of an EU-wide certificate for travelers to show they have been vaccinated.

Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz backed the idea in an appearance on the online television offering from Germany's Bild newspaper. He said it would enable a restart to free travel in Europe and could help "secure and protect" struggling sectors like the arts, sports and gastronomy. Manfred Weber, the head of the conservative bloc in the European Parliament, has called for a speedy rollout of a vaccine passport in order to allow freedom of movement in the EU. "[A] vaccination passport is crucial and is immediately necessary," Weber told DW. "We have to speed up because currently [tens of thousands] of Europeans are vaccinated every day." Trying to sort out the paperwork retroactively, Weber said, could prove either difficult or impossible. He suggested issuing a document when people receive their jab.

German man charged with spying for Russia

WEB DESK

BERLIN: Germany's federal prosecutor's office announced the espionage charges in a press release on Thursday. It said the suspect, identified only as Jens F., worked for a company that was hired to carry out checks on electrical equipment by the Bundestag, Germany's lower house of parliament. In that role, the German national allegedly used his access to collect data and pass it on to "an employee in the Russian Embassy in Berlin, who mainly works for the Russian military secret service GRU," the statement said. The 55-year-old is alleged to have sent PDF files "on his own initiative" with floor plans of the Bundestag's properties to Russian intelligence between late July and early September 2017.



JAKARTA: Pakistan ambassador to Indonesia Muhammad Hassan met with Indonesian minister of trade, Muhammad Lutfi. In meeting both discussed the continuation of the Indonesia-Pakistan trade in goods agreements, negotiation and efforts to improve trade and investment relations between two countries. – DNA

Protests rock Armenia after PM warns of coup attempt

The Ambassador apprised the Minister on the current level of cooperation between the two countries in the field of trade and investment, especially after the operationalization of Indonesia-Pakistan Preferential Trade Agreement in 2013

DNA

YEREVAN: Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan warned of an attempted military coup against him on Thursday, and thousands took to the streets of the capital to support him after the army demanded he and his government resign. Russia, an ally of Armenia which has a military base in Armenia, said it was alarmed by events in the former Soviet republic and called for the situation to be resolved peacefully and within the constitution. Pashinyan, 45, has faced calls to quit since November after what critics said was his disastrous handling of a six-week conflict between Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenian

Armenian military calls on premier to resign

YEREVAN: The Armenian military on Thursday called for the resignation of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, according to local media. Onik Gasparyan, the chief of General Staff of the Armenian army, along with other senior commanders released a statement calling for Pashinyan to step down. But Pashinyan blasted the military's call as a coup attempt and urged his supporters to take to the streets to resist. He later announced the dismissal of the chief of General Staff on Facebook. "Today I made a decision to fire the chief of the General Staff and his first deputy," Pashinyan said, according to the Russian TASS news agency. "The defense minister is already preparing a corresponding decision on appointing a new chief of General Staff and his deputies," he added. Pashinyan also called on his supporters to gather in Republic Square in the capital Yerevan. "I consider the General Staff's statement a military coup attempt. – DNA

forces over the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave and surrounding areas.

Ethnic Armenian forces ceded swathes of territory to Azerbaijan in the fighting and Russia, which worries about instability in the former Soviet Union, has deployed peacekeepers to the enclave, which is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan but populated by ethnic Armenians.

Pashinyan, a former journalist who swept to power in a peaceful revolution in May 2018, has rejected calls to step down despite opposition protests. He says he takes responsibility for what happened but now needs to ensure his country's security.

On Thursday, the army added its voice to those calling for him to resign.

Pakistan to be involved in restoration of Karabakh

DNA

BAKU: Frontier Works Organization (FWO) of Pakistan is interested in cooperating with Azerbaijan on the implementation of infrastructure projects, said Director General of FWO Kamal Azfar in a meeting with Azerbaijani Economy Minister Mikayil Jabbarov, Azerbaijani Economy Ministry

and shared views in the direction of expanding relations.

Minister Mikayil Jabbarov noted that a concept for the restoration and development of liberated areas was prepared. The concept intended extensive use of public-private partnerships, as well as special incentive programs for foreign investors and the involvement of foreign companies for the development of the territories.

Minister Mikayil Jabbarov noted that a concept for the restoration and development of liberated areas was prepared. The concept intended extensive use of public-private partnerships, as well as special incentive programs for foreign investors and the involvement of foreign companies for the development of the territories.

Italy holds state funeral for envoy, killed in DRC

FOREIGN DESK

ROME: Italy has held a state funeral for its ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and his bodyguard killed in an ambush that a cardinal said should prompt everyone to "hear the cry" of a people devastated by violence.

Luca Attanasio, 43, and Vittorio Lacovacci, 30, were shot dead on Monday after being kidnapped while travelling in a United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) convoy to visit a school feeding project. Mustapha Milambo, a WFP driver who was also killed in the attack, was buried in the DRC on Tuesday.

The funeral on Thursday, attended by Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi and other ministers, was held in the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels and Martyrs, a church in the capital Rome where services for national leaders and cultural figures are held.

The caskets, draped in the Italian flag, were given a military salute as they were removed from hearses. A soldier commanded "Honour to the fallen" and a military band played a sombre march as they were carried into the church. "These brothers decided to commit themselves to helping others even if it meant sacrific-

ing their lives," Cardinal Angelo De Donatis said in his funeral homily.

De Donatis, who is Pope Francis's vicar for Rome diocese, said the deaths should prompt everyone to "hear the cry of the people of Congo, cruelly devastated by violence as it sees its sons and daughters die every day".

Attanasio leaves behind a wife and three children and Lacovacci was engaged.

A judicial source in Rome said preliminary autopsy results showed that both were hit twice by crossfire in an apparent kidnapping attempt, not executed. According to the DRC's presidency, the two-car convoy had been stopped on the road north from the eastern city of Goma by six armed men, who killed Milambo and led the six others away.

Army and park rangers tracked the group and a fire-fight ensued, during which the two Italians were shot. DRC's interior ministry has blamed a Rwandan ethnic Hutu rebel group called the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) for the attack. The FDLR, one of about 120 armed groups operating in eastern Congo, denied responsibility for what it called a "cowardly assassination".

Baku slams Luxembourg official's biased statement

BAKU: Azerbaijan's Foreign Affairs Ministry has described as biased a statement made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg Jean Asselborn during his speech at the 46th session of the UN Human Rights Council. The ministry said that Jean Asselborn's statement completely contradicts the relevant principles of international law and display his unawareness of the situation in the region. The ministry questioned "why Jean Asselborn, who is trying to portray himself as a defender of human rights, never raised a question in the UN Human Rights Council or other relevant international platforms regarding the fact that Armenia occupied 20 percent of the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan for almost 30 years, carrying out bloody ethnic cleansing in those areas and grossly violating the fundamental rights of more than 1 million Azerbaijanis?" Furthermore, the ministry reminded that Armenian armed forces killed over 100 Azerbaijani civilians in deliberate attacks far from the conflict zone since September 27. "Turning the issue of human rights into a matter of political bias will not bring pride to anyone, including the Luxembourg Foreign Minister," the ministry concluded.

Yemen on a 'knife-edge' of famine

FOREIGN DESK

NEW YORK: UN aid chief Mark Lowcock has urged Gulf states to step up next Monday when the world body seeks to avert a large-scale "man-made" famine in Yemen by raising \$3.85bn for humanitarian operations in the war-torn Arabian Peninsula country for 2021.

The United Nations describes Yemen as the world's largest humanitarian crisis, with 80 percent of the people in need. Lowcock warned if the world body does not receive the money it needs at a virtual pledging conference on Monday, "we're going to see is the worst famine the world has seen for decades". In 2018 and 2019, the UN prevented famine in Yemen due to a well-funded aid appeal, which included large donations from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, Lowcock said.

"What is alarming and what is different about the situation we're in now is that there's been such a big drop off in support for the aid operation that we've been cutting aid to starving people – not in an isolated way, in a way that affects millions of people all over the country," Lowcock said on Wednesday. In 2020 the United Nations only received just more than half the \$3.4bn it needed, which Lowcock said was largely due to smaller contributions from Gulf countries. He urged them to pledge generously for 2021 and pay quickly.

'Justice has failed SL civil war victims'

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: Twelve years after the end of armed conflict in Sri Lanka, domestic efforts to ensure justice for victims have failed, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said on Wednesday. Introducing her report on Sri Lanka to the UN Human Rights Council, Bachelet said the effect of the conflict on thousands of survivors from all communities was devastating. "Despite commitments made in 2015, the current government, like its predecessor, has failed to pursue genuine truth-seeking or accountability processes," she said. "The impact on thousands of survivors, from all communities, is devastating. Moreover, the systems, structures, policies and personnel that gave rise to such grave violations in the past remain – and have recently been reinforced." The decades-long civil war between the Sri Lankan security forces and the separatist Tamil Tigers ended nearly 12 years ago in 2009. The war killed about 100,000 people, including up to 40,000 Tamil civilians killed by the Sri Lankan forces in the final onslaught, a charge the government denies.



BAKU: A Pakistani delegation led by DG FWO called on Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan and discussed bilateral relations and cooperation in reconstruction activities in the newly liberated areas of Azerbaijan. – DNA

FPCI rejects taxes in budget under IMF deal

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry has rejected the government's plan of imposing additional taxes of over Rs700 billion in the upcoming federal budget 2021-22 under the International Monetary Fund's deal. The FPCI's Businessmen Panel Chairman and apex chamber ex-president Mian Anjum Nisar said that the government and the IMF have reached a staff level agreement to revive the stalled \$6 billion program, as the Fund has announced to disburse \$500 million's third tranche, assigning the task to government to generate

additional Rs700 billion from the trade and industry through new taxes in the upcoming budget. He resented that the frequent increase in electricity tariff and petroleum products' prices along with burden of new taxes on the behest of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is dangerous game for the economy of the country, as it would make the Pakistani products uncompetitive in the international market. He said that the new taxation measures include increasing income tax burden of the salaried and business individuals and the corporate sector, as the government will also withdraw about Rs360 billion worth of sales tax exemptions from next year while the sales tax is already

high. He said that during the first year of the IMF program, the government had introduced over Rs735 billion taxation measures to achieve the Rs5.5 trillion tax target but the measures did not help the government achieve its target despite putting additional burden on trade and industry. He said that the country's economy is recovering from a slow pace of growth and it will be an uphill task for the FBR to chase the high target of tax collection. "It is impossible for the Pakistan's economy to sustain the burden of additional tax burden equal to 1.5 percent of the GDP at a time when the economy just recovered from the Covid pandemic," he pointed out. Mian Anjum Nisar said that the government continued to raise

gas and power tariffs, besides lifting rates of petroleum products twice a month to qualify for the revival of the stalled \$6 billion IMF loan program, leading the economy towards point of no return due to interference of the International Monetary Fund. He said that the IMF has also asked the government to reduce the number of income tax slabs for the business class, which will increase the tax burden of the people falling in higher income brackets, resulting into jump in cost of production and high inflation. He said that the regular attempt of economic managers to impose new taxes and increasing oil prices along with the hike in power and gas tariffs will ultimately harm the government's overall

move of reducing the production cost for the businesses. He said that industry is the main victim of this IMF interference, as donors' involvement in the Pakistan's economic matters and dictations to the policy makers for taking harsh measures would add to the economic miseries of the country. Mian Anjum Nisar said that Pakistan is the most frequent customer of IMF and governments often depended on borrowing from IMF and accepted stringent conditions despite the fact that this institution is merciless money lender which always forced Pakistan to adopt bad policies like new taxes in the budget, rupee devaluation and massive increases in the electricity and gas prices.

Briefs

Pakistan-Egypt ties growing: FM Qureshi

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi says the economic ties between Pakistan and Egypt are growing. Talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Cairo Sajid Bilal in Islamabad on Thursday, he expressed hope that the bilateral relations will get further strengthened during his term as Ambassador. The Minister gave directions to the Ambassador-designate about Pakistan's diplomatic priorities, including economic diplomacy.

Uzbek envoy calls on Ali Zaidi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Uzbekistan Ambassador to Pakistan, Aybek A. Usmanov on Thursday called on Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Ali Haider Zaidi at his office in Islamabad. During the meeting, they discussed matters related to ports and shipping in detail, said a press release.

COVID-19 claims 64 more lives

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: The national tally on Thursday of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 23,281 with 1,361 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,681 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Sixty four corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 58 of them were under treatment in hospital and six in their respective quarantines and homes on Wednesday, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). During the last 24 hours most of the deaths had occurred in the Punjab followed by Sindh. Out of the total 64 deaths, 25 people died, were under treatment, on ventilators. Around 539,888 people have recovered from the disease so far across Pakistan making it a significant count with over 90 percent recovery ratio of the affected patients. Since the pandemic outbreak, a total of 575,941 cases were detected that also included the perished, recovered and under treatment COVID-19 patients so far, including AJK 10,022, Balochistan 19,010, GB 4,955, ICT 43,901, KP 71,490, Punjab 169,474 and Sindh 257,089. About 12,772 deaths were recorded in country since the eruption of the contagion.

WHO donates vehicles in fight against COVID-19

ISLAMABAD: World Health Organization (WHO) on Thursday handed over 37 ambulances, 125 motor bikes and 12 double cabins to the Ministry of National Health Services to strengthen their Corona response efforts in Pakistan. The donation was handed over in a ceremony which was attended by Special Assistant to Prime Minister on National Health Services Dr Faisal Sultan at WHO Country Office. WHO Representatives to Pakistan Dr. Palitha Mahipala handed over donation to Dr Faisal Sultan. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Faisal acknowledged the WHO leadership and their unwavering support to Pakistan, during the difficult time of COVID-19 pandemic, which has been an unprecedented global public health challenge for the entire world. He said that the Government of Pakistan working with trusted Partners like WHO, has been fortunate to mitigate the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in both the first and second wave. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio hosted dinner for Daily Islamabad POST Chief Editor Ansar Mahmood Bhatti at his residence. Also seen in the picture are Naveed Miraj, Pramudya Sulaksono Minister Counselor, Ahmed Firman Sejati Counselor and Syarif Shahabudin Second Secretary. - DNA

CPEC projects not to burden Pakistan: China

DNA

BEIJING: A Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson said on Wednesday that power projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) did not incur debt burden on the Pakistani side because they were investment projects. "I can say this with good authority that these energy projects are commercial investment where Chinese companies invested in Pakistan. They do not incur debt burdens on the Pakistani side because they are investment projects," Zhao Lijian said during his regular briefing in response to a question that Pakistan had requested China to reschedule their debts to the tune of around a US\$22 billion in power projects which China has funded. "We have responded to similar questions many occasions. I don't know how you got your specific figure," he questioned. The spokesperson said that for the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, there were many power and energy cooperation projects and added, "I think perhaps you are referring to loans on the energy projects. Right?". Zhao Lijian informed that he had worked in Pakistan for many years and he was very familiar with the energy projects and the CPEC. "So, these loans are from Chinese companies. The Pakistani government doesn't need to pay back anything," he added. The spokesperson remarked that the construction and operation of the energy projects under the CPEC are going on very well, providing steady and affordable power source and adding tax revenues and producing very tangible, economic and social benefits.

'Pakistan-Afghan relation going stronger than ever'

This was stated by Umar Daudzai, Afghanistan's Special Envoy to Pakistan, at the third Pakistan-Afghan Youth Summit

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: We have made more progress, in last eight months than the last 20 years; it is the first time, both countries have appointed Special Envoys for each other. This gives us a direct and speedy channel for any issue of mutual concern. Pakistan and Afghanistan have no option but to trust each other; we cannot be the prisoners of the past. We have passed the phase of mistrust, now we are looking towards the future and youth is an integral part of the times ahead, said Excellency Umar Daudzai, Afghanistan's Special Envoy to Pakistan, at the third Pak-Afghan Youth Summit

on February 25th 2021.

Daudzai also appreciated very positive and constructive role in facilitating Afghan peace process. He said he was looking forward to a comprehensive bilateral relationship between the two sides, work on which is underway, and many high-level meetings are taking place. Afghan Ambassador to Pakistan Excellency Najibullah Alikhil appreciated the role of CRSS in enhancing people-to-people contact between the two nations. He said that the frequency of these cross-border engagements shows that things have changed and people are willing to work together in the domains of mutual interests. He added that Pakistan has done

considerably well regarding climate mitigation; billion trees project speaks for itself. Afghanistan is ready to collaborate with Pakistan on climate issue, especially given the great potential of Afghanistan in producing clean energy. Additionally, on gender issues, he remarked that Kabul has made considerable progress on women rights, reflected in 30-35% of representation in the parliament. Besides that, many ministers are women. This gives us hope and is also a challenge to sustain the gains made so far. Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan (MNA) Shandana Gulzar, said that most of the gender issues are derived from culture, legitimized through the veil of religion. This is

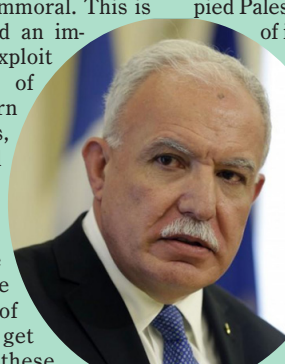
where the problem starts; no one questions the religion. Whereas, in actual these issues have nothing to do with the religion; culture that is really the basis of gender related issues. On gender related SDGs and its progress, she mentioned that we formulate things in haste which are meant to fail eventually. MDGs were made without monitoring and evaluation mechanism and thus no progress at all within that domain. However, under SDGs there is a proper monitoring and evaluation mechanism in place and progress is gauged on a regular basis. She said considerable progress has been made, though there is still a long way to go. Tauqeer Sheikh, a climate

change expert, speaking on the themes of climate change enunciated that in 2047, Pakistan will be 100 years old, and poverty numbers by then will be more than the current population of Pakistan today. This rings an alarming bell as poor are the most vulnerable to climate change. He further cautioned that by 2050, temperature in Afghanistan and Pakistan will rise by almost 5 degrees; we are thus running short of time. The event was successfully concluded by Mr. Imtiaz Gul, Executive Director CRSS, who stated that youth must not assume that things will be handed to them; they must work hard for their rights, and fight to bring equality, equanimity, and equity.

'Israel trading Covid-19 vaccines for political concessions is immoral'

"It shows the absence of moral values," he said, vowing to expose "this exploitation of the humanitarian needs of these countries" and to get directly in touch with these countries in order to urge them to reject this political blackmail

RAMALLAH: Palestine's Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Minister Riyad Malki considered Israel's offer of corona vaccines to some countries in exchange for political concessions as immoral. This is "a political blackmail and an immoral act" intended to exploit the humanitarian needs of these countries in return for political concessions, Malki told the official Voice of Palestine radio. "It shows the absence of moral values," he said, vowing to expose "this exploitation of the humanitarian needs of these countries" and to get directly in touch with these countries in order to urge them to reject this political blackmail. Malki also made reference to the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights regarding Israel's failure to conduct fair and impartial investigations into



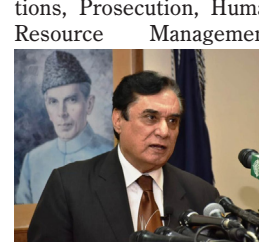
its violations against the Palestinian people, describing it as important. The report clearly condemned the Israeli occupation for its violations in the occupied Palestinian territories, and the extent of its commitment to implement its international obligations, said the Foreign Minister. He said that Israel, and in cooperation with the United States and some European countries, is leading a big campaign to drop Item 7 of the Human Rights Council report because it highlights in detail the Israeli violations and calls for its accountability. "We will do all that we can to thwart all attempts to remove Item 7 as long as Israel is taking measures and committing crimes against our people, in complete violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions," said Malki. - DNA

NAB's anti corruption strategy yielding results

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Honourable Justice Mr. Javed Iqbal has said that corruption is the mother of all evils. NAB has devised a comprehensive National Anti-Corruption Strategy to eradicate corruption and recover looted money from corrupt elements across the board which has started yielding excellent results. He said that all ranks of NAB officers are absolutely committed to root out corruption in an atmosphere of renewed energy and dynamism, where fight against corruption is being taken as a national duty. He said that NAB's major focus is on corruption and corrupt practices i.e.; money laundering, cases of cheating the public at large, willful bank loan de-

faults, misuse of authority and embezzlement of state funds. Since NAB's inception, one of NAB's major achievements has been the recovery of around Rs.466.069 billion which is a great achievement as per the annual report of 2019 of NAB. Starting from the year 2017 which can be called basically a year of reinvigoration of NAB, we have moved with new zeal and effort after through detailed introspection and overhaul of procedures and all pillars of the organization i.e. Operations, Prosecution, Human Resource Management, Training and Research and Awareness and Prevention have been reactivated. He said that NAB has devised a new concept of Combine Investigation Team (CIT) for efficient, effective and expeditious disposal of cases from complaint verification-to-inquiry-to-investigation and finally to a reference in the Accountability Court within prescribed time frame of 10 months which is benefiting from the experience and collective wisdom of senior supervisory officers and is also lending quality to the inquiries/investigations as per law. The Chairman NAB said that NAB is a role model for SAARC Countries. Pakistan is first Chairman of SAARC Anti-Corruption forum in order to have collaborative efforts for eradication of corruption on the basis of best practices.



29 YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE #JUSTICEFOR KHOJALY GENOCIDE HAPPENED

26 FEBRUARY, 1992

JUSTICE FOR KHOJALY

Armenian armed forces and para-military units moved into Khojaly – the historic and culture seat of Azerbaijan – on February 26, 1992, razing it to the ground and seizing control of the Nagorno- Karabakh region.

- 613 Azerbaijani civilians were killed, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people
- 130 children were orphaned
- 487 civilians were wounded
- 1275 civilians were taken hostage and tortured
- 150 civilians remain missing

The Government and people of Azerbaijan demand that the war criminals and perpetrators responsible for the brutal genocide be brought to justice.

APNS ALL PAKISTAN NEWSPAPERS SOCIETY

TO PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT, LOG ON TO [HTTPS://JUSTICE FOR KHOJALY.ORG](https://justiceforkhojaly.org)

WE DEMAND JUSTICE FOR KHOJALY

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