



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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US sanctions inflicted \$1tn damage on Iran

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PML N behind Daska mayhem, says Shibli Faraz

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Briefs

NAP to be thoroughly followed

STAFF REPORT

QUETTA: Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed has said implementations of all clauses of National Action Plan would be ensured. In order to improve law and order situation, inter-provincial coordination would further be improved, he said during visit to Headquarters of FC, Balochistan here on Sunday. On the occasion, threadbare briefing regarding preparation for operations, surveillance of borders and law and order situation was given to him. Speaking on the occasion, Ahmed said that all measures would be adopted to ensure durable peace in Balochistan.

Qadri urges inter-faith harmony

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Religious Affairs Pir Dr Noor-ul-Haq Qadri has urged ulama and Mashai-kh to make collective efforts to promote inter-faith harmony in the society. Addressing Khatoon-e-Jannat Conference in Islamabad, he said that they should come forward and play their due role to eradicate the atmosphere of hatred and segregation. He said that anti-Islam elements want to create differences among the various sects of Islam and we need to thwart their conspiracies and nefarious designs.

Ashrafi warns against conspiracies

DNA

FAISALABAD: Special Representative to Prime Minister on Religious Harmony Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has regretted that conspiracies are being hatched against the national institutions, adding that the nation will foil all nefarious designs of the anti-Pakistan elements. Addressing Istehkam-e-Pakistan Convention at Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan Auditorium of Faisalabad Arts Council (FAC) on Sunday, he said that those who attacked Khatam-e-Nabuwat in the past were now talking about protecting it only because of Imran Khan.

Pakistan to get 5.6mn vaccine doses in March

The country has managed to vaccinate 72,882 Front Line Workers under the national vaccination strategy so far

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Around 5.6 million COVID vaccine doses are expected to arrive in the country by the end of March 2021, according to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCO) on Sunday. Out of these, 2.8 million doses of Gavi/COVAX are expected to reach by the first week of March and 2.8 million doses by the second week of March. The country has managed to vaccinate 72,882 Front Line Healthcare Workers (FLHCWs) under the national vaccination strategy so far which is being implemented simultaneously across the country. As many as 17.1 million doses will reach Pakistan by the end of June 2021 which would help in successfully running the national vaccination drive. However, the registration of citizens over 60 years of age has also been started. Senior citizens can SMS their CNIC numbers in 1166 to get themselves registered for the vaccine. Moreover, the registration of general healthcare workers has also started. They can register at www.covid.gov.pk/vaccine.

Health workers urged to get registered

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistance to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan has asked all the general healthcare workers to get registered to receive COVID-19 vaccine. In a tweet, he said the health workers can now visit "www.covid.gov.pk/vaccine" to register themselves for coronavirus vaccine by following instructions. Special Assistant said the country is heading for next phase of COVID-19 vaccine as arrival of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, in early March is expected. He asked all the citizens of age of 60 years or above to get registered by sending their Computerized National Identity Card number as SMS to 1166 and then follow the instructions they receive for next steps.

PML N behind Daska mayhem: Shibli Faraz

Information Minister Shibli Faraz claimed PML-N leader Rana Sanaullah was behind the firing incident during Friday's by-poll

BUREAU REPORT

SIALKOT: Leaders of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Sunday claimed that they had won Friday's by-election in Sialkot's NA-75 constituency but will wait for official announcement of elections results by the ECP to celebrate their victory. PTI ministers and leaders including Fawad Chaudhry, Shibli Faraz, Firdous Ashiq Awan and Usman Dar held a joint press conference in Sialkot's Daska town. Information Minister Shibli

ECP directs district RO to complete inquiry

ISLAMABAD: The Elections Commission of Pakistan has directed the returning officer of Daska to conduct a complete inquiry over the issue of NA-75 by-poll election results. The Election Commission has received the preliminary report of the Returning Officer of Daska on the issue of NA-75 by-election results. According to sources, the Returning Officer has suggested a full inquiry in the preliminary report. The Election Commission accepted the suggestion of the Returning Officer directing him to conduct a complete inquiry. - DNA

Faraz claimed PML-N leader Rana Sanaullah was behind the firing incident during Friday's by-poll which claimed the lives of two people. He also asserted that the largest opposition party had decided that they

Continued on Page 06

Maryam demands re-election

The PML-N vice president said that the army of spokespersons used the fog as an excuse

DASKA: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice president Maryam Nawaz on Sunday demanded re-election in NA-75 constituency in Daska. Addressing a rally in Daska on Sunday, she said that after stealing flour, sugar, electricity and vote, the entire polling officials were also whisked away. "The polling officials had no answer when they were asked where they were," she said. The PML-N vice president said that the army of spokespersons used the fog as an excuse, adding that some presiding officers are absent for over 14 hours. Maryam Nawaz said that the people of Daska defeated those who tried steal votes, adding that they had an eye on Daska. "We have defeated them [govt] in their stronghold in Nowshera," Maryam added. Talking to media persons in Jati Umra, the PML-N vice president Maryam Nawaz said that

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NANKANA SAHIB: Federal Minister for narcotics control, Brig (r) Ijaz Shah addressing to Sikh community at the eve of completion of "100 years SAKA". - DNA

COVID-19 claims 38 more lives

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The national tally on Sunday of total active COVID-19 cases recorded 24,466 with 1,329 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 905 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Thirty eight corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 36 of them were under treatment in hospital and two in their respective quarantines and homes on Saturday, according to the latest update issued by the NCO. During the last 24 hours most of the deaths had occurred in the Punjab followed by Sindh. Out of the total 38 deaths, 16 people died, were under treatment, on ventilators. The maximum ventilators were occupied in four major areas including Multan 27 percent, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) 35 percent, Peshawar 26 percent and Lahore 38 percent.

PM satisfied over industrial growth

The Premier said the cumulative growth from July to December last year is above eight percent now

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Sunday that the industrial sector is showing sustained growth, which is good news. According to the details, in a facebook post today, the Country's Prime Minister said that a large scale manufacturing saw another double digit growth of 11.4 percent in December last year as compared to the same month previous year. The Prime Minister said the cumulative growth from July to December last year is above eight percent now. Earlier, Prime Minister Imran Khan, citing reports, said that as compared to Pakistan's exports, exports of

Continued on Page 06

"Controlling price hike a challenge"

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh on Sunday said that controlling the prices of essential goods and not allowing them to rise was "a challenge" for the PTI government. Speaking to journalists, Hafeez Shaikh added that reducing the taxes on imported goods, too, has been "a challenge for [the PTI government]" but that it still subsidised essential goods to "help the weaker middle class". "When [Prime Minister] Imran Khan's government came into power, the fiscal deficit was \$20 billion," he noted, adding that exports were next to none under the preceding leadership of the PML-N. The finance minister mentioned that a \$20b external deficit has now been turned into a surplus. The environment created due to the coronavirus pandemic also boosted Pakistan's exports, he added. As the pandemic hit, the PTI regime introduced a policy to help the vulnerable groups in the country that were experiencing economic hardship through the Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme.

Saudi women allowed to join military

DNA

RIYADH: Women in Saudi Arabia can now take up arms and enter the military as soldiers, lance corporals, corporals, sergeants, and staff sergeants, the latest move by the kingdom to transform the Arab world's largest economy. The military ranks will be available in the Saudi Arabian Army, Royal Saudi Air Defence, Royal Saudi Navy, Royal Saudi Strategic Missile Force, and Armed Forces Medical Services, according to Arab News. A woman must be between the age of 21 and 40, be 155 centimetres tall or above, and cannot be a government employee to join the armed forces, according to the Saudi Ministry of Defence. She must also pass admission procedures, have a clean record, and be medically fit for service.

US plane suffers engine failure mid-air

NEWS DESK

DENVER: A Boeing jet has scattered debris over a residential area near Denver after one of its engines failed on take-off. The Boeing 777, with 231 passengers and 10 crew on board, was able to return safely and land at Denver airport. No injuries were reported. Police in the town of Broomfield posted pictures of what appears to be the front of an engine casing in the front garden of a home. Passengers on board described a "large explosion" shortly after take-off. Flight 328, a United Airlines plane bound for Honolulu, suffered a failure in its right-hand engine, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said. One passenger who was on the flight told AP

news agency that the pilot was giving an announcement when there was a loud explosion. "The plane started shaking violently, and we lost altitude and we started going down," David Delucia said. He added that he and his wife placed their wallets in their pockets so that "in case we did go down, we could be ID'd". Images posted online showed smoke trailing from the engine. One video apparently shot from inside the plane shows an engine on fire and stripped of its casing. The incident happened shortly after 13:00 local time (20:00 GMT) on Saturday. Broomfield police urged residents not to touch or move the debris. The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board will be carrying out an investigation.

PPP defeats PTI in by-election

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Polling time for the NA-221 by-election in Tharparkar, where the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) retained its seat against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and 10 other candidates, ended on time. According to the unofficial, preliminary results, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) candidate Pir Ameer Ali Shah Jilani easily defeated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidate Nizamuddin Rahimoon. Polling for the by-election in the constituency began at 08:00am and continued till 5pm without any interruption. The seat fell vacant after Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Pir Noor Muhammad Shah Jilani passed away battling coronavirus at a local hospital in Karachi.

Inside...

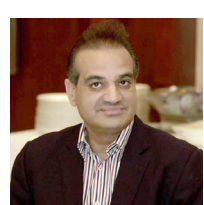
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By-election results: PTI needs some soul searching

It happened rarely in Pakistan's political and electoral history that the incumbent government lost a by-election. Normal practice here is that the sitting government wins by-elections with clear margin primarily because the entire government machinery is at its disposal that makes manipulation of elections much easier

ANALYSIS

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI



ISLAMABAD: The elections results in February 19, 2021 by-elections seem to have jolted the ruling government as it had to face defeat even in its stronghold Nowshera where PML N candidate defeated PTI rival with a convincing margin. In Wazirabad election PML N was able to retain its seat while in Daska NA 75 results are withheld after two people lost their lives as a result of hullabaloo. Nowshera results are surprising

because it used to be a stronghold of Defence Minister Pervez Khattak as it was his home constituency. Reports suggest that because of internal fissures in the ranks of KPK PTI, party had to face defeat. According to reports brother of Pervez Khattak who was also holding portfolio of agriculture minister, openly supported the PML N candidate. He had to lose his portfolio afterwards but the damage had already been done. PML N victory in Nowshera and elsewhere not only turns out to be a morale booster for the party but it shows utility and relevance of the PDM alliance as well. Owing to internal party differences, PTI now wants the Senate election to be held through open ballot because otherwise those MPs who do not like party leadership or its way of governance,

may vote against party candidates. That is only reason the PTI is hell-bent upon having the Senate elections through open ballot. It happened rarely in Pakistan's political and electoral history that the incumbent government would lose a by-election. Normal practice here is that the sitting government wins by-elections with clear margin primarily because the entire government machinery is at its disposal that makes manipulation of elections much easier. Therefore losing elections despite having all factors on its side, should ostensibly be a source of concern for the sitting government. It has to put its heads together to know what went wrong and where. But frankly, one does not need to be Einstein to figure out as to what led to the defeat of the ruling party. We have pointed out time and again in these

columns that government direly needs to improve its governance and deliver its promises made with the people of Pakistan during the election campaign. People were expecting to get some relief during the PTI regime but to their utmost disappointment, things have gone even worse. Ordinary folks have nothing to do with gimmickries such as IMF constraints; devaluation of rupee or borrowings made by the erstwhile rulers, they only need their grievances to be addressed on priority basis. PDM's decision to join hands in the by-elections has also paid dividends. If this arrangement works well, the allied parties may continue it even in the next general elections. In this case, it will of course be a difficult task for the PTI to secure or even retain its seats. The only thing that can help PTI against the PDM

alliance is the good governance and maximum and immediate relief to masses. AS regards results of NA 75 Daska constituency, the PML N has demanded re-election, which, in the given circumstances, appear to be a legitimate demand for brows and killings in this constituency have rendered the entire the electoral process dubious. It was quite brave move on the part of the Election Commission of Pakistan to hold the Punjab government responsible for the hooliganism that took place in NA 75. At the same time the ECP press release speaks volumes for the helplessness of this constitutional top body responsible for holding free and fair elections. If it cannot ensure free and fair elections in just one constituency, how will it be able to conduct upcoming local bodies' elections and then the general elections in a transparent manner?

Briefs

DC awards certificates to STEM position holder

FAISAL MUNIR

ATTOCK: A ceremony to award certificates of appreciation to the winners of Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) competition was held at Govt Pilot school here on Saturday.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Attock Ali Anwar Qammar was the guest of honor. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Education Javed Iqbal Awan, other education officers, heads of different schools, parents and relatives of the position holder students were also present. DC appreciated teachers and students for taking keen interest in this competition. He also lauded the teachers and students for preparing different projects for this competition despite of limited resources and said that this was really a good sign. CEO Javed Iqbal Awan said that in this competition more than 500 students participated from different schools at tehsil level. He said that out of 120 entries only six (6) top most students came up with unique and innovative ideas. He appreciated the teachers and students congratulated them for achieving top positions in this competition.

PTI announces protests against Sindh government

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Karachi chapter on Sunday announced to hold demonstrations in different parts of Sindh to protest the arrest of its MPA Haleem Adil Sheikh and other party activists. According to the details, PTI has decided to hold protest demonstrations across the province against the PPP-led Sindh government. The decision was taken during a meeting of PTI's lawmakers hailing from Karachi on Sunday. Terming PTI workers' detentions political victimization, MPA Khurram Sher Zaman announced to hold a protest rally outside Karachi Press Club on 23rd of February. The PTI leaders threatened to extend their protest to other parts of the province if the Sindh government does not stop the victimization of political opponents.

Dialysis setup by AAKF at services hospital near completion

DNA

LAHORE: The renovation of a new three-storey setup for dialysis patients in the Nephrology Department of Services Hospital has entered the stages of completion where patients suffering from kidney diseases would be getting medical facility under the auspices of Abdul Aleem Khan Foundation. Moreover dialysis wards equipped with modern facilities are being prepared for the treatment of patients for which 36 modern machines of dialysis have reached Lahore from Germany while the construction work is in full swing. Senior Minister Punjab Abdul Aleem Khan visited Services Hospital yesterday to review this welfare scheme and inspected the ongoing work where he directed to complete it as soon as possible so that dialysis facility could be available to the needy patients immediately.



DASKA: Senator Shibli Faraz, Federal minister for information and broadcasting inquiring about the health of PTI worker injured in firing incident at Daska. – DNA

PIA agrees to enhance flight operation for GB

In meeting with the FPCCI delegation, he also vowed to start the project of a new runway in Gilgit Airport and construction of new offices and other facilities in GB airport to provide facilities to the passengers and tourists coming from all over the country

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Air Marshal (ret) Arshad Malik on Sunday agreed to enhance the flight operation and increase the facilities for business community and people of Gilgit Baltistan (GB) region for promoting tourism and other sectors. According to a press release issued by FPCCI here, currently

PIA has ongoing operation of 2 flights, which would be increased to 3 flights by March 28 to enhance the connectivity between GB, Air Marshal (ret) Arshad Malik said this in a meeting with delegation of Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) led by its Chairman Qurban Ali. Arshad Malik said that promotion of business culture and values, economy, investment, trade, tourism, employment generation, social welfare and

people's connectivity were the common areas of both sides for prosperous and strong Pakistan. He said that "We want to enhance the cooperation and coordination with the business community and the community should come forward and play their due role in helping PIA for making it more efficient and strong. In meeting with the FPCCI delegation, he also vowed to start the project of a new runway in Gilgit Airport and construction of new

offices and other facilities in GB airport to provide facilities to the passengers and tourists coming from all over the country. The CEO agreed to further negotiate on discount in passenger fare and other services expenditure by PIA for passengers and business community of GB region. While in negotiation on flight operation for 'devotees' to Iraq, he said that the operation was banned due to COVID-19 pandemic situation and after the

permission by Iraqi authorities, PIA to start flight operation for Iraq. He said that after starting the operation, PIA would fully facilities the 'devotees' and provide them all facilities accordingly. The CEO of PIA informed that the financial restructuring of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), a new fleet of aircraft, staff training and new flight destinations were being prioritized to attract the most potential passengers from all over the world.

UNHCR for biometric verification of refugees

DNA

ISLAMABAD: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) would facilitate the biometric verification of the documents (smartcard IDs) of 1.4 million Afghan refugees from government during the current calendar year. "UNHCR has a plan to facilitate the Afghan refugees (POR – proof of registration cardholders) – by verifying and receiving new biometric documentation (smartcard IDs) from the Government of Pakistan by 2021." Revealed a document of UNHCR, Pakistan. The document revealed the UNHCR's key plans for ensuring the betterment of the Afghan refugees during the current year through several initiatives relating to health, education, and others. According to the report, (UNHCR) has a plan to facilitate around 58,000 Afghan refugees, living in Pakistan, to ensure their return home by 2021. UNHCR would enroll 61,500 refugee children during the year 2021, providing them an access to primary education. The children would impart education in 137 schools of 54 refugee villages set up across the country, said UNHCR Pakistan document said.

Pakistan needs a new economic model to survive

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former President ICCI Shahid Rasheed Butt on Sunday said the economy is sinking despite best efforts by the authorities which call for out of the box solutions. IMF's prescription is not enough to stabilise the economy therefore a new economic model should be adopted without delay otherwise, there will be no future for Pakistan. He said that our national debt is now increasing at the rate of Rs18 billion a day; the electricity sector now loses almost Rs2 billion a day and circular debt has reached a level of Rs2.5 trillion. Our bleeding state-owned companies collectively end up losing Rs1.8 trillion a year while losses in the natural gas sector are almost Rs1 billion a day, he added. Shahid Rasheed butt said that the federal and provincial food departments have added debt of Rs753 billion while public procurements by the federal and provincial governments stand at Rs7.5 trillion out of which a good portion is lost to the corruption. The government purchased wheat at a rate of Rs1400 per 40 kg during last season but masses were not provided wheat flour at Rs2800 per 40 kg which indicate serious flaws in the working of federal and provincial food departments, he noted. The business leader noted that cost of doing business, price of food items and other things is increasing constantly while real reforms are being ignored conveniently. Some reforms have been initiated in the past and whatever steps were taken in the name of reforms were politically motivated, he observed. – APP

CDA starts drains clean-up campaign



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) administration has started cleaning the natural drains. After cleaning the drains, forests will be set up on their banks. According to details Member Finance, Director General Management, Deputy Director General of Civic Management visited the drains of F-6 and F-7 last day and a heavy machinery of the MPO department is being deployed here to clean the drains. With the collection

of garbage from the said drains, it is also being removed without any bend. Tenders have been issued to prevent the sewerage coming in the said drains. The work of cleaning the said drains will continue till the complete cleaning of all the drains of Islamabad. Along with the cleaning of drains, fences will also be installed on the banks of the said drains so that garbage and sewage from the edges cannot enter the drains. Action will be taken against those who dump garbage and debris in the drains. Citizens dump their garbage in the natural drains near the slums. In-

structions will be issued against them first, then notices will be issued and fines will be imposed. A wetland is being set up in F-11 to control the garbage and stench coming from the drains near Golra so that the sewage coming from the population of Golra will be treated and its stench and waste will be removed and this water will be discharged into the drains again. The wetland will also be completed in the next two weeks. He also appealed to them to cooperate with the institution and avoid dumping garbage and debris in the drains.

SAARC demands to establish export warehouses abroad

DNA

LAHORE: President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftekhar Ali Malik Sunday said Pakistan export could be increased manifolds if export warehouses were established abroad on priority in line with quickly emerging new trend of global marketing. Talking to a delegation of leading exporters led by Ms Chaudhary Minahal Akbar Arain, he said that new trend has emerged worldwide that importers wanted express delivery of goods instead of waiting for months. He said that our neighbouring country has started establishing warehouses to capture the foreign markets. He said Pak exporters must follow the new trends of if they want to compete international markets especially in Dubai, Africa etc. He said that Pak exporters also must promote "brand" as their products are equally good in terms of quality fulfilling the all international standards. Pak exporters can get better returns of their products if exported with their own brands. Iftekhar Ali Malik said that still Paki-

stan being the largest Muslim country could not fully exploit Halal market share. He said that Allah has blessed Pakistan with the wealth of livestock which could fetch huge foreign exchange if exported properly according to international standards. He said first time in history textile sector is in full bloom as good numbers of export orders poured in from worldwide due to covid that badly affected the foreign countries productions and their demand was moved to Pakistan. He said that textile sector is now facing acute shortage of skilled and non skilled manpower. He stressed the urgent need of establishment of modern vocational training colleges to train the manpower on modern scientific lines in all trades to meet the ever increasing demand of skilled workers. Iftekhar Ali Malik said that Prime Minister Imran Khan should offer same package of incentives to all other industries like construction industry which he added will help usher an era of prosperity, progress and development besides bringing industrial revolution in the country.



DASKA: Maryam Nawaz vice president PML (N) addressing a public rally in Daska. – DNA

'Modi wants to take full control of IIOJK'

He was addressing a webinar organized by the UK-based Hidayat TV and CNI News. The webinar was also addressed by former member of the European Parliament, Lords Wajid Khan and the TV anchor Syed Abid Kazmi

ISLAMABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Masood Khan Sunday said that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi wanted to take full control of Indian Illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), in order to again win the parliamentary elections in 2024. "If the Kashmir issue had been resolved through drawing-room politics, the UN Security Council, White House and 10 Downing Street would have resolved it long ago," he said adding that we would

have to come out in streets and squares and pay heed to the cries rising from Srinagar, Baramullah, Rajouri and Poonch. He was addressing a webinar organized by the UK-based Hidayat TV and CNI News. The webinar was also addressed by former member of the European Parliament, Lords Wajid Khan, President Tehrike Kashmir UK Faheem Kayani and the TV anchor Syed Abid Kazmi. The state president said that the Kashmiri people would never for-

get those who were helping them in the current environment of distress or those who were raising their voice throughout the world. He maintained that at present, the Kashmiri people were being killed, their children were being slaughtered, and their daughters were being molested before their eyes, and they are forced to die of starvation by depriving them of their land, business and livelihood. Sardar Masood Khan asserted that what Modi was doing, was

going to turn the whole of India into another Kashmir where the Muslims, Dalits, Sikhs and the Christians feel themselves to be insecure. "The same was done by the German Nazi ruler Adolf Hitler to Jews, Roma nomads, and Hungarian and Polish citizens, and when his brutalities had crossed all limits, the world had to jointly fight a war against him on the cost of hundreds of thousands of human lives," he added. The AJK president said that the only

option to defeat Modi and rid the Kashmiri people of his repression was that we turn the Kashmir liberation movement into an international campaign of human rights and civil liberties, and at the same time, use our politics, diplomacy and media to disseminate the voice of Kashmiri people in every nook and corner of the world. "We must keep exposing India's false narrative, and promote our true narrative on a full-time basis," he added. – APP

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(Directorate of Enforcement)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lawyers Chambers and other illegal structures have been built inside and around F-8 Markaz, Islamabad.

That deadline for voluntary removal of these structures as ordered shall expire on 28.02.2021.

Now, therefore, on expiry of 28th February, 2021 deadline, if the structures are not removed voluntarily then the structures will be demolished in accordance with Section 49-C of the CDA Ordinance-1960 and all other enabling provisions. This is final notice and no further notice will be issued and no compensation shall be payable for any loss or damage caused by or as a result of demolition etc.

DDG (ENFORCEMENT),

CDA

PID (I) 4505/20

Briefs

SSP lauds police's remarkable success

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have got remarkable success against criminal elements during the last fortnight and nabbed hundreds of criminals besides recovery of valuables worth millions of rupees and narcotics from them.

Following directions of IGP Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman and DIG Operations Afzal Ahmed Kausar, he said that renewed efforts were made by all officers for safety and security of the citizens.

SSP (Operation) said that investigation of 53 cases was completed and their challans were submitted in relevant courts. A total of 13 burglary/theft cases were resolved besides arrest of 16 burglars and valuables worth over Rs. 4,00,000 were recovered from them while seven other gangsters were also held.

More shelter homes to get telehealth kiosks

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Efforts are afoot to set up telehealth kiosks at more shelter homes (Panahgahs) to provide medical care to its residents, in addition to two-time meals a day and night stay.

Prime Minister's Focal Person on Shelter Homes Naseem ur Rehman told the media during his visit to the Panahgah, located at Tarlai—an area situated in outskirts of the federal capital. He said so far, the facility was fully operational at four shelter homes and "It is our target to establish telehealth kiosks at our 25 Panahgahs by the end of February," he added.

"We are striving to transform the Panahgahs in the welfare center, where daily wage earners do not only get food and shelter but also healthcare facilities under a conducive environment," he remarked.

Cold, dry weather likely in Capital

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Sunday forecast cold and dry weather to persist in Capital during next 24 hours. Continental air is prevailing over most parts of the country. A shallow westerly wave is also present over upper parts of the country, the MET office reported.

Fog is likely to prevail over plain areas of Punjab. However, cloudy weather with light rain/snowfall is expected in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir and adjoining hilly areas. Minimum temperature's recorded in (°C):Leh, Gupis -03, Skardu, Parachinar -02 and Bagrote 00.

RPO visits DHQ hospital

GHULAM MURTAZA

RAWALPINDI: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Imran Ahmar here on Sunday visited DHQ to inquire after health of a constable who was seriously injured due to resistance of drug dealers in Jhelum, a informed police spokesman. The RPO issued instructions for the best possible treatment of the injured constable while also assured all kind of possible cooperation to the family.



ISLAMABAD: Begum Samina Arif Alvi in a group photo with the winners of Breast Cancer Awareness Ladies Golf match. – DNA

Funding, training urged for promoting mountaineering

Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said right professionals, liberal policies and a vigorous framework is very essential for the mainstreaming of mountaineering in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speaking at a webinar on "mountaineering challenges confronting Pakistan", the experts urged the government to urgently establish a professional mountaineering school and a strong Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) having right professionals on board.

The national mountaineering federation is a weaker body having lack of organizational skills, competency and transparency right from its elections to its performance. The Alpine Club of Pakistan despite having a heavy mandate and scope of work as a national federation, the experts mentioned that it could not perform according to the needs.

The experts also appreciated the Pakistan army for conducting the rescue operations quite efficiently when needed.

They highlighted that getting a mountaineering permit takes too long despite the Prime Minister's instruction to reduce the processing time. It takes too much time to get a visa for the foreign tourists though the federal government has announced a lenient visa policy.

The webinar was organized by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) on Saturday. The panel of experts included well-known mountaineer Nazir Sabir, another well-known mountaineer Col (Retd) Abdul Jabbar Bhatti, founder and chairman Baltistan Association of Tour Operators (BATO) Muhammad Iqbal, Secretary Alpine Club of Pakistan Karrar Haideri, mountaineering trainer Dr. Shabbir Naqvi, president

The Adventure Club Tahir Imran Khan, Pakistan Mountain Festival founder and director and Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed, Event manager Samreen Akhtar, and Ozyegin University student of Hospitality and Tourism Management Shaaref Munir. Nazir Sabir said all stakeholders need to sit together to develop an integrated policy for mountaineering and trekking. Mountaineering should be a national phenomenon like cricket. But unfortunately we lack state patronage and recognition and so is the case of corporate sponsorships.

In fact, the Alpine Club Pakistan has no capacity to handle the national framework of mountaineering. Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) needs to be reformed. Col (Retd) Abdul Jabbar

Bhatti said mountaineering is an adventure sport that is based on your own resources, skills and risk. Mountaineers and High Altitude Porters (HAPs) have no insurance schemes in Pakistan, no proper training and no sponsorships. Corporate sector will not come up to support this sport until it is not adequately mainstreamed. We have no structured system for mountaineering and trekking. We need to put 'right persons on the right jobs' if interested to do the needful, and it will not happen sooner even if we start today.

Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said rights professionals and a vigorous framework is very essential for mainstreaming of mountaineering. Government and the state institutions need to

have some liberal and lenient policies to attract foreign mountaineers and trekkers. We shall also have an adequate monitoring and checking system to reduce high altitude pollution.

Secretary Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) Karrar Haideri said the Alpine Club received a lot of criticism but not funding at least for the last three years even though we are trying to survive. All officer bearers perform their duties without any remunerations. We have taken up issues with the government several times but are still waiting for the patronage and support. The Pakistan army has had a meeting of stakeholders recently to develop an outline of the framework to promote mountaineering in Pakistan. The National Tour-

ism Coordination Board (NTCB) is also focusing on it.

Dr. Shabbir Naqvi said we lack funding and training for mountaineering in general because the Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) could not deliver the desired outcome as envisaged in their mandate.

We have yet to organize and recognize mountaineering as a sport. Nepal offers Bachelor and Masters level education in mountaineering while we have no professional training school. Tahir Imran Khan said we need to have professional training to attract commercialism along with a thorough professional attitude of the relevant organizations.

Marketing of the mountains is very important that is not possible without collaboration of all stakeholders.

Railways finalizes over 50 inquiries

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has finalized inquiries of over 50 passenger train accidents while around 28 accidents related to goods trains are being dealt by the respective divisions in accordance with rules of the department.

As many 14 inquiry reports were under process and would be finalized in due course of time and submitted to the quarters concerned, official sources in the Ministry of Railways told. To a question, they said that around nine major accidents of passenger and goods trains had been occurred on Pakistan Railways' entire network across the country in the last two years. Out of the total nine mishaps, five accidents had occurred in 2019 and four accidents took place in 2020, they said. The sources said that in these accidents, around 153 persons died 179 sustained injuries while the financial damage incurred on the Pakistan Railways was Rs 57.708 million.

Int'l Mother Language Festival held at Lok Virsa

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) Sunday organised Mother Language Literature Festival to celebrate the importance of mother languages in the country. The well known scholars and language experts participated in the discussion and emphasized to promote the preservation and protection of vernaculars of Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion Prof Saeed Ahmed said that promotion of linguistic and cultural diversity was an important cause which highlighted the cultural potential of Pakistan to the world. He said that measures should be taken to preserve, protect and promote the languages of Pakistan.

He said this unique festival had become essential part of cultural scene of the federal capital.

PNCA to set-up Regional Culture Centre in Jamshoro

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) is going to set-up its Regional Culture Centre in Jamshoro, Sindh. A Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Culture, Tourism, and Antiquities, Government of Sindh has been signed today.

Dr. Fouzia Saeed, DG PNCA and Mr. Ghulam Akbar Leghari, Secretary, Culture, Tourism, and Antiquities, Government of Sindh signed the agreement here in Islamabad. This cultural co-operation between the two organizations allow PNCA to bring national level cultural program to Sindh and explore new avenues to engage the artist's community of the region especially youth in



a broader way. Mr. Ghulam Akbar Leghari, Secretary, Culture, Tourism, and Antiquities, Government of Sindh, Karachi termed this MoU a new beginning for the promotion of Sindh art and culture at national and international level. He thanked Dr. Fouzia Saeed for taking this initiative and extending cooperation for the promotion of the art and culture of Sindh at National and International level. For achieving the common goals, the Secretary said, there was a need for accelerating cultural activities to further promote the tangible and intangible culture and traditions of Sindh, through conducting training programmes for capacity building in the field of art and culture.

Sanjrani inaugurates safari tourist train

MUNIR FAISAL

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani along with Minister for Railways Azam Khan Swati inaugurated safari tourist train at Golra Railway Station on Sunday to promote tourism. Tourist train will take tourists from Golra station to Hassan Abdal, Attock Khurd and Attock City and surrounding areas every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The safari train will also pass through the old iron girder bridge, which is the most important, strategic and commercial cross on the Indus between Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. Addressing the media persons at the inauguration, Chairman Senate said that this safari train was an im-

portant step towards promotion of tourism in the country. Railways were backbone of the economy, he said. He said that the concept of safari train was good; it could be a source of entertainment and tourism. He said that such trains should also be run from different cities as it could play a key role in promoting tourism. The chairman said that Railways should take such steps to make the institution profitable and help in projecting a positive image of the country. "At one time, fresh water was also delivered by railway from Quetta to my village" he said.

He said that promotion of tourism was responsibility of every individual. He said that the development of any country was linked with the

tourism. Minister for Railways Azam Swati said on the occasion that the objective of the train was to project the culture, civilization, heritage and worth seeing beautiful places of Pakistan before the world. He said that his priority agenda was to eradicate corruption from the railways. There were mostly good officers in the railways but there were a few black sheep, he said and added that he would selectively eliminate these black sheep. He said that freight trains would also start soon. He said that the Railways would have to move forward for the sake of country. He said that new signal system would be introduced in Railways. Passengers would be paid fine if passenger trains got late, he said.

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Briefs

Over 9,000 inquiries on Child abuse held in 2020

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cyber Crime Wing has conducted over 9,000 inquiries based on child abuse in the year 2020 to ensure justice to the victims of the heinous crime, said an official of Sahil working for child protection. Around 24 first information reports (FIRs) were registered during the last year whereas 26 accused were arrested involved in cases related to child abuse, he added. He said there were three large groups linked to international child pornography racket apprehended by the security departments involved in child abuse and pornography in various parts of the country. The Sahil official noted that around 2,846 cases of rape and abuse were being reported whereas 3,832 cases were registered in 2020 that showed an increasing trend of case reporting and actions being lodged against the perpetrators which was a positive omen.

He also said that in the first six months of 2020 as many as 8,489 cases were registered in the last six months of 2020 of child abuse. To a question, he said the cases pertaining to child abuse were less reported and penalized where the trend and social attitude towards the menace had also changed which would be propitious to ensure child protection in the country.

Crackdown Against Land Mafia Launched

FAISAL MUNIR

ATTOCK: The local administration in Hassanabdal has launched a crackdown against land mafia and illegal housing societies. In Hassanabdal, a team of local administration, municipal authorities along with the revenue department led by assistant commissioner Zunaira Jaleel demolished various structures and buildings constructed illegally here in a housing society located near Bai. According to officials of local administration, the housing society was being operated illegally and without approval from the local municipal administration and district government. Talking to media on this occasion, Zunaira Jaleel said that indiscriminate operations were being carried out across the teshil against encroachments, illegal housing societies and occupation of government lands by the mafia. She said the local administration would continue proceedings against land grabbers.

CTO advises bikers to use of back view mirrors

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Mazhar Iqbal has advised the bikers to use back view mirrors as one glance can save a two-wheeler's life. According to a City Traffic Police (CTO) spokesman, the CTO had directed the City Traffic Police (CTP) Education Wing (EW) to accelerate the awareness campaign about use of back view mirrors. Mazhar Iqbal said most of the road accidents and deaths of the bikers reported, were because of non-usage of back view mirrors. Side-view mirrors are an important road safety aid, he said adding, the CTP had taken a new initiative to make roads safer for two-wheeler riders.

The spokesman informed that CTP also distributed awareness pamphlets and back view mirrors among motorcycles under ongoing awareness campaign launched by Education Wing of CTP here the other day. He said, the CTP were making efforts to spread awareness about the rear view mirror which must be used by the two-wheeler riders, as these mirrors are the rear eye of the drivers during heavy flow of traffic on roads. The CTP Education Wing officials had been directed to make the two-wheeler riders aware of the importance of rear view mirrors, he informed. Mazhar Iqbal had also directed the CTP Education Wing to accelerate the public awareness campaign about traffic rules and road safety. — APP

COLLECTIVE ACTION APPROACH TO DEAL WITH PACKAGING WASTE

Organized by CoRe Alliance & Ministry of Climate Change



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam addresses the event "National Dialogue on Plastic Waste and Stakeholders Responsibility". — DNA

France 'not to entrench discrimination against Muslims'

The President's statement came in reference to the bill passed by the French parliament's lower house on Tuesday with overwhelming majority that would strengthen oversight of mosques, in an act of discrimination against Muslims

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi on Saturday urged the political leadership of France "not to entrench the discriminatory attitudes against Muslim into laws" and warned that such steps would lead to serious repercussions in shape of hatred and conflict. "You [France] need to bring people together and not to stamp a religion in a certain manner to create disharmony and bias," he said at an international conference on religious freedom and minorities rights. The President's statement came in reference to the bill passed by the French parliament's lower house on Tuesday with overwhelming majority that would strengthen oversight of mosques, in an act of discrimination against Muslims.

Hosted by the Presidency, the event was attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Pir Noorul Haq

Qadri, Parliamentary Secretary Shunila Ruth and European Union Ambassador to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara. Besides, Member of the US Democratic Central State Committee Ayesha Khan and Implementation of Minority Rights Forum (IMRF) Chairman Samuel Pyara also addressed the moot attended by representatives of the minority communities and international organizations, religious scholars and bishops. President Alvi said the French legislation was not in line with the United Nations Charter and contradicted the spirit of social harmony that Europe previously instilled in its society. "Let there not be a retrogressive step for situations which arise out of animosity and for situations which are carried forward by the people who do not know about the real Islam," he said.

Dr Alvi said the damage might not be evident at present, but would ultimately end up in a terrible scenario

of hatred and hostility. "To label the entire religion in a different manner and to start taking precautions against the entire community sparks the fact that if not now, it will have very bad repercussions in the next 10 years," he said. He said the West was being communicated by the government of Pakistan that blasphemy of Prophet Muhammad in the name of freedom of expression and religion was considered by entire Muslims Ummah an insult to the revered personality. He mentioned that laws existed in the West about protection of certain ideas such as Holocaust, the violation of which created disharmony. "Similarly, the laws [about Islam's Prophet] should make sure that this does not happen," he added.

The President emphasized that the world instead needed to divert energies on addressing other serious challenges such as climate change, poverty, hegemony and exploita-

tion. He said the humanity needed to rise above its vested interests and live up to the ideals of mosque and church as no Prophet, whether Prophet Muhammad or Jesus Christ gave a message about animosity, but peace among people. President Alvi said the government believed in an emerging Pakistan with peace and harmony among people with all religions, faiths and colors merged into the ideals of peace and prosperity. "In Pakistan, we believe today, there is morality behind every decision. At the same time, it is in our self-interest that the people of Pakistan must be together and, in all laws, and everything we do, we must ensure that we will promptly fight incidents raising differences."

The President said there could be accidents and incidents attempting to create disharmony but the nation would fight those "very promptly", adding that it was a continuous struggle to maintain peace.

Dr Alvi said reconstitution of Minorities' Rights Commission to protect the worship places of religious minorities was a positive step by the government. "Pakistan is entering a new era with lessons learnt that we cannot live with divisions among our own people," he said.

He mentioned the plight of religious minorities in neighbouring India, where particularly Muslims faced discriminatory treatment.

Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Pir Noorul Haq Qadri said the country's religion of majority population and the Constitution guaranteed protection of rights of minorities. In line with the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he said, Pakistan as its State and government policy never avoided safeguarding the rights of minorities. He stressed that individual nefarious acts must not be associated with Islam.

ICCI kick-starts 3-days Furniture Expo

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with RF Events (SMC-Private) Limited, has held a 3 days "Furniture and Living Expo" starting from February 19, 2021 at Majestic Banquets, Club Road, Islamabad from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm.

A wide variety of furniture and interior products of the region are being offered in the Expo at discounted prices to the consumers. The Expo will continue up to February 21, 2021. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry inaugurated the Furniture

Expo as Chief Guest. Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan President ICCI said that the global furniture market was estimated at over USD 500 billion, but Pakistan's share in it was quite nominal. He urged that the government should provide support to furniture manufacturers and exporters in organizing exhibitions in foreign countries to promote Pakistan's exports in the international market. He said that Pakistani foreign missions should also explore the potential of Pakistani furniture products in their respective countries and share such information with chambers of commerce.

'Country's rich culture, heritage to be part of curriculum'

ISLAMABAD: Lok Virsa is working with Higher Education Commission to include subjects on culture and heritage of Pakistan in curriculum to educate students to apprise the younger generation with this golden asset of our country profile. Executive Director National Institute of Cultural and Heritage (Lok Virsa) Talha Ali Khan Kushvaha said he was striving hard to modernize all aspects of Lok Virsa through introducing latest trends in the light of our rich cultural traditions and history. Students are the main pillars of the society and they should learn about cultural heritage of Pakistan, he told APP. — APP

CDA inaugurates pet friendly park in Sector F-6

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) administration has inaugurated Pet Friendly Park in Sector F-6 Hill Road. A number of citizens visit the park along with their pets. According to details, pet lovers have been repeatedly requesting the Capital Development Authority (CDA) adminis-

tration to introduce such parks where citizens can come with their pets.

Earlier, there was no government-run pet park in the city. The city has a ban on carrying pets in public parks so that visitors to the park are not affected. However, now the CDA administration has inaugurated a beautiful pet friendly park in Sector F-6. The park has been designed in such a way that citizens can sit, play and walk with

their pets. There are also trainers in the park to train the pet animals, who are showing the citizens the tricks of their trained pets.

A large numbers of citizens enjoyed with their pets and animal tricks in the park. The citizens appreciated this unique project by the administration and has requested for further increase in the number of such parks and recreational facilities.



ISLAMABAD: Artists performing folk dance during the Pakistan Mother Languages Literature festival 2021 at PANCA. — DNA

CDA's initiatives: capital is fast regaining its beauty

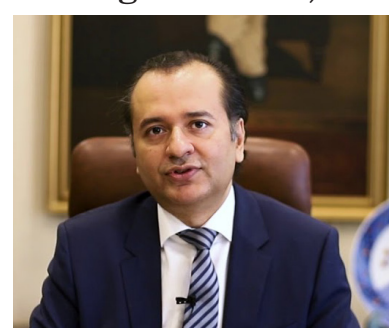
Best sanitation services should be provided to the citizens. There will be no compromise on cleanliness. Chairman directed the department of street lights to restore all the street lights of the city within two months. He asked the environment department to upgrade the parks, cleanliness at green belts, and to plant more saplings for enhancing the beauty

ISLAMABAD: With massive plantation on amended beds, roads well marked and fully functional street lights, the federal capital is fast regaining its diminished beauty. Everywhere across the capital city, the staffers of the Capital Development Authority are seen redoing the flower beds, painting the medians and marking and trimming the haphazardly grown trees. The new CDA management is putting all its efforts to revive the distinction of Islamabad - The Beautiful which otherwise had been lost to the blithe lack of concern by the previous civic administration.

Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Amir Ali Ahmed said that the authority making all out efforts to restore natural beauty of the capital city by utilizing its available resources.

CDA chairman said that the authority is taking steps to restore the basic structure of the city. Infrastructure of the whole city will be restored within few months. CDA is committed for providing best facilities to the citizens by restoring the natural beauty of the city, he added. He said CDA has initiated a number of projects regarding restoration of infrastructure, beautification of the city, and other developmental works.

Department of Sewerage and Sanitation has been directed to ensure the cleanliness of all the gutters and main holes in the city. Best sanitation services should be provided to the citizens. There will be no compromise on cleanliness. Chairman directed the department of street lights to restore all the street lights of the city within two months. He asked the environment



department to upgrade the parks, cleanliness at green belts, and to plant more saplings for enhancing the beauty. Meanwhile the work of Capital Development Authority (CDA) on lane marking, kerb stone, and repairing of all

main roads is underway. CDA Spokesperson told this news agency, that work of lane marking is underway at Khayaban e Sohrawardi road and 7th avenue while the work of stone fixing is continued at 9th avenue, Ibn-e-Sina road G-8, Kashmir Highway, Service road G-8, Service road South G-10, Service road F-10, G-9, F-6, F-7, and F-11. During last few months the administration of CDA completed work on kerb stone, lane marking, repairing of infrastructure, and restoration at roads of sector G-6, G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, I-8, I-9, I-10, F-6, F-7, F-8, F-9, F-10, and other areas, he said. He said lane marking has been done on Sadar road of G-6 and work on kerb stone painting completed at G-6, G-7, Blue Area, and Khayaban-e-Iqbal.

To enhance the green cover of Islamabad, the Capital Development Authority has decided to plant saplings in March on greenbelts on both sides of the Rawalpindi-Islamabad Metro Bus route, which falls within the limits of the federal capital. The CDA's environment director general inspected the greenbelts along metro bus route with the National Highway Authority (NHA) director and discussed the plan to plant trees in upcoming plantation drive. CDA official said that climate change ministry would also provide its financial and technical assistance in the plantation drive to ensure maximum survival rate. According to the CDA official, the buses plying on the metro route emit greenhouse gases but plantation on both sides would help mitigate their impact. — APP

RCCI Construction trade fair on February 26

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) is organizing the first Build 2021 Construction Trade Fair from February 26 to 28 at Topi Rakh Ayub Park. Construction and Developers affiliates and companies will set up stalls.

RCCI President Mohammad Nasir Mirza in a statement said that more than 40 industries are connected with the construction sector. The Chamber has welcomed the construction package from the Prime Minister and the extension at the last date would further accelerate the construction sector and create more employment opportunities. He said that similar incentives should be announced for other sectors as well. This will help the economy to grow rapidly and put the country on the prosperous and progress path. The boom in the economy will help in eliminating unemployment in the country.

Short film certification to commence from Feb 23

ISLAMABAD: Ajoka Theatre Pakistan will hold a five-days short film certification title "Introduction to Film-Making" from February 23. In this Practical and Hands on 5 day Master Class, students will be guided through Film making Fundamentals via Practice Based and Unique exercises developed exclusively for this MasterClass.

Lux Style Awards nominated Director Aamir Yousaf would be the instructor of short film certification, an official told APP. He said that Yousaf would train the aspirants about self-discovery, sharing vision, process and method for creating impactful films, dramas and videos. This filmmaking course would cover all the creative aspects of planning, shooting, and editing an incredible video. He said that Understanding of Pre-Production and mastering Post-Production would also be taught, adding that equipment would be provided to the students. "Covid is still in the air, so there will be limited seats, and you all are advised to wear face masks and adhere to the SOPs, so that the virus spread can be contained", he added. — APP

PNCA plans to hold Arts, Crafts Bazar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) has planned to start a colourful and entertaining Arts and Craft bazar on every Sunday from February 28. The Bazar titled "Sunday k Sunday" aims to promote opportunities for women artisans, to revive craft and to create livelihood for the hundred or skilled women artisans in country. An official of PNCA told APP that "this is the best opportunity for you to support your local artists, get gifts for your family and friends and enjoy yourself".

PNCA will be featuring different styles of crafts to promote the traditional embroideries exquisite hand made products of Pakistan. There is dire need to promote women artisans as they are playing an important role to maintain the identity of cultural heritage of Pakistan and keeping alive the dying crafts for the coming generations, he added. He said that by displaying their unique collection of intricate hand embroideries would really encourage their work and boost their morale. — APP

Debating ordinances

THE opposition in the National Assembly raised some relevant contentions against the government's methods of law-making. They criticised the government's decision to change the mode of polling for the Senate through the use of ordinances—a method they argued does not create long-lasting law, making it unstable. The lack of debate on proposed changes also makes the whole process look more undemocratic. The opposition is absolutely right to highlight this defect. The PTI-led federal government has promulgated almost as many ordinances as the bills passed during the past 28 months of its rule. Since coming to power in August 2018, the government has promulgated 51 ordinances, which means that more than half of the law-making in the country has been done without discussing the issues to conclusion in parliament.

As an ordinance bypasses the will of opposition members of the parliament, who too have been elected by the votes of the people, it is also impractical and detrimental to the country. Once signed into law, it will have to be laid in the parliament after 120 days, when it expires. Thus therein, due to its non-permanency, an ordinance does not have the kind of stabilising power that a law passed through parliament would have, and it could be argued that the whole point of the law is to settle issues once and for all, alongside creating precedents.

This is why the PTI itself has had so many problems with appointments—it has repeatedly chosen the way of ordinances to appoint important officials—which leaves the individual and the choice at risk of a court case. There is also the matter of the inherent divisiveness that lies behind an ordinance—which is usually passed because of an inability to get the parliament together. Article 89 of the Constitution allows the passing of ordinances only in exceptional situations—unfortunately its use is becoming all too common. Lawmaking must resume in parliament, the burden is on the government to seek the opposition's cooperation or support in crucial matters.



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Domestic production

WITH three companies having declared their intentions of setting up mobile manufacturing units in Pakistan, the landscape for technological development in the country stands to improve exponentially. Steps to reduce withholding tax, in addition to the Mobile Device Manufacturing Regulations of 2021, was what was needed to incentivise external firms to look at Pakistan as a potential hub of opportunities. In the last few years, the government has encouraged such domestic growth through providing various tax incentives like a 4 percent exemption on all national sales. This ensures that all functions for the production of mobile phones, like manufacturing, assembling and sales, happens within the country and improves the overall standard of technology available for the population.

However, despite all this, the companies will still have to file for multiple approvals from the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) as well as the Ministry of Industries and Production (MoIP) considering that the regulation of this market is still their responsibility.

Another positive move by PTA was its introduction of the abovementioned Mobile Device Manufacturing Regulations 2021—valid for the next ten years. According to this provision, producers will have to adhere to the ITU Telecommunication Standardisation Sector (ITU-T), label the mobiles to be made in Pakistan and must practice excellence in technical skill.

Through such reforms, all locally-produced products will be able to compete on an international level as well, thereby being an additional source of revenue for Pakistan. If momentum is maintained with regards to such comprehensive measures, other firms will follow suit and establish their headquarters in the country. Such localisation is what is needed for our economy and it is positive to see the government work towards it.

New Uzbekistan and electoral legislation

Akmal Saidov



This is evidenced by the elections held in 2019, according to the President, based on the priority idea «New Uzbekistan - new elections - new parliament». They clearly demonstrated that a new political environment has formed in the country, which is necessary for raising democratic reforms to a new level

AS part of the large-scale and consistent reforms carried out in the country aimed at creating a new democratic and free Uzbekistan, special attention is paid to the implementation of the constitutional principle of democracy, ensuring the participation of citizens in government and society, as well as improving electoral legislation. For democratic and fair elections are considered the most important and necessary condition for democracy.

This is evidenced by the elections held in 2019, according to the President, based on the priority idea «New Uzbekistan - new elections - new parliament». They clearly demonstrated that a new political environment has formed in the country, which is necessary for raising democratic reforms to a new level. The elections, which were held for the first time on the basis of the Electoral Code of Uzbekistan, gained useful experience, however, some gaps in the legislation were identified. In accordance with the 2020 State Program, a draft law has been developed aimed at improving the electoral legislation. It was considered twice in the chambers of the Oliy Majlis with the participation of members of the Central Election Commission, senators and deputies. In May-June 2020, a public discussion was held.

«The path of democratic reforms is the only and surest path for us» The priority tasks today are improving the national electoral legislation and the practice of holding elections, bringing them in line with generally recognized international

standards, harmonizing with the ongoing democratic reforms, increasing the country's political authority and its place in international ratings and indices.

First, it is necessary to convey to the international community the essence of the reforms being carried out in this direction by eliminating the shortcomings and problems that have arisen in the 2019 parliamentary elections, and by implementing certain acceptable recommendations of international organizations and foreign observers into national legislation.

Secondly, Uzbekistan ranks 157th in the World Democracy Index. Therefore, in accordance with the Decree of the President «On improving the position of the Republic of Uzbekistan in international ratings and indices, as well as the introduction of a new mechanism for systematic work with them in state bodies and organizations» from June 2, 2020, the goal was set - by 2022 to increase the indicators of our country in the direction «The electoral process and pluralism» sixfold. Thirdly, increasing the electoral culture of the population, further improving the system of work of political parties with their electorate, and strengthening their political activity are of great importance in the consistent implementation of electoral legislation. For «The path of democratic reforms is the only and surest path for us».

What was paid attention to when developing the bill

In accordance with Article 83 of the Constitution, a group of deputies, on the basis

of the right of legislative initiative, submitted for discussion to the Legislative Chamber a draft law «On amendments and additions to some legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan in connection with the improvement of electoral legislation».

It was developed within the framework of the State Program for the Implementation of the Strategy of Action for Five Priority Areas of Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021 in the Year of Development of Science, Education and the Digital Economy.

When developing the draft law, they relied on three sources:

- national electoral legislation and practice;
- experience of more than 20 foreign countries in holding elections;
- international norms and standards regarding elections.

This bill proposes to make changes and additions:

- Article 117 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Article 3 of the Constitutional Law «On the Results of the Referendum and the Basic Principles of the Organization of State Power»;
- In 29 articles of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- In 6 articles of the Law on the financing of political parties.

– *The writer is the First Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan.*

Nizomiddin Mir Alisher: A larger than life personality

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



Alisher Navoi is a legendary personality of Central Asia. He left numerous spiritual heritages which is still the pride of world humanities and libraries. The republic of Uzbekistan celebrated his 580th birth anniversary of the famous medieval poet, statesman and thinker Alisher Navoi

Alisher Navoi was a great poet of Central Asia and of the greater Turco-Persian world. He advanced the use of Chagatai as the language of arts, challenging the undisputed role of Persian at that time.

He was maestro of human psychology and champion of conflict resolution through his everlasting literary works, motivational sermons and people-to-people contacts. He was vivid reflection of rare combinations ranging from genuine scholar to statesman craft-ship, fictions to hard facts of life, governance, human life, commercial equations, social reformer to immaculate administrator and last but not least, wisdom to wealth he remained beneficial, positive and productive to his people, community and of course state. Alisher Navoi is a legendary personality of Central Asia. He left numerous spiritual heritages which is still the pride of world humanities and libraries. The republic of Uzbekistan celebrated his 580th birth anniversary of the famous medieval poet, statesman and thinker Alisher Navoi.

Alisher Navoi is the glorious son of the Uzbek people. His biography has had been mesmerizing many historians and orientalist and literary critics. Since childhood he absorbed the beauty and refinement of literary language Farsi and utilized it up to perfection. While studying at school, he was fond of reading poetry, especially admiring the lines of Saadi's "Gulistan" and "Bustan" and Farid ud-Din Attar's poem "The conversation of the birds." Alisher Navoi was the first outstanding poet who was full of life, colors, excitement, aims, ad founder of the Uzbek language, its richness and elegance. He had nearly 30 poetry collections, major poems, prose, and scientific treatises. Alisher Navoi's creativity is still so attractive and relevant throughout the world. His work has been translated into English, French, German and many other languages. At the initiative of the Head of State the Year of Alisher Navoi was declared in 1991. The complete works of the poet were published in twenty volumes. Numerous majestic monuments of ancestor were built over the past period in the country and abroad. A large number of international conferences, devoted to the works of Alisher Navoi were held in the republic, as well as in the countries such as France, Belgium, Japan, Russia, USA, Germany, Kazakhstan and many others.

Navoi wrote his greatest work "Hamsa" ("Quinary"), which consists of five poems "Abrar ul-Khairat" ("The confusion of the righteous"), "Farhad va Shirin" ("Farhad and Shirin") "Layli va Majnun", "Sabai Sayar" ("Seven Planets") and "Saddi Iskandari"

("Wall of Iskandar") in 1483-1485. Navoi's splendid works were full of prosperity of the people, the achievement of peace and tranquility of the Timurid state, the perfect system of upbringing the nation, and the spiritual and natural scientific and living manifestations of humanity and perfect morals at that time.

The holistic themes of humanistic patriotism in the works of Navoi still inspired all worlds. He respected mothers and always said under the feet of mothers, the garden is a paradise and the soul. He disseminated morals lessons in very simple and practical ways and tried to educate his people about good manners, decency, cooperation, forgiveness, sacrifice and submission. He upheld the need of rationality, fair-play, social justice and modesty while meeting with other people. Navoi was dedicated to serving the people, the homeland, the development of science, art, and literature. Alisher Navoi in the book "Mahbub ul-kulub" categorized people into two main groups i.e. good and bad temper. He termed haughty man with anxiousness. He showcased that pearl of desire makes the poor person rich. He outlined salient features of a great man in "Compassion and Discipline," having golden qualities of humbleness, generosity, lovingness, compassion, respectfulness, dignified and virtuousness.

Navoi considered arrogance, pride, boasting, humiliation, and insult bad for human relations. Alisher Navoi was motivational figure who encouraged people to work hard to achieve dreams, showed patience in times of crises and be ready for sacrifice to achieve eternal peace and harmony. He institutionalized human intelligence, rational thinking, independent thinking, spiritual awakening, or mental alertness to cope with challenges of life with zeal and zest. He hated ignorance, bad manners, greed and rebelliousness in the society. He was icon of modernization and purity of ethics.

He disliked human spirits of disharmony, distrustfulness, dishonesty, disloyalty, disorientation, despicableness and destruction. He termed bribery and corruption bad for community and state alike thus institutionalized spirits of transparency, honesty, checks and balances and good governance. Throughout his whole life he educated people about community development, and enlightenment.

He was a mystic, a Sufi poet, a travelogue writer, a play writer, a historian, a philosopher, an administrator and even a builder. He was father of modern Uzbek language and a beacon for poets, writers,

linguistics, historians and philosophers of Central Asia as well as of South Asia. He influenced almost every classic poet, play writer and story teller of Urdu language. Ghazal was actually a gift of Alisher to subcontinent literature. The Ghazal spread into India under the influence of the Mughals and mostly through Sufi mystics. Classic Urdu writer Syed Sajjad Haider Yaldrum wrote travelogues by following technique of Alisher while play writers in Urdu and even in Hindi languages were very much under the influence of Navoi style. Critics believed that most popular plays of Urdu language including "Rustom O Sohrab" written by Agha Hashar Kashmiri and "Anarkali" written by Syed Imtiaz Ali Taj followed scene writing style of Alisher Navoi.

Moreover, Sufi poets like Baba Bulleh Shah, Khawaja Gulam Farid, Mian Muhammad Baksh, Sultan Bahu, Shah Hussain and Waris Shah could not resist to get the influence of mystic poetry of Alisher Navoi because all classic poets of Urdu and Punjabi had knowledge of Persian and little knowledge of old Uzbek language therefore the work of Alisher Navoi was not unfamiliar to them.

He was introduced to subcontinent by Mughal Emperor Babur who was actually founder of the Uzbek dynasty of subcontinent. Babur wrote one of the first autobiographies among Islamic rulers, the epic "Baburnama". He was influenced heavily by Navoi and even included his respect for the writer in this famous book. Ali Shir Navoi was magician of words and great social reformer. He was champion of conflict resolution and master of human intimacy and interaction. He was great thinker and man of tenderness. He was stylish yet very simple to spend his whole life in simplicity. He was resourceful and responsible too.

He was ideal combination of human spirits and spirituality, poetry and human prosperity, imagination and structural realism, fictions and conflicting facts of the life, generosity and good governance, scholarship and statesmanship, creativity and massive community development, inspirations and interfaith, teamwork and tolerance, hope and harmony, dignity and development, positivity and productivity and connectivity and continuity. To conclude Ali Shir Navoi preached message of humanity, hope, harmony, decency, development and service, submission and sacrifice. He was a great poet, thinker, philosopher and administrator who ruled on the hearts of his people and community through his philanthropic projects. He was the real son of the soil of Uzbekistan.

NIZOMIDDIN Mir Alisher was a charismatic character who had unique human traits ranging from personal humility to service of larger humanity, compassion to immense community development, inner peace to robust people's prosperity, harmony to sign of hope to depressed and dejected people, spirituality to sustainable economic development of general masses and philosophy to philanthropic projects (mosques, madrasas, hospices, bathhouses, guesthouses, bazaars) which ultimately transformed him into larger than life personality.

Briefs

PML-N behind Daska mayhem: Shibli Faraz

From Page 01

would now win all elections at 'gunpoint'. Shibli said PML-N had resorted to such tactics after failure of their supreme leader Nawaz Sharif's narrative. "PML-N sent Rana Sanaulah, Mian Javed Latif and others in Daska for rigging and create unrest in the area," he said, adding that Daska firing incident was reminiscent of Model Town incident that took place during PML-N's last tenure in Punjab. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan has called for open ballot in Senate election because he wanted to make election process transparent and credible in the country. Speaking on the occasion, Science and Technology Minister Fawad Chaudhry said PTI candidate Ali Asjad Malhi has clearly won the Daska by-boll and they will celebrate the election victory after the official announcement. He said PTI did not hurl rigging allegations after it was defeated in Karachi, Nowshera and Wazirabad by-election while asking PML-N to accept its defeat. Fawad said there is no point of holding re-election in Daska but added that his party is obliged to accept ECP's decision in this contention.

Maryam demands re-election

From Page 01

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lost by-election in NA-75 Daska despite state terrorism. She said that people of Daska fought for the democracy despite rigging in the elections and rejected sugar, gas and flour thieves. Talking about alleged disappearance of presiding officers some polling stations, the PML-N leader said "They talk about fog, was fog only in these 23 areas?" Maryam Nawaz said that the entire nation now knows how the PTI government came to power. "I want to thank the PM for showing his reality to the public." She said that the chaos in Daska has proven that Imran Khan rigged the 2018 General Elections. "If we knew PTI will resort to killing people for votes, we would have given our seats to them." She added that after this incident, people across Pakistan have rejected the PM and his government. PML-N has accused the ruling PTI of attempting to rig the by-polls in Sialkot's NA-75 after which the results were withheld by the ECP. On the other hand, the Election Commission of Pakistan has directed the returning officer of Daska to conduct a complete inquiry over the issue of NA-75 by-poll election results.

PM satisfied over industrial growth

From Page 01

India and Bangladesh showed negative growth in November and December 2020. The prime minister tweeted, "I have received the regional export trends and this shows that, compared to our exports, the exports of India and Bangladesh for Nov/Dec 2020 showed negative growth. I wish once again to congratulate the exporters and the Ministry of Commerce for this achievement".

'Very disappointed not to be part of PSL'

KARACHI: Quetta Gladiators' mentor Sir Vivian Richards has apologized to the franchise after he decided not to be part of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season six due to COVID-19 pandemic. In a video message, West Indies' legend shared his disappointment and stated that he will keep supporting his side Gladiators from his home. "I'm extremely sorry, I won't be with you this year but as we all know what exactly is going around the world, COVID-19 has created havoc in every country," he said. "Very disappointed as you all know how passionate I am about the PSL and the team I represents Quetta Gladiators. - APP



Match-2



Match-3



PSL-6: Lahore Qalandars beat Zalmi by 4 wickets

DNA

KARACHI: Shaheen Shah Afridi and Rashid Khan were the stand-out performers in Lahore Qalandars' four-wicket win over Peshawar Zalmi in second match of Pakistan Super League (PSL) season six here at National Stadium. The 20-year-old Shaheen picked three wickets for just 14 runs to restrict Zalmi on 140-6 while the No.1 bowler in T20s Rashid complemented with both bat and ball. Put into bat first by Qalandars' captain Sohail Akhtar, Zalmi lost Imam ul-Haq on first ball of the match courtesy off a brilliant away swing by Shaheen that caught a thick edge back to keeper. Zalmi was unable to gain momentum in powerplay as they manage to score 36 and lost three wickets. Veteran Shoaib Malik (26) looked set but he was sent back to pavilion by David Wiese in the ninth over. Zalmi needed a solidarity partnership which was provided by Ravi Bopara and Sherfane Rutherford.



The duo added 64 for the fifth wicket until Shaheen once again spoiled the party by dismissing Rutherford (26). He hit two sixes in his 27-ball inning. Meanwhile, Bopara registered his

36th fifty in T20 cricket He scored 44-ball 50, powered by six fours. All-rounder Amad Butt provided a late blitz of 11-ball 23*, leading Zalmi to 140/6 in 20 overs. Besides Shaheen's three wickets,

debutant Daniyal Mirza picked 2/35 while Afghanistan's Rashid Khan without conceding any boundary, bowled a spell of 0/14. Qalandars started the chase positively with Fakhar Zaman

and Sohail Akhtar going seven-run per over until Afghanistan's Mujeeb-ur-Rehman removed Akhtar (14) on the second ball of the fifth over. In the following over, Zalmi's skipper Wahab Riaz removed Fakhar (15) as Malik claimed a spectacular catch going backward while fielding at short-leg. Later, Agha Salman (21) was the third man to dismiss as Amad Butt dismantled his stumps. Mohammad Hafeez and Ben Dunk tried to stabilize the innings and both added 36 for fourth wickets. Qalandars lost three wickets in quick succession, two came off Saqib Mehmood's last over of the spell where he dismissed Samit Patel and Wiese in consecutive balls. Hafeez who stood firm at one end, got impressive support from Rashid who smashed 15-ball 27 to take Qalandars home in 18.3 overs. Hafeez remained unbeaten at 33 off 26 balls. Shaheen was awarded player of the match for his brilliant spell of 3/14.

ISLU, TCF partner for PSL6!

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Citizens Foundation (TCF), a leading non-profit educating the less privileged children of Pakistan and Islamabad United (ISLU), a Pakistani professional Twenty20 franchise cricket team that competes in Pakistan Super League (PSL) and two time PSL Champions have partnered again

this year for the upcoming PSL6. ISLU has supported TCF's work in the past and has helped in raising support for the cause through its platform. Under the collaboration, the ISLU team will continue to work alongside TCF to bring positive change in Pakistan by bringing more children off the streets and into schools and helping them become agents of positive change.

MBS witnesses Mishriff's grand win in The Saudi Cup

DNA

RIYADH: Saudi-owned Mishriff won the \$20 million Saudi Cup, the world's most valuable horse race (\$20m), with an undercard of international races on dirt & turf, at King Abdulaziz Racetrack, Riyadh. Mishriff flew home to take feature race, with David Egan showing a perfectly timed ride to claim a famous victory. Mishriff beat out American horse Charlatan to land the world's most valuable race. Charlatan, ridden by Mike Smith came into the race as a heavy favorite, but in the end could not hold off supreme ride by Egan on the 4-year-old Mishriff. Great Scott, ridden by Saudi jockey Adel Alfouairdi,

came in a distant third. Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman, deputy prime minister and minister of defense, presented the trophy to the winner of The Saudi Cup \$20 million race. On behalf of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman - honorary president of the Horse Races' Club, Crown Prince Muhammad attended the Saudi Cup 2021, in its second edition, which is the most valuable in the history of the world horse races. On arrival at the venue, the Crown Prince was received by Prince Faisal Bin Bandar, governor of Riyadh Region; Prince Bandar Bin Khalid Al-Faisal, advisor at the Royal Court, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Equestrian Commission and chairman of the Horse Races' Club and Prince Abdullah Bin Khalid Bin Sultan, Saudi Ambassador to Austria and Member of the Board of Directors of the Horse Races' Club.



Djokovic wins Australian Open, 9th crown in Melbourne

SPORTS DESK

MELBOURNE: A tournament that had to contend with many uncertainties due to the COVID-19 pandemic, climaxed with Novak Djokovic remaining an unbreakable force as he thrashed Daniil Medvedev to claim a record-extending ninth Australian Open title. The world number one's 7-5 6-2 6-2 triumph on Sunday under the lights at Rod Laver Arena secured his 18th Grand Slam title, bringing him within tantalising reach of Roger Federer and Rafa Nadal's all-time men's record of 20. Djokovic used superb serving and his usual relentless returning and baseline excellence to grab 11 of 13 games in one stretch and beat a visibly frustrated Medvedev for a third trophy in a row at Melbourne Park. The 33-year-old from Serbia improved to 18-0 combined in semifinals and finals on the hard courts of the Australian Open. "It has been a rollercoaster week for me," said Djokovic, who was criticised for com-

plaining about coronavirus quarantine conditions players had to endure upon arriving in Australia for the tournament. "There are a lot of mixed feeling about what has happened in the last month or so with tennis players coming to Australia but I think when we draw a line at the end it was a successful tournament. "It wasn't easy but I think they should be proud of themselves for what they have put together and allowed us to come here." Looking at the bigger picture, Djokovic has won six of the last 10 major tournaments and is assured of remaining at number one in the rankings at least through March 8. That will give him 311 weeks in the top spot, breaking a mark held by Federer. The number four-ranked Medvedev was appearing in his second Grand Slam final - he was the runner-up to Nadal at the 2019 US Open - but is still left trying to collect his first such championship. Djokovic ended the 25-year-old Russian's 20-match winning streak. Medvedev also had won his previous 12 matches against Top 10 opponents.



But going up against Djokovic in Australia is a very different challenge. By the second set, as things slipped away, Medvedev bounced his white racket off the blue court, then absolutely destroyed it with a full-on spike. By the third, he kept looking up at his coach with palms up as if to ask: "What can I possibly do here?"

It is a familiar sentiment in this stadium, on this court, at this tournament. Federer, Nadal, Andy Murray, Stan Wawrinka, Dominic Thiem - all Grand Slam champions, all defeated by Djokovic in semifinals or finals in Melbourne. The nine triumphs in Australia complement five at Wimbledon, three at the US Open and one at the French Open for Djokovic.

The math looks good for Djokovic. He is about a year younger than Nadal and six and a half years younger than Federer, who turns 40 in August. Federer has not competed in more than a year after having two knee operations but is expected to return to the tour next month. On a cool, cloudy evening, an event delayed by three weeks because of the coronavirus pandemic concluded with an announced attendance of 7,426 at Rod Laver Arena. Spectators were barred entirely for five days earlier in the tournament because of a local COVID-19 lockdown, but they were eventually let back in at 50 per cent capacity.

A majority favoured Djokovic on Sunday, so plenty of choruses of his nickname rang out - "No-Je, No-Je, No-Je!" - and Serbian flags dotted the stands, flapping in a swirling breeze. This was his 28th major final, even with Nadal for the second-most by a man in tennis history, trailing Federer's 31.

EU likely to approve sanctions over Russia

FOREIGN DESK

BRUSSELS: EU foreign ministers are expected to give the go-ahead Monday to sanctions on Russia over the jailing of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny and a crackdown on protests.

The top diplomats from the 27-nation bloc meet in Brussels for talks that will also include a wide-ranging videoconference with new US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

The move to target the Kremlin comes two weeks after EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell was caught in a diplomatic ambush in Moscow that enraged member states.

Capitals are eyeing using the EU's new human rights sanctions regime for the first time to hit individuals responsible for the clampdown with asset freezes and visa bans, diplomats said. "I expect a political agreement to be reached," a senior European diplomat told AFP. "Then experts from the member states should work on the names." The mood towards Moscow has hardened in the wake of Borrell's disastrous trip to Russia, during

which Moscow announced it was expelling three European diplomats and rebuffed talk of cooperation.

"They rejected out of hand any dialogue that was proposed," a senior EU official said. The EU has already hit Russia with waves of sanctions over the 2014 annexation of Crimea and Moscow's fuelling of the war in Ukraine.

The bloc in October slapped six officials on a blacklist over the poisoning of Navalny with Novichok, a nerve agent. President Vladimir Putin's most prominent domestic critic was this month jailed for almost three years after returning to Russia following treatment in Germany.

His sentencing sparked nationwide protests that saw baton-wielding security forces detain thousands. Two of Navalny's closest allies are set to meet with a dozen EU foreign ministers in Brussels on Sunday to push for sanctions targeting high-profile oligarchs they accuse of funding Putin's regime. But diplomats say any measures have to be tied directly to abuses and need to stand up to challenges in court.

PSL-6 Fixture

Monday, February 22: Lahore Qalandars v Quetta Gladiators (7pm)
Tuesday, February 23: Peshawar Zalmi v Multan Sultans (7pm)
Wednesday, February 24: Karachi Kings v Islamabad United (7pm)
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)

7 Nigerian military personnel die in plane crash

ABUJA: Seven people on board a military aircraft died in a crash Sunday near Nigeria's capital Abuja, the country's airforce spokesman said. The cause of the accident is still unknown but officials said the pilot had reported an engine failure.

"A Nigerian Air Force (NAF) Beechcraft KingAir B350i aircraft crashed while returning to the Abuja Airport after reporting engine failure," spokesman Ibikunle Daramola said in a statement. "Sadly, all 7 personnel on board died in the crash," he added.

Video posted to social media showed water cannon being used to extinguish the flames at the scene, while a large number of onlookers crowded around. The airforce said an investigation into the accident was underway. Nigeria's minister of aviation Sirika Hadi also confirmed the accident. "We should remain calm & wait for the outcome of investigation by the military," Hadi said in a Tweet. The plane was heading to Minna, the capital of nearby Niger state.

TIME magazine names Finland's PM in 'next 100' leaders' list

BRUSSELS: Finland Prime Minister Sanna Marin named one of the "emerging leaders from around the world who are shaping the future" Marin, of the Social Democratic Party, has been serving as the Finnish premier since December 2019. TIME article written by Norwegian PM Erna Solberg, who says Marin is part of "a strong team of women political leaders" US magazine TIME has included Finland Prime Minister Sanna Marin in its annually-published list of emerging leaders who are set to shape the future. Marin has been serving as the Finnish premier since December 2019. - APP

Shifa Hospital organizes first ladies golf match

The golfers were dressed in pink to create awareness about breast cancer, which is one of the leading causes of death in women. Free Mammography Coupons were offered to the participants of the golf match to highlight the importance of screening for detection of breast cancer at an early phase

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Shifa International Hospital and Shifa Foundation collectively organized a successful First Ladies Golf Match at Margalla Green Golf Club Islamabad as part of the Breast Cancer Awareness Program. The First Lady of Pakistan Mrs. SaminaArifAlvi was the chief guest of the event who is successfully leading the breast cancer awareness campaign in the country. She distributed the prizes among the winners and shields to the chief organizers

of the golf match. Mrs. Alvi lauded the efforts of Shifa Int.Hospital and Shifa Foundation for arranging the Ladies Golf Match as part of the breast cancer awareness program. She urged all the women to be cautious about any initial abnormality and complication and to women above 40 years of age to have mammography once a year to detect any abnormality at an early stage. More than 65 players including ladies and children participated in the golf match. Matches were played in five different categories. The golfers were dressed in pink to create aware-

ness about breast cancer, which is one of the leading causes of death in women. Free Mammography Coupons were offered to the participants of the golf match to highlight the importance of screening for detection of breast cancer at an early phase. Dr.Manzoor H. Qazi, Chief Executive Officer, Shifa International Hospital and Chairman, Shifa Foundation said that breast cancer is the most common cancer in Pakistan as one in nine women are at risk of developing breast cancer in their lifetime. He said Shifa Foundation and Shifa Int. Hospital

have been supporting underprivileged women communities by providing breast cancer screening, diagnostic, and treatment facilities. Mr. TaimoorShah, Chief Operating Officer, Shifa Int.Hospital saidthatthe aim to organize this ladies' golf match was to empower women in the fight against cancer and encourage all women to get screened for breast cancer. Such activities are helpful to spread breast cancer awareness messages by word of mouth with the involvement of influencers and different stakeholders. Dr. Zeeshan Bin Ishtiaque, Medical Director

at Shifa Int. Hospital highlighted the importance of breast cancer awareness in order to educate the masses because taboos associated with regular screening and breast examination lead to delayed diagnosis so women might ignore the initial abnormality, which can otherwise be cured. Dr. Zeeshan also informed that Shifa Int.Hospital has a specialized and comprehensive Shifa Breast Clinic, a multidisciplinary team of professionals that provides personalized care to breast cancer patients by offering effective options for diagnosis and treatment under one roof.

Briefs

UN condemns Myanmar junta after three killed

YANGON: A lethal attack on anti-coup protesters in Myanmar sparked fresh UN condemnation of the country's new military regime on Sunday, as mourners held a funeral for a young woman who became a national symbol of resistance to the junta. Authorities have gradually ratcheted up their tactics against a massive and largely peaceful civil disobedience campaign demanding the return of ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Saturday marked the deadliest day so far in more than two weeks of nationwide street demonstrations after two people were killed when security forces fired upon a rally, while a third man was shot dead in Yangon overnight. United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres condemned the use of "deadly violence" against the crowd in Mandalay. "The use of lethal force, intimidation & harassment against peaceful demonstrators is unacceptable," Guterres wrote. Security forces in the country's second-largest city had attempted to raid a shipyard and detain port staff on strike to protest against the army takeover. Medical rescue workers said troops used live rounds and rubber bullets against a crowd of people who had started flinging rocks in an effort to stop the arrests. — APP

Azerbaijan, Turkey mull cooperation in SMBs

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan and Turkey have discussed cooperation in the field of small and medium-sized business (SMBs). The discussion took place during the meeting of Azerbaijani Agency for Small and Medium-sized Business Development Chairman Orkhan Mammadov with the Turkish Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization Head Hasan Basri Kurt on February 18. The parties have exchanged views on the use of Turkey's successful experience in the sphere of a small and medium-sized business, and the implementation of joint activities and projects. Noting that Azerbaijan cooperates with Turkey in all spheres, including small and medium business, it was stressed that the agencies of two countries are close partners in this sphere. It was noted that Azerbaijani agency is interested in using the experience of Turkish agency in supporting SMBs, enhancing their knowledge and skill, facilitating access to finance, and in particular, the support measures being rendered by the Turkish agency to SMBs during the post-pandemic period are of particular interest.

Baku to host exhibition dedicated to Khojaly genocide

BAKU: State Art Gallery and Khatai Art Center will host an exhibition dedicated to the 29th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide. The exposition will include works by Nazim Mammadov, Bayram Gasimkhanli, Fuad Gafarov, Jamil Guliyev, Mirzaahga Gafarov, Nazim Rahmanov, as well as a number of works from the final of art contest "Khojaly - the city of martyrs". The art works reflect the pain of the Khojaly tragedy, the massacre of civilians, the determination and courage of the Azerbaijani people in the struggle for the territorial integrity of the country. The virtual exhibition will be available on the gallery's social networks. On the night of February 26, 1992, Armenian armed forces, directly supported by the 366th regiment of the former USSR, stationed at that time in the town of Khankeidi in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan attacked, from five directions, the town of Khojaly. Some 613 civilians, mostly women and children, were killed in the massacre, and 1,000 people were disabled. Eight families were exterminated, 25 children lost both parents, and 130 children lost one parent. Moreover, 1,275 innocent people were taken hostage, and the fate of 150 of them remains unknown. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Director General South Asian Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI) University Dr. Maria Sultan presenting crest to Dr Abdul Rauf Rind honorary Consul General St.petersburg Russia, Malik Sohail Hussain secretary general US-Pakistan International Chamber Pakistan Chapter and Dilwar Khan Pak-Japan Business Group is also present. — DNA

Capacity expansion in industry to push growth momentum

He said that hopefully Pakistan would receive record remittance inflows of up to \$28 billion this year. This comes, as initiatives launched by the government and central bank to facilitate overseas workers, have started yielding positive results despite challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's ruling group Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar has expressed the hope that the capacity expansion in industrial sector along with remittances' growth will push a long-term growth momentum at fast velocity. He said that Pakistan's current export potential is standing at around \$26 billion while monthly exports can be lifted to the volumes of around \$2.3 billion from present figure of almost \$2 billion. He said that the country received \$14.203 billion remittances during the first half of the financial year 2020-21, against \$11.37 billion in the same

period last year, showing a strong growth of 24.9 percent, which is the highest half-yearly growth since financial year 2006-07. He expressed the hope that overseas Pakistanis residing in Gulf states in general, and the UAE and Saudi Arabia in particular, are likely to maintain an upward momentum in remittances, as they contributed 60 percent of the total inflows during the July-Dec 2020 period. He said that hopefully Pakistan would receive record remittance inflows of up to \$28 billion this year. This comes, as initiatives launched by the government and central bank to facilitate overseas workers, have started yielding positive results despite challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Mian Anjum Nisar stressed the need for extending further facilitation to the busi-

ness community, especially the small and medium entrepreneurs, so they are encouraged and do not face any financial issues. He asked the FBR to simplify the mechanism introduced for the payment of refunds, so that the small and medium industry should not feel any difficulty in receiving the outstanding amounts. He said the economic stability and provision of job opportunities to the youth should be the highest priorities of the government. The FPCCI former president and BMP Chairman said that the stage is now set for greater stabilization and enhanced domestic productivity that would definitely ease the ever-soaring inflation, boost businesses and create more employment opportunities, as it is the fact that the general

public has been suffering due to rising inflation and unemployment. He said the government should make every possible effort to provide relief to masses. He said since all the economic indicators are moving in positive direction the government should now divert its full attention to share the benefits of this positive movement in economic spheres with the public. He said that the SBP's concessionary financing facility for plant and machinery imports is attracting an overwhelming response, especially the efforts of the SBP to promote economic growth in the country and provide liquidity and other support to businesses during Covid-19 are really appreciable. He said the central bank has taken various steps to mitigate the impact of corona virus on economic growth.

Swiss spooked by using debt to prop up economy

ZURICH: Germany, which is known for strict budgets, has tapped debt markets to prop up its virus-hit economy, while neighbouring Switzerland has consistently curbed borrowing despite calls to change course. With Swiss firms struggling through another lockdown, the federal government last week finally loosened its purse strings a bit, doubling emergency aid to 10 billion Swiss francs (\$11.2 billion, 9.3 billion euros) as part of a programme to boost the economy. But when he presented the package for companies worst hit by the latest Covid restrictions, Finance Minister Ueli Maurer again lamented that Switzerland had to borrow to boost the economy. Some 10 billion francs in debt will have to be paid off within six years according to a constitutional debt brake rule, Maurer warned. He promised to present various options to do so as soon as the economic outlook cleared a bit. Despite mounting criticism that the wealthy Alpine nation isn't doing enough to support companies, Maurer has repeated time and again that the Swiss government has "no money". The government is already borrowing "150 million francs a day, or six million per hour, or 100,000 a minute," he notes. In 2020, Switzerland's federal government spent 15 billion francs (\$16.7 billion, 13.8 billion euros) to support the economy, and preliminary data shows it ended the year with a deficit of 15.8 billion (\$17.6 billion, 14.5 billion euros). — APP

United flight suffers engine failure

DENVER: A United Airlines flight suffered a fiery engine failure Saturday shortly after taking off from Denver on its way to Hawaii, dropping massive debris on a residential area before a safe emergency landing, officials said. "Flight UA328 from Denver to Honolulu experienced an engine failure shortly after departure, returned safely to Denver and was met by emergency crews as a precaution," United said on Twitter. "There are no reported injuries onboard," it added. The safe landing came despite the failed engine, images of which were captured and posted on Twitter. A video shot from inside the plane showed the right engine ablaze and wobbling on the wing of the Boeing 777-200, its cover entirely missing as the aircraft flew over a barren landscape. "I can honestly say I thought we were going to die at one point - because we started dropping altitude right after the explosion," passenger David Delucia, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, told The Denver Post. "I grabbed my wife's hand and said, 'We're done.'" Delucia said his stepdaughter posted the online video, which was shot by another passenger. Meanwhile, residents in the Denver suburb of Broomfield found large pieces of the plane scattered around their community, including a giant circular piece of metal that landed in a yard. — APP

CPEC projects bring more than electricity to Pakistan: Report

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "CPEC projects not only bring electricity to us, but also train professionals, and contribute to the well-being of local people for Pakistan." This was stated by Muhammad Muneeb, a senior official of Sahiwal Coal-fired Power Station, who awarded the Outstanding Pakistani Employee of CPEC Project by the Chinese Embassy, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday. The Sahiwal project, initiated in 2015, plays a crucial role in domestic electricity supply. Muneeb introduced to Gwadar Pro that Sahiwal lies in the industrial hub region between Lahore, Multan and Faisalabad. Its location was chosen as an electric load center. "As the CPEC power projects entered the system, the country's load shedding reduced from an average of

18 hours to almost negligible. The Sahiwal project is directly influencing the lives of local communities through continuous supplying power," he said. In addition to electricity, CPEC projects also bring more invisible value to Pakistan. Muneeb said, "More importantly, this project gave job opportunities to locals. Most of the engineers, managers and workers are from nearby areas. This project is changing people's life standard." "This type of project was totally new and with advanced super-critical technology. It was a golden chance for me to work in a multinational company which could be predicted to be a great deal of learning," he recalls. "I went to China for technical training for 9 months. During this trip, we accepted on-site training, which is the best way to learn about power plant physics and gain professional knowledge."

Pakistan sets up stall at Minsk book fair

DNA

MINSK: The Embassy of Pakistan is currently participating in the 28th edition of the Minsk International Book Fair at



the exhibition centre from 18-21 Feb 2021. The exhibition features over 250 exhibitors from 20 countries, including Austria, Azerbaijan, Germany, Iran and China. A variety of books on Pakistan's cultural and

religious diversity, political and economic milieu, arts, craft and tourism attractions have been placed at the exhibition. Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan

visited the exhibition and received and briefed several dignitaries, officials and general public at the Pakistan stall on the Inaugural day.



S Korea, Pakistan agree to hold bilateral policy consultation

SEOUL: South Korean Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Choi Jong Kun met with Pakistan Ambassador to South Korea, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch and had a broad exchange of views on relations between South Korea and Pakistan and cooperation on multilateral issues.

The two sides agreed to work together to hold a bilateral policy consultation within this year, thereby creating an opportunity to explore ways to strengthen cooperation between the two countries, according to official sources.

The two sides agreed on the need to reinforce bilateral cooperation on multilateral issues, and also agreed to continue to cooperation between the two countries in various areas including the multilateral trade system and peacekeeping operations. — APP

Hyping China's release of border death toll 'self-deception'

BEIJING: While the Chinese are mourning for the four young soldiers killed in last years border conflicts with Indian troops after China officially revealed the details of casualties, some Indian media and netizens are instead still hyping up China's casualties and doubting the timing of China's release of the information, which Chinese experts slammed as self-deception and a failure to understand China's kindness and sincerity to ensure smooth completion of the ongoing disengagement process. It is not surprising that they are doing this to deceive themselves, boasting about the so-called success of India, as what China released is totally different to what they have been hyping, Chinese experts said, noting that the recordings China showed have debunked the Indian media's lies. The Indian media's data is based on speculation and self-deception, but what we showed to the world are authentic records and data, Tian Guangqiang, assistant research fellow with the National Institute of International Strategy at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times. The recording has broken India's lies as it shows that it is India who started the provocation and China has always been trying to solve the issue through peaceful means, Tian said. Tian noted that the PLA did not release the casualties and details until the situation eased and the two sides kicked off disengagement. It is a sincere move from China to avoid exaggerating confrontation or stimulating sentiment from people on both sides, but Indian media failed to understand China's kindness, Tian explained. On February 10, Chinese and Indian troops started simultaneous and planned disengagement in the Pangong Lake area in accordance with a consensus reached during the ninth round of corps commander-level meetings after a border standoff. Chinese experts hailed the disengagement and withdrawal of troops as a key breakthrough that will ease border tensions and hopefully lead to peace and stability in the short to medium term. Qian Feng, director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University, told the Global Times on Saturday that although some Chinese netizens could not accept the facts China released about the clash at the LAC, the Indian military would continue the disengagement process as planned. — APP

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LARGEST CIRCULATED DIPLOMATIC MAGAZINE

Briefs

Miscreants set polling station in NA-221 on fire

SHAHEEN HANIF

THARPARKAR: Polling process was disturbed in Chachro after miscreants set fire to a polling station and burnt the polling material. Police have arrested four individuals in connection to the fire. Polling is underway for by-election in National Assembly constituency, NA 221 Nagarparkar in district Tharparkar. A strong competition is expected between PPP candidate Mir Ali Shah Jeelani and PTI candidate Nizamuddin Rahimoon. 318 polling stations have been established for the voting process among which, 95 have been declared sensitive. Over 4,000 police personnel and 1,000 Rangers have been deployed in the constituency to avoid any untoward situation. It is to be mentioned here that the seat had fallen vacant after the death of PPP member of National Assembly (MNA) Noor Shah Milani.

Pak optimistic about exiting FATF grey list

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: The FATF will meet on Monday to discuss and decide whether or not to keep Pakistan on the grey list, a daily newspaper reported. The virtual FATF plenary will be held in Paris from February 22 to 25 to consider cases of various countries on the grey list, including Pakistan, and decision will be made at the conclusion of the meetings. In the last plenary held in October 2020, FATF had announced that Pakistan would continue to remain on its grey list till February 2021 for six out of 27 unmet action plan targets on anti-money laundering (AML) and combating the financing of terrorism (CFT). An official source close to these developments told media on Saturday that Pakistan had already complied with the six recommendations and also submitted details to the FATF secretariat. The members would now evaluate Pakistan's responses during the meeting, the source said, adding that Pakistan had made significant progress in legislation as well as its implementation.

UK accelerates vaccine rollout

DNA

LONDON: The UK government has vowed to offer a first coronavirus vaccine dose to every adult by the end of July, as it readies to announce a gradual easing of its third lockdown. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who will outline the lockdown review in parliament on Monday, said the faster inoculation campaign would seek to offer a first dose to everyone aged over 50 by mid-April. The previous targets in the world-first campaign were to inoculate over 50s by May, and all adults by September.

Smuggled goods worth Rs35bn in 7 months seized

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The FBR seized smuggled goods worth Rs35 billion during the first seven months of the current fiscal year (July-January 2020-21). According to press statement issued by the board here on Sunday, this shows an increase of 59 percent when compared to the corresponding period (Jul 2019-Jan 2020) of the last financial year during which smuggled goods worth Rs22 billion were seized. Moreover, the statement said that the counter-smuggling performance of seven months of current FY is almost equal to the performance of twelve months of last fiscal year, during which smuggled items worth Rs36 billion were seized.

Bakshi brothers present spell-binding show at Serena Hotels Sarangi Lounge

Held at the lush green Serena Business Complex Lawns, the live music concert brought happiness and liveliness on the faces of all and sundry those probably were waiting for such kind of events ever since the pandemic had limited their mobility and networking. So all present on the occasion were all praise for the management of Serena Hotels, particularly the CEO Aziz Boolani for taking this initiative

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels provided a real feast to the Sufi music lovers especially by engaging well-known artists Bakshi Brothers whose mesmerizing performance left the audience spell-bound. Held at the lush green Serena Business Complex Lawns, the live music concert brought happiness and liveliness on the faces of all and sundry those probably were waiting for such kind of events ever since the pandemic had limited their mobility and networking. So all present on the occasion were all praise for the management of Serena Hotels, particularly the CEO Aziz Boolani for taking this initiative.

The diplomatic community that attended the event in large numbers despite Covid, equally enjoyed the music though songs were sung in Urdu and Punjabi. However they could not resist themselves in praising and appreciating the artists after their captivating performances. It may be mentioned here that Sarangi, which was launched in October 2017 is a part of Serena Hotel's Cultural Diplomacy Initiative which aims to protect and promote the cultural heritage of Pakistan by encouraging young talents and giving them an opportunity to become the nation's rising star.

Serena continues to promote the arts and intercultural activities to inspire a culture of peace and hope. We truly believe in providing platform to the emerging artists so that they are recognised by a larger audience. Serena Hotels has already held many Sarangi seasons and competition among the talented youth of Pakistan. Social media was used for the competitions that received tremendous response from all over Pakistan. Under the Sarangi initiative Serena Hotels have so far held a number of competitions in order to encourage young talent. During the pandemic period, all such bouts were held online. However now when the pandemic seems to be on its way out, Serena Hotels has taken the initiative of holding such event live and in the presence of modest gathering.

- Full coverage of the event in the March issue of CENTRELINE magazine



US sanctions inflicted \$1tn damage on Iran, says FM

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States inflicted \$1 trillion worth of damage on Iran's economy and Tehran expects compensation, its foreign minister said. Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Sunday after the US takes action to restore Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers through lifting sanctions, Tehran will want to negotiate on the damages it has suffered. "When we meet, we will raise compensation," Zarif told the Iranian state-owned news network in an hour-long interview. "Whether those compensations will take the form of reparation, or whether they take the form of investment, or whether they take the form of measures to prevent a repeat of what Trump did," he said in reference to former US President Donald Trump. Trump unilaterally abandoned the nuclear deal in 2018 and imposed harsh, comprehensive sanctions that targeted all the sectors of Iran's economy. According to Zarif, Trump reimposed 800 sanctions that were put on Iran before the nuclear deal and imposed 800 new ones, all of which need to be lifted before the US can return to the deal. The diplomat said from other signatories of the nuclear deal, China and Russia have been Iran's "friends" during the sanc-

tions era, evidence for which are dozens of sanctions imposed on their individuals and entities. But Germany, France, and the United Kingdom, the European signatories of the deal together known as the E3, have engaged in no tangible efforts to maintain their ties with Iran, Zarif said.

"The situation Europe has created for itself is that it has to wait for the US to make a decision. It lives at the behest and mercy of the US," he said. "Now, they should convince the US to come back [to the nuclear deal] at least to allow them ... to maintain their dignity and allow them to fulfil their obligations. That's not a tall order." Iran's foreign minister said if the US fails to lift sanctions, Iran will continue to boost its nuclear programme as per the law but will have no need to leave the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as the nuclear deal is formally known.

One year after Trump imposed sanctions, Iran gradually scaled back its commitments under the deal. But after top Iranian nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh was assassinated in November, the conservative parliament passed legislation that obligated the government to start 20 percent uranium enrichment and increase the country's stockpile. "This is not a threat. We are simply exercising the remedial measures foreseen in the JCPOA," he said, adding Iran is only after normalising economic relations.

PTI, MQM leaders discuss Senate elections

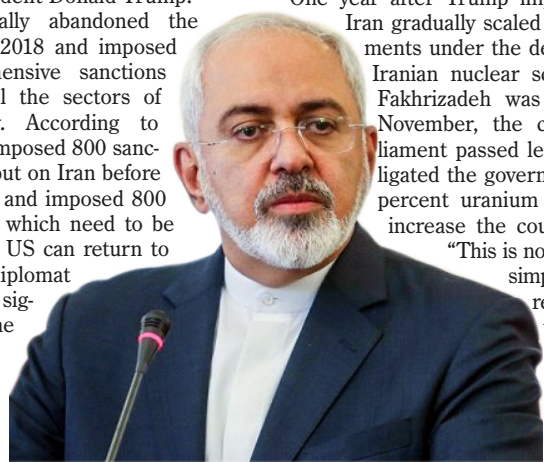
ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) delegation on Sunday has arrived at Muttahida Quami Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) office and discussed ongoing political situation in the country.

According to details, both the parties deliberated upon the strategy for elections in upper house of the Parliament, Senate. Meanwhile, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar has said that they discussed key issues with the Muttahida Quami Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), adding that election doesn't only occur between two candidates but their parties also get involved in it. Muttahida Quami Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Faisal Sabzwari told that a talk on votes regarding Senate polls was carried out with government delegation.

APNS strongly condemns attack on Jang Group premises

KARACHI: Mr Hameed Haroon President and Sarmad Ali Secretary General of All Pakistan Newspapers Society in a press statement have termed the incident as attack on the press and expressed their serious concern on the vandalism perpetrated by the demonstrators who in the garb of protest and sit-in gheraad the Jang Group's main office in Karachi and instead of stressing and raising their demands, attacked and ransacked the office and harassed the staff including women workers and journalists. They stated that every section of the society has a right to agitate its disagreement against any content, but it should not be allowed to take law into its hand and attack the premises of media organisations and intimidate media workers. This attitude not only depicts the intolerance exacerbating in our society but also highlights growing lawlessness in the country. It is regrettable that the law enforcing agencies in the city remained silent spectators when the media house was being subjected to vandalism. - DNA



NAB geared up to bring corrupt elements to justice: Chairman

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: NAB is geared up to bring the corrupt elements to justice to eradicate corruption from the country by adopting "Accountability for All" policy as Corruption is the mother of all evils which is a major hurdle in the development and prosperity of the country. This was stated by Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB. He said that NAB has no affiliation with any political party, group and individual. NAB officials have been directed to perform their duties in accordance with law with the realization that eradication of corruption

is their national duty. He said that NAB Chairman of SAARC Anti Corruption Forum as NAB is considered as a role model for entire SAARC countries. He said that Pakistan and China have inked Memorandum of understanding MoU for eradication of corruption. Pakistan and China are jointly working for ensuring transparency in China Pakistan economic coordination in CPEC project. He said that NAB is the focal department under the United Nations Convention against Corruption which is pride for Pakistan. He said that NAB has established a state of the art Pakistan Anti Corruption Training Academy on modern lines

to train its investigation officers and Prosecutors in order to inquire/investigate white collar cases more professionally and to plead them very vigorously in the respected Courts on the basis of solid evidence as per law. He said that NAB's proactive Anti-Corruption Strategy has started yielding positive dividends. Due to its effective anti corruption strategy, NAB has not only recovered Rs. 714 billion looted money from corrupt directly and indirectly since its inception and deposited it in the national exchequer which is a record achievement of any Anti Corruption Organization working in Pakistan. NAB's conviction

ratio is about 68.6 percent. NAB is utilizing all its resources to apprehend Proclaimed Offenders and Absconders to bring them to justice as per law. The Chairman NAB said that there are about 1130 references under trial in respective Accountability Courts and their approximate worth is Rs 943 billion. NAB has conducted probes in 56 public limited companies, probes in offshore companies, Fake Accounts, money laundering and misuse of authority, assets beyond known sources of income and cheating the public at large in illegal Housing/Cooperative Societies and Modaraba scams etc.

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