



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, March 03, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

EU, LJCP hold workshop on access to justice

Detailed News On Page-03

ASEAN, Pak have great potential, says Ambassador

Detailed News On Page-01



SCO has made progress in gender equality

Detailed News On Page-07



Briefs

PM Imran confident of PTI's win

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said they would successfully win Senate elections despite tactics being employed by the opposition parties to lure the lawmakers with money and other benefits. The prime minister said this during a meeting with National Assembly lawmakers from Punjab which was also attended by Chief Minister Usman Buzdar and Senate candidate from Islamabad seat Abdul Hafeez Shaikh. The prime minister while speaking to the MNAs from Punjab said that they would solve issues highlighted by the lawmakers.

Fmr French President Sarkozy jailed

DNA

PARIS: In France, ex-President Nicolas Sarkozy has been sentenced to one year in prison and a two-year suspended sentence for corruption and influence peddling. He was convicted of trying to bribe a judge in 2014. Nicolas Sarkozy is the first former French president to get a custodial sentence. His lawyer says he will appeal.

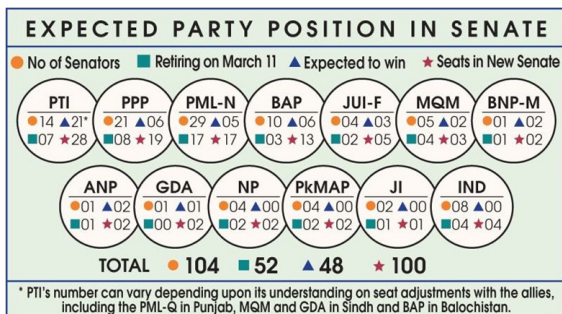
PTI is in crisis: Hamza

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Opposition Leader in Punjab Assembly and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Hamza Shehbaz on Tuesday left for Islamabad to attend dinner being hosted by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Talking to media men in Lahore before his departure to Islamabad, Hamza Shehbaz said Bilawal called him and invited him to a dinner in Islamabad for the PDM leaders. The opposition leader wished success to PPP candidate Yousaf Raza Gilani in the Senate election. A private television channel reported that Hamza Shehbaz will play a key role in the success of Yousaf Raza Gilani. Hamza Shehbaz said people are preferring to contest elections from Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) platform.

Senate polls today as per past practice

ECP says due to time constraint apex court opinion cannot be followed in this election; constitutes committee for future elections assures transparency



ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan is all set to hold Senate elections today as per past practice. The Supreme Court in its opinion on Monday has asked the

Election Commission to ensure transparency in the elections. Consequent upon, the ECP met on Monday and deliberated upon the development. The Election Commission, as per the minutes agreed to follow the apex court ruling in letter and spirit.

The ECP also formed a committee that will talk to relevant authorities in order to ensure transparency in the elections. The committee headed by the Special Secretary is mandated to complete its report within four weeks. According to the Election Commission, sixty candidates are contesting on general seats, thirty-one on women, twenty on Technocrat/Ulema seats while ten candidates are in the field on non-Muslims seats. It merits a mention here that fifty-two senators in the house of 104 are set to retire on 11th of this month on completion of their six-year term.

Sindh Assembly: PTI MPs beat party rebels

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: PTI lawmakers in the Sindh Assembly beaten up "rebel" party members during an assembly session on Tuesday after their refusal to vote for the PTI candidates in the Senate elections, Geo News reported Tuesday. The three MPAs, Aslam Abro, Shehryar Shar and Karim Bakhsh Gabol, had earlier announced that they will vote as per their aspirations. When the "rebel" PTI members entered the Sindh Assembly, they were attacked by the PTI MPAs, resulting in chaos.

Continued on Page 06

Allies assure PTI of their support

IP REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The federal government's allies, in a late-night press conference on Monday, have assured it will stand with the PTI in the upcoming Senate elections. The ministers' comments came after a meeting was held at the Minister for Defence Production Zubaida Jalal's residence.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Sheikh / Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, met with Her Excellency Mrs Khadija Mohammed Al Makhsumi, Ambassador of Somalia in Islamabad. They discussed Qatari-Somalia relations and scopes of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China, Nong Rong in a meeting with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi. - DNA

Diplomat's car runs over a man

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: A foreign diplomat was taken to a police station after a man was killed in an accident involving the diplomat's car and a bike in Islamabad on Tuesday. The police said the accident took place within the limits of the Shalimar police station. They said a 26-year-old motorcyclist was killed after the diplomat's car crashed into him. The police said that the diplomat crashed his car into the motorcyclist from behind. They added that 26-year-old Muhammad Irfan passed away on the spot. A clarification has not yet been provided by law enforcers on which country the diplomat is from and neither has it been confirmed if he has been arrested or not.

Pak-China friendship anchor of peace: FM

The minister was speaking at the launch of celebrations to commemorate the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Foreign Affairs Shah Mehmood Qureshi Tuesday said the all weather, strategic and cooperative relationship of Pakistan and China was an anchor of peace, stability and development in the region. Speaking at the launch of celebrations to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and

China, he recalled that the diplomatic relations of the two countries were formally established on May 21, 1951. "Since then the ties have grown from strength to strength. I am proud to say that we were among one of the first few countries which recognized the Peoples Republic of China, which was established after a remarkable and valiant struggle, on October 1, 1949," he added. The minister said today's China had passed through a miraculous phase of eco-

nomic and social transformation. "It has become the second largest economy of the world, the largest trading nation, a leader in artificial intelligence and host a world class infrastructure across every nook and corner of a continent sized country. China's experience of poverty alleviation, bringing 800 million people out of poverty in three decades was unparalleled in human history."

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan committed to regional peace: COAS

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa has said that Pakistan is committed to peace and stability in the region and playing its part by solidifying border security and capacity enhancement of FC / LEAs, COAS emphasised. The Army Chief stated this while visiting North and South Waziristan Districts on Tuesday. According to a statement from ISPR, COAS was briefed on progress of border management regime, stabilization operations, socio economic development projects including opening



of border terminals. COAS spent complete day with forward troops in Asman Manza, South Waziristan and Mirali in North Waziristan. While interacting with officers and men, COAS commended their commitment and professionalism in ensuring secure and conducive environment for implementation of writ of civil administration in newly merged tribal districts.

Continued on Page 06

Indian plane lands in Karachi

STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: A plane of Indian airline flying from Sharjah to Lucknow made an emergency landing in Karachi on Tuesday after one of the passenger's aboard fell sick. IndiGo airlines flight number 6E1412 travelling from Sharjah to Lucknow had entered Pakistani airspace at around 4:00am via Iran, Civil Aviation Authority sources told. They said a passenger had fallen ill when the jet was in Pakistani airspace. Once the passenger fell ill, the captain contacted the air traffic control and requested an emergency landing on humanitarian grounds at the Karachi airport.

ASEAN, Pakistan have great potential: Envoy

Indonesia highly values Pakistan's 'Vision East Asia' policy. The implementation of this policy, we believe will contribute to further strengthen political, economic and cultural ties with ASEAN and its member states

EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio has said ASEAN is a dynamic organization of 10 members, spanning an area of 4.4 million square kilometers, a population of over 649 million, and a GDP exceeding US\$2.9 trillion or the fifth largest economy in the world. ASEAN and Pakistan have great potential for cooperation in various sectors. Pakistan's total bilateral trade with ASEAN is over \$7 billion while the trade between Indonesia-Pakistan reached up to \$2.3 billion in 2020. It suggests that there is huge scope for Pakistan to scale up its economic engagement with ASEAN through its member-states. He expressed these views in an exclusive interview with Daily Islamabad POST. Ambassador Tugio further said, Indonesia along with other ASEAN members continues to support close friendly ties with Pakistan as a Sectoral Dialogue Partner and an active member of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). Indonesia supports Pakistan when it was accorded the sectoral dialogue status of ASEAN at the 26th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on 23 July 1993. Indonesia also supports Pakistan to be full dialogue partner of ASEAN. Due to moratorium the process of Full Dialogue Partner is still pending.

Despite this, Indonesia encourages Pakistan's collaboration with ASEAN region particularly in the areas of trade & investment, education, human resources development and tourism which could bring huge economic benefits to Pakistan. He added, ASEAN and Pakistan have many similarities including strong cultural and religious affinity. There are approximately 242 million

Muslims which are about 42% of the entire population, with majorities in Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia as well Southern Thailand and parts of Mindanao in the Philippines respectively. Those similarities serve as a reservoir of goodwill in relation between ASEAN and Pakistan. However, there are potentials still untapped and many ways to enhance the relation and the cooperation

between ASEAN and Pakistan including the dialogues with the think tanks of both countries. Talking about Pakistan's Vision East Policy, the ambassador said, Indonesia highly values Pakistan's 'Vision East Asia' policy. The implementation of this policy, we believe will contribute to further strengthen political, economic and cultural ties with ASEAN and its member states. To this end, Pakistan's outreach to ASEAN needs to be deepened at political level among other through exchange of high-level visits and those of business community to make their presence felt. He said, bilateral relations between the two countries are already quite excellent nowadays. So far there has been a mechanism at the technical level, bilateral consultation forums and policy dialogue, defense cooperation dialogue and Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). As an effort to strengthen bilateral relations we need to encourage a more structured dialogue at ministerial level to provide future directive to attain mutually beneficial objectives. In addition, high intensity of interaction between high-ranking officials and parliamentary cooperation are necessary to further develop ties. Of equal importance is cementing of cultural bridge through two-way technical and socio-cultural cooperation, which will certainly encourage people to people contact among others. Particular reference should be made to the participation of millennial, whom we invest our efforts to build more prosperous Indonesia and Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio giving an interview to Daily Islamabad POST. - DNA

Inside...

- Preparedness in hybrid warfare need of hour: President Alvi - Page 02
- EU, LJCP's workshop on improving access to justice - Page 03
- Tanzara Gallery announces 'Every Second Counts' exhibition - Page 04
- True spirit of faith in fighting extremism - Page 05
- Press watchdog sues MBS over Khashoggi murder - Page 06
- SCO countries have made significant progress in achieving gender equality - Page 07
- PNC asks world to stop Israel's annexation plans - Page 08

Briefs

Horse-trading being done: Asad

KHAYYAM ABBSSI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Asad Umar while expressing deep regret over the political situation in the country has said that massive horse-trading is being done in the Senate elections. In a statement on Twitter, Asad Umar said that millions of rupees are being offered to buy votes in Senate elections wishing to end this practice in the future. He said that people are witnessing the darkest form of democracy adding that there was a commotion on the assembly floor, people are selling and buying votes for the Senate elections. Asad Umar said that all is happening on the name of democracy but despite horse-trading the opposition will not get anything. He wished to end this dirty business at least in the future.

Rescue 1122 becomes independent body

DNA

LAHORE: The Emergency Service (Amendment) Bill 2021 passed in Tuesday's Punjab Assembly session by a majority vote. Under the new Bill, Rescue 1122 has been made an independent body. The Bill gives DG Rescue 1122 the powers of a provincial secretary. With the approval of the bill, emergency officers will be posted at the divisional and district level and will be known as divisional officers. The promotion of emergency officers to the next grade will be decided by the section committee and all promotions will be subject to performance of 17 years. Promotion courses and physical fitness have been made mandatory for promotion. Rescue officers will work in BPS-11 and will be eligible for promotion to BPS-12 based on their performance. The bill was tabled by PML-Q MPA Khadija Umar and unanimously approved by the House. After the approval of the bill, Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Pervez Elahi said that today, the House has approved a historic bill. "By the Grace of Allah, I created this institution and today Allah gave the opportunity to legislate to improve it further", he added. He said that Rescue 1122 would now flourish even more, advancing the journey of public service and relief. On the other hand, the Punjab Assembly also passed a resolution to provide free education to children between the ages of five and 16 in which it is demanded that the federal government take steps for this.

AJK President calls for conservation of wildlife habitat

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan has urged the department concerned to take necessary measures for conservation of the natural environment and protection of wildlife.

"The AJK region is known for its beautiful forests, majestic mountains and lush green valleys that are home to hundreds of animals, plants and bird species. The wildlife, plants and birds have to co-exist side-by-side human beings to keep an ecological balance," he asserted. Speaking after a briefing given to him by Secretary Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Sardar Javed Ayub at Aiwan-e-Sadr here on Tuesday, the state President said that the steps being taken by the wildlife department in collaboration with the forests and other departments to preserve wildlife and to conserve its habitat are appreciable. He asserted that we need to take more steps to protect migratory birds coming from Siberia and Russia and also to protect ibex, musk deer and other wildlife in Neelum Valley and other adjoining areas by conserving their natural habitat. He said that protection and conservation of the natural environment, wildlife habitat and the wildlife itself is the collective responsibility of all of us, and we all should fulfil this responsibility by considering it as our national obligation.



ISLAMABAD: Tarek Dahroug, ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan calls on foreign minister, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Quraishi at ministry of foreign affairs. – DNA

District administration to ensure stabilization of prices in Ramzan

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: 02 March 2021: On the instructions of the Punjab government, the district administration has started necessary steps to ensure uninterrupted supply and stabilize prices of essential items during the month of Ramzan to ensure availability of food items to consumers at controlled prices. This was stated by Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali while presiding over the meeting of the District Supply

Management Committee. Additional Deputy Commissioner General Khuram Pervaiz, Secretary RTA Zameer Hussain, DO Industries Shahbaz Khan, Extra Assistant Director Agricultural Marketing Abdul Rehman, Additional Director Livestock Dr Haider Ali, Deputy Director Agriculture Khalid Mahmood, Nimra Hanif from Punjab Food Authority, Secretaries Market Committee and dealers & importers of pulses, onions, tomatoes and other items were also present. The Deputy Commissioner

directed all the concerned departments to implement the supply mechanism for providing relief to the consumers in the month of Ramzan while the dealers were also appealed to co-operate for supplying the flour, sugar, ghee/Oil, potato, onions, tomato, seasonal fruits and vegetables and pulses with controlled rate. He also directed the livestock to take steps regarding poultry and meat. He said that there should be maximum supply at controlled price during the holy month. In the meeting, members

DC inspects brick kilns

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali during a surprise inspection of brick kilns in different areas and strictly warned the owner of brick kiln at Khurrianwala Chak 65 Rb for kiln running without zig zag technology. He inspected the brick kilns at various places and took action against causing smog and environmental pollution. He said that no concession would be made to those who polluted the environment by operating the kilns without technology. The Deputy Commissioner said that crackdown was going on by the district administration officers against the brick kilns operating without Zigzag technology and the kilns were not allowed to operate without Zigzag technology. He said that the smoke from the kilns was cause of smog. Therefore, the people involved in this business should shift their kilns to Zigzag technology as the conversion of kilns to Zigzag technology is essential to save the environment from pollution. He directed the Assistant Commissioners to inspect the brick kilns and FIR registered against those running the brick kilns without technology and kept him informed of the action report in this regard. – Ishfaq Mughal

also gave some suggestions for supply chain and EADA briefed the house ment of essential commodities.

'Economic diplomacy may reposition Pakistan'

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) said economic diplomacy was one of key component of modern diplomatic practice. In a statement on Tuesday, PBF President Mian Usman Zulfiqar said Pakistan envoys to cultivate and broaden mutually beneficial trade and economic partnerships with European and African countries, focusing on key goals of trade promotion, financial inflows, investments, remittances, tourism and technology transfer. Though economic diplomacy may be a relatively new concept in Pakistan, using economic and diplomatic resources in sync as tools to advance a country's financial, political and strategic goals has been in practice for a long time. Some countries such as Australia, Brazil, Canada and Mauritius strengthened their economic diplomacy through merging their trade and foreign ministries. Other nations, such as Turkey, created a separate unit in the office of the head of government. Those countries which preferred to maintain the two traditional ministries of foreign affairs and commerce set up joint bodies to improve coordination be-

tween them. Pakistan must be following this model by setting up an outreach committee. Whatever the approach, it is crucial that all the stakeholders wholeheartedly accept the initiative of promoting economic diplomacy to gain greater economic leverage. Unless we have synergy, we will find it very difficult to meet challenges not only arising from the shifting world order, but also of the emergence of new international task forces and organisations.

In the case of Pakistan, an economic diplomacy strategy may be focus on an in-depth partnership framework with China and regional players, a private sector-led model to undertake large commercial transactions, revamping of the ministries of foreign affairs and economic management and a new way of engaging with multilateral and regional financial institutions. PBF President also urged that the Foreign Office needs to review incentive structures to send its best envoys to countries with a promise to engage on economic terms. Major investment will be required to groom the skills of diplomats specialising in economic diplomacy.



ISLAMABAD: US charge d'affaires Angela P. Aggeler calling on minister for interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed at ministry of interior. – DNA

CDA approves model park at Malpur forest

The process of the induction of Assistant Director, guards, gardeners, and other staff for the model park will be completed soon. 6000 kachnar trees have been planted in the park

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) approved model park to be constructed at 350 acre land of Malpur forest with the cost of Rs 116.4 million here on Tuesday. Tender notice has been issued for buying

the machinery of Rs 28.4 million for the preparation of the land of park.

According to detail, the project of model park at Malpur forest was approved in the meeting of CDA in November 2020. This project will be completed by the cost of Rs 116.4 million. Purchasing of machinery for this project is the part

of PC 1. Machinery of 34 types will be purchased for this project including tractors, hydraulic loaders, front blade tractors, and others. According to the administration of CDA the park will be constructed at 350 acres where 7000 saplings will be planted. A pond will also be constructed for wetland and

to store rain water. Tender has also been issued for the boundary wall and tube well of the model park. The process of the induction of Assistant Director, guards, gardeners, and other staff for the model park will be completed soon. 6000 kachnar trees have been planted in the park.

PML-N unveils schedule of anti-govt protests in Punjab

LAHORE: In pursuance of its decision to give a tough time to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led government, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has released the schedule of public gatherings and protest demonstrations in Punjab ahead of the proposed long march. According to the schedule, the party plans to hold a protest demonstration in Mianwali tomorrow (March 3), at Gujranwala, Mandi Bahauddin and Rawalpindi on March 5 while on March 6, it plans to hold demonstrations in Gujrat and Chakwal. Similarly, protest demonstrations would be held in Sialkot and Narowal on March 7, while three such demonstrations would be held in Attock on 5th, 13th and 20th of this month. Likewise, PML-N plans to hold protest demonstrations in Multan on March 19, at Khanewal on March 13 while in Lodhran on March 7. The party's protest demonstrations in Dera Ghazi Khan is scheduled to be held on March 15 while in Rahim Yar Khan two such demonstrations would be held on 17th and 20th of this month. According to the schedule, a demonstration would be held in Okara on March 15, while in Sahiwal on March 10. At Pakpattan, the party plans to hold a protest demonstration on March 11, at Vehari on March 12 while the dates for demonstrations in Lahore, Faisalabad, Kasur, Sheikhupura, Jhelum, Layyah and Rajanpur have not been finalised as yet. – DNA



ISLAMABAD: Envoys of different NATO countries posing for a photo after Canadian high commissioner to Pakistan Wendy Gilmour hosted the meeting of NATO envoys to Pakistan. Strategic communication, relation between Pakistan and NATO were the focus of meeting. – DNA

Red Bull campus clutch launches in Pakistan

STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: Red Bull Campus Clutch, the world's first and most prominent global university 'Valorant' e-sports competition, launched in Pakistan. This offers students a unique opportunity to compete in one of the fastest-growing and most talked-about first-person shooter game, Valorant. Red Bull Campus Clutch is a global university 5v5 e-sports that challenges players of all levels to team up in five, represent their campus, and compete on the international stage to make history for their university and country. With over 300 universities and colleges taking part from over 53 countries, Red Bull Campus Clutch gives the winners of each country international recognition, experience on a new competitive circuit and a chance to put their university on the global e-sports map. The student will have to build a team of five who will compete across three electrifying phases: The Qualifiers, National Finals, and for the winners, the World Final. Registration has already started (since February 22) and will end 2 hours before each qualifier. The Qualifiers will start off from March 6 and then will take place every Sunday until March 21 across the country, with the National finals being held on April 4, 2021. The winning team will head to the prestigious World Final, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity at e-sports stardom where they will compete against the world's finest student VALORANT competitors.

Federal govt transfers Rs822T to provinces in 5 months

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has transferred funds of Rs822,089.4 billion to provinces under National Finance Commission (NFC) Award and other law statutes during the first five months of the current fiscal year (2020-21). Out of these transfers up to November 17, 2020, an amount of Rs774,615.7 billion has been transferred from divisible pool, Rs42,588.3 billion as straight transfers and Rs4,885.4 billion as grants-in-aid, official sources said. An amount of Rs384,602.9 billion has been transferred to Punjab, Rs213,288.1 billion to Sindh, Rs130,410 billion to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Rs72,788.5 billion to Baluchistan, official data revealed. The break up figures show that the Punjab province received Rs382,988.6 billion from divisible pool and Rs1,614.2 billion from straight transfers whereas Sindh province received Rs181,723.4 billion from divisible pool, Rs26,679.3 billion from straight transfers and Rs4,885.4 billion as straight transfers. – APP

Govt to issue smartcards for Afghan refugees

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan announced the issuance of new smartcards for Afghan refugees who are Proof of Registration (PoR) cardholders. The Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CCAR)/Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) and the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), with the support of UNHCR, will start the exercise, "Document Renewal and Information Verification Exercise" (DRIVE), from 1 April 2021. During this six-month exercise, NADRA will verify and update the data of registered Afghan refugees who are in possession of a PoR card with an expiry date of 31 December 2015. The initiative takes place within the framework of the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees, fostering renewed partnerships and stronger strategic linkages between humanitarian and development investments. In addition to validating existing data, the verification will record Afghan refugees' skill sets, level of education, socio-economic circumstances and sources of income, allowing better targeted health, education and livelihood support in Pakistan and in the Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration in Afghanistan.

Briefs**CTP officers to provide all possible facilities to citizens**

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Rai Mazhar Iqbal on Tuesday paid a surprise visit to different branches of the CTP Headquarters and directed the officers concerned to provide all possible facilities to the citizens. During his visit, he inspected security and other arrangements and issued instructions to the In charges of Challan Branch, Police Welfare Center and Licensing Branch to further improve the arrangements. He also inquired about the facilities being provided at the licensing branch.

A Police Welfare Center has been set up here to facilitate the CTP officials and address their departmental issues, he added. He directed the CTP officers of Licensing Branch to ensure merit and transparency. He said, the CTP was issuing computerized driving licenses under a transparent procedure. The CTO said, the CTP Licensing Branch was providing all services under one roof at One Window Operation. He said that the citizens should directly contact licensing branch of the traffic police and get all required information in this regard so that they could not face any difficulty regarding issuance of driving license.

SC orders demolishing of lawyers' chambers

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday maintained the Islamabad High Court (IHC) verdict and allowed the administration to demolish the lawyers' chambers illegally built on the football ground in Islamabad. A three-member SC bench comprising Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed, Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Sayed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi dismissed the Islamabad Bar Association's plea against the IHC judgment. During the course of proceedings, the court ordered demolition of all illegal chambers. The court also rejected the lawyers' request to grant time to find an alternative place. The Chief Justice asked on what basis illegal chambers should be maintained? The lawyers had no claim on football ground, he added. He said that whoever wanted to continue practicing as a lawyer could find another place. Advocate Shoaib Shaheen counsel for the lawyers said that there were also several courts on the football ground.

Islamabad Tourism Fest to start from March 5

GHULAM MURTAZA

ISLAMABAD: Cutting Edge Group in collaboration with partners would organize a three-day mega Islamabad Tourism Festival from March 5, featuring different program to entertain the participant from twin cities. The event would include air shows and adventure sports like para gliding, accuracy landing, wing suite flying, trike flying, sky diving and power para gliding as part of field marshal Paragliding Championship. Furthermore, it will be colored with vintage cars and bike roadshows, horse parade, corporate and educational expos, food court, concerts, and much more, chief executive cutting edge group Ch Shehzad Akhtar told APP on Tuesday. He said that "Islamabad Tourism Festival" will be a family festival of tourism adding he said that Ali Azmat, Sahir Ali Bagga, Aima Baig, Abdullah Qureshi, NirmalRoy Alizbath Roy, Sid (Mr. Rapper) and many others will perform in the mega festival.

EU, LJCP's workshop on improving access to justice

In her opening remarks, the Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Androulla Kaminara thanked the Honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan for his support to the workshop and the LJCP for its organization

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) and the European Union launched a two-day online workshop on improving access to justice under the aegis of the EU's Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) Programme today. The workshop will allow for an unprecedented exchange of practices and experiences between European and Pakistani judicial experts on informal dispute settlement systems, mediation and free legal aid to improve access to justice for all Pakistani citizens.

This is particularly important as improving access to justice is a priority area for the European Union and also in the context of Pakistan's recently passed legal aid bill - the Legal Aid and Justice Authority Act 2020. During the workshop, four judges from Germany, Italy and Sweden will present the judicial systems in their respective countries and discuss their experiences and expertise with 80 high-level participants from the Pakistani judiciary.

The Honorable Mr. Justice Mushir Alam, Senior Puisne Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan, chaired



the panel of experts from the Supreme Court of Pakistan, sharing the Pakistani perspective and context. Honorable Mr. Justice, Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, presented the state of play in Pakistan. In his opening remarks, Mr. J. Mushir Alam expressed thanks and gratitude on behalf of Pakistan's justice sector to the EU Ambassador in

Pakistan Ms. Androulla Kaminara and the TAIEX management for organizing this useful activity.

Mr. Justice Mushir Alam further said, "...Indeed, the Webinar activity on informal settlement of disputes would go a long way in establishing an effective dispute resolution platform in Pakistan which is presently at a rudimen-

tary stage, vis-a-vis, international context, however, I hope such collaborative efforts would give us the required impetus and motivation, and would pave the way for establishing a viable organizational platform and a meaningful legal framework supported by advancing technologies, and widely perceived ease of doing business

Saturday on for students of ICT institutions

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The decision of Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) to keep Saturday working in all its educational institutions is putting extra burden on the students as well as their parents who were unable to manage transport for sending their children to school, causing thin attendance. According to an official source, the decision of keeping Saturday working was taken without any prior planning and consultation with the parents, Parent-Teachers Associations (PTA), the heads of insti-

tutions and teachers who are directly concerned and affected by the decision. The dearness-struck parents who had hardly managed transport for their children find it almost impossible to manage transport on Saturday which is an additional day. It is notable, during the whole week; many people drop their children in schools and colleges on their way to offices. Many of the lady teachers and girls also go to schools and colleges with male members of the family who are at home due to Saturday off. This additional burden on these people is a great source of mental and physical agony

for them and affects badly on their performance in rest of the days of the week. Many parents drop their children in their schools and reach their office as a routine. To get up early on Saturday, exclusively to give pick and drop to the children is not only an extra burden on them but also makes their relaxing holiday completely busy and exhausting. A principal of a Girls School, on the condition of anonymity, said that the decision has nothing to do with the coverage of courses because keeping in view the previous academic routine with Saturday off, the duration of periods had already been enhanced.

'ECP working independently'

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan on Tuesday said all the national institutions including judiciary and Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) were working independently in larger interest of country. The government was ready to sit with the opposition parties to bring electoral reforms to ensure more transparency in the system, he said talking to a private news channel. The minister urged the opposition parties to cooperate with the government in legislation process regarding various issues instead of demanding the NRO which was impossible as government was committed to carry out accountability against the corrupts. - DNA

Card mandatory for Senate elections: Suri

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri Tuesday informed the House that cards of Members National Assembly (MNAs) are mandatory to poll vote for Senate elections. He made this announcement during the session of the House and urged all the MNAs to approach the National Assembly Secretariat to get their cards if they don't possess it. Qasim Suri said the timing of the Senate elections would be announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). According to the Rule 111 of the Elections Rule 2017, the identity card is essential to cast the vote. According to this sub-rule (1) of the Rule 111, "Each voter shall carry with him an identity card issued to him by the Secretary National Assembly of which he is a Member and shall, if so required, show the same to the Returning Officer before a ballot paper is issued to him. The sub-rule (2) states that the Returning Officer shall, after satisfying himself about the identity of the voter and after ensuring that he has not already voted, put a tick mark against the name of the voter in the list of voters, enter the name of the voter on the counterfoil of the ballot paper and, after stamping the ballot paper on its back with the official mark and initialing it, hand it over to the voter. The sub-rule (3) of Rule 111 states that no ballot paper shall be issued to a voter unless it has been stamped with an official mark and initial. The sub-rule (4) says that no ballot paper shall be delivered to a voter unless he has put his signature on the counterfoil of the ballot paper in token of the receipt of the ballot paper. - DNA

IGP orders action against IOs

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: IGP Islamabad Qaz Jameel-ur-Rehman here on Tuesday ordered to initiate 'departmental proceeding' against the Investigating Officers (IOs) showing poor performance in different cases pending since long. The IGP gave these directives to ensure provision of speedy justice to litigants, improve investigation standards so that the cases could be disposed of within any delay across the district. Accordingly, Senior Superintendent of Police (Investigation) Atta-ur-Rehman met with the investigating officers and plaintiffs in the rural zone police station of Koral. He also examined as many as 20 cases pending in various police stations of rural zone and sought feedback

of litigants about behavior of IOs, besides got update from investigating officers on different ongoing cases. After review the performance, show cause notices were served to three investigating officers for showing slackness in performing duties. The SSP directed zonal SPs and SDPOs to complete fact-based investigation and ensure arrest of the accused involved in various cases. Atta-ur-Rehman said he himself had supervised the investigation of important cases, held meetings with applicants and would remove all the hurdles in investigation of cases. The SSP said as per the instructions of IG Islamabad, the process had been started to examine pending cases, investigation quality and arrest the accused convicted in murder cases.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Cuba Zener Caro and Editor Daily Islamabad POST Ansar Mahmood Bhatti shake hands after meeting at the Cuban embassy. The Cuban ambassador has just stepped into the shoes of his predecessor and is keen to further cement and diversify relations between the two countries. - DNA

ICCI urges CDA to upgrade markets

Ajmal Baloch, President, All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tijaran Pakistan said that changing climate was taking a heavy toll on economic activities due to flash floods and rise in temperature

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has called upon the CDA to take urgent measures for upgradation of all markets of the federal capital including Sitara Market that would help in facilitating the better growth of business activities. He said that all markets in Islamabad needed upgradation of infrastructure including repair of footpaths, carpeting of roads, provision of parking, renovation of water &

sewerage, restoration of streetlights and emphasized that CDA should address these issues on priority basis for smooth promotion of trade activities. He said that the CDA had approved a food street for Sitara Market, which has not been constructed as yet and urged that CDA should construct Food Street without further delay. He was addressing traders after inaugurating a tree plantation campaign at Sitara Market, Islamabad. Senior Vice President, Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Altaf Hussain Shah President, Rana Ikram Secretary General Traders

Welfare Association G-7 Markaz Islamabad, Ajmal Baloch President Anjuman-e-Tijaran Pakistan, Khalid Chaudhry, Chaudhry Ubaid and a large number of traders were present at the occasion. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that climate change impacted economic growth and created new difficulties for people, therefore, he urged that for sustainable economic growth of Pakistan, tree plantation across the country was the key requirement. He emphasized that traders should plant maximum trees in Islamabad and support the PM's vision for pro-

moting clean and green Pakistan. He said that like previous years, ICCI would lead the tree plantation campaign in the business community to plant a large number of trees in markets and industrial areas of the federal capital. Speaking at the occasion, Altaf Hussain Shah, President, Traders Welfare Association, G-7 Markaz, and Islamabad said that the Prime Minister wanted to make Pakistan a clean and green country and starting a tree plantation campaign from Sitara Market was part of efforts to support the PM's vision. He hoped that under the leadership

of ICCI, all market associations of Islamabad would take active part in the campaign to plant maximum trees in markets and green areas. Ajmal Baloch, President, All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tijaran Pakistan said that changing climate was taking a heavy toll on economic activities due to flash floods and rise in temperature. He appealed to the traders across Pakistan to join hands with the government to plant maximum trees in the country in order to combat the impact of climate change and turn Pakistan into an environment friendly country.

Non-Muslim students to be taught their values

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Shafiqat Mehmood on Tuesday said Non-Muslim students would be taught their religious values rather than Islamic studies in the New National Single Curriculum. During a meeting held here at his office with the British High Commissioner Dr Christian Turner, the education minister said students of Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Bhai Matt and Kelash community would be taught separate subjects that had been prepared in consultation and cooperation of their scholars. Expressing his views over new uniform educational curriculum, Federal Minister said till grade five, the subjects including English, Mathematics and Science would be taught in English, while the students would read Urdu and Islamic studies in Urdu Social Studies and General Knowledge would also be taught in Urdu while English terms would also be included in these subjects. However, English objects would also be included phase-wise from class six to eight. After class eight, the students could select national or international qualification according to their own choice, he added.

PNCA to hold Puppet show today

IMRAN TANOLI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) will hold Puppet Show to promote the traditional art of Puppetry on March 3 and 5. The show is an attempt to revive dying art of puppetry in Pakistan and beside this it bring different forms of puppets from across the country to entertain people. The show would be featuring Folk dances, stories, theme based speeches and skits for children and adults. The colorful puppet show will revolve around current issues including gender disparity, contrariety in education and environmental challenges and there will be a show exclusively for kids as well which will ensure infotainment as the theme, an official said on Tuesday. He said that due to COVID 19 the puppet shows were being canceled but the shows were scheduled four times a month as regular feature by National Puppet Theatre (NPT) of PNCA. Such events provide the required boost to puppetry and help people, especially the younger generation to become aware of it, he added. He said that "The traditional art of puppetry is dying out and PNCA has been struggling so long to survive this art adding that such events help in reviving this traditional art form." He further told that the art of puppetry and puppet shows have long been a part of Pakistani culture. Commenting on the importance of puppetry he said that Puppetry is such a beautiful and colorful art and we should make an effort to bring back this art form adding that this can be useful both for entertainment and education purposes.

NCGSA to announce 15 million research fund

ISLAMABAD: National Center for GIS and Space Applications (NCGSA), Institute of Space Technology (IST) will soon announce call for proposals for Research Fund in the domain of GIS and Space Applications. The grant of Rs.15 million will be given for the duration of 18-24 months for execution of the selected project in collaboration with the industrial partners, an official of IST told media. The full time faculty members of Higher Education Institutions and Researchers from Research and Development organizations can apply for the grant. The projects that will lead to some product, process, prototype, software applications or solutions having strong commercialization aspects addressing Pakistan's socio-economic needs will be preferred. - APP

Briefs

PTA directs mobile operators to improve QOS

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has directed Cellular Mobile Operators (CMOs) to improve network coverage and performance, and maintain Quality of Service (QOS) as per license standards.

In view of public complaints regarding degradation in service quality and results of PTA surveys, it was observed that lack of network expansion and insufficient network/sites are some of the causes of QOS issues, said a news release. CMOs have been asked to take concrete measures for resolution of root causes, ensure network stability and adequate coverage through expansion of their networks, especially in densely populated urban areas.

PTA will review the steps taken by CMOs from time to time to check that improved voice and data services are being extended to the subscribers.

Better coverage and service quality will ensure that end-user expectations for optimum performance are being met. — APP

Police arrest six for possessing illegal weapons

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police have arrested six for possessing illegal weapons and liquor and recovered four 30 bore pistols and 13 liters liquor from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Pirwadhai, New Town and Naseerabad police arrested four identified as Sanaullah, Imran Nasrullah, Qaiser Abbas and Mansh and recovered four 30 bore pistols from their possession. Meanwhile, Civil Line and Rawat police rounded up Sajid Mir and Toseef Hussain for possessing five and eight liters liquor respectively. Separate cases have been registered against all the accused while further investigations are underway, said the spokesman. — APP

'PHA striving to reduce air pollution, make city green'

RAWALPINDI: Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi has been striving to reduce air pollution and make the city green, said Vice Chairman (VC), PHA Rawalpindi Malik Abid Hussain.

During his visit to Melad, Katarian and other parks he said, the public is the real owner of the city parks and we as public servants are trying to provide more facilities besides an attractive and healthier natural environment to the residents. He urged the citizens to come forward and play a role to make the plantation campaign launched here by PHA a success.

He said, the urban trees can help cut air pollution. Every citizen should plant a sapling and ensure its care as well. PHA is planting maximum saplings and enhancing greenery particularly in parks and green belts of the city. He informed that the PHA had launched a campaign to plant saplings and to turn the city into a green town. He said, the authority has kicked off the Plantation Campaign, under Clean and Green Pakistan Program. He informed that to encourage the citizens and different organizations, the authority has prepared a plan. The students, traders, social and political leaders and civil society members would also be encouraged to participate in the campaign. The VC said that they have started planting saplings to make the city parks natural green areas under Rawalpindi green city project.

Efforts would also be made during the campaign to sensitize the people to come forward and participate in the plantation campaign, he said. The citizens should extend cooperation for making Clean and Green campaign successful as per vision of the Prime Minister Imran Khan. He urged the people to actively participate in tree plantation campaign to improve the environment. — APP



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner, Dr. Christian Turner called on Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training, National Heritage and Culture Shafqat in Islamabad, today. — DNA

Tanzara Gallery announces 'Every Second Counts' exhibition

Mudassar Manzoor's solitary figures are lost in contemplation, detached from the world, yet very much part of its fascinating beauty. Manzoor revels in the majesty of nature

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Tanzara Gallery in collaboration with Studio RM has announced opening of "Every Second Counts", a group show comprised of eight incredibly talented artists working to their own rhythm in various mediums and styles.

As the pace of daily life returns somewhat, or rather we become adjusted to a new pace of motion, the artworks in this exhibition beat in real time with a refreshing energy and flow.

Ali Kazim is a highly accom-

plished artist recognized home and abroad. His technically accomplished paintings derive from an interest in the portrait and is revealed in his fastidiously rendered portraits. Irfan Gul Dahri's work is rooted in an intensely absorbed activity of image making. His mysterious imagery engages with a narrative, which have different interpretations for each, making them emotionally and intellectually evocative.

Mudassar Manzoor's solitary figures are lost in contemplation, detached from the world, yet very much part of its fascinating beauty. Manzoor revels in the

majesty of nature. The skills so carefully honed in the miniature studio are brought to the fore; the palette is masterly, the surface treated like a jewel. Muhammad Ali paints with an assured, expressive and fluent handling of his medium. His overt enjoyment of the male and female form is fully embodied in the rich and luscious canvases he paints. His artworks often make tongue in cheek references to various societal or cultural norms.

Renowned artist R M Naeem's figures and forms are infused with an elusive flow as they float across the canvas with an infec-

tious undulation that makes us want to join them. His canvases are rendered with great dexterity and depict a surreal world existent outside of our own temporality. Sana Arjumand is a highly skilled painter. In this series "the bird" is a valued image and symbol. It is an interlocutor to the spiritual world invoking an air of earth-magic, something mesmerizing. We are reminded of the bird as a powerful symbol in folklore, myth and legend.

Syed Hussain's paintings reveal a deep search into his ancestral tradition and identity. Taking as a whole the series offers a

touching footnote and speaks eloquently of the feelings held in common by individuals of the culture from where the painter hails from. They can be read as messages from the distant past, attempted dialogues with departed civilizations.

Waseem Ahmad is an accomplished miniature artist who has distinguished his work by producing creatively incisive images with innovative stylistic and iconographic contributions within a practice that is rigorously traditional, placing him among the most acclaimed contemporary artists of his kind.

PNCA observes Balochistan Culture Day



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Tuesday observed Balochistan culture Day aiming to promote and showcase the rich historical diverse culture of province. "Baluchistan is land of various languages, races and cradles centuries old civilization. All this is the identity of Baluchistan and Pakistan as well". This was stated by the Federal Minister for Education, National Heritage and Culture Division Shafqat Mehmood at a folk music event arranged by PNCA to observe "Baloch Culture Day" here at the National Art Gallery, Open Air Theatre, Islamabad. This day is meant to showcase the diversity and richness of the centuries old culture, traditions, music to the people of Pakistan and the world at large. We are committed to project the real image of Pakistan through our cultural heritage of all the areas of the country. The minister said that PNCA regional offices would be established in each

provincial capital to promote and coordinate art and culture of the country. He said that recently PNCA has signed MOUs with Province of Sindh and Gilgit Baltistan. He said that soon regional offices will be set up. Earlier DG, PNCA Dr. Fouzia Saeed, introducing the artists of the evening said that PNCA is working on the project to open its regional offices at all the provincial capitals to streamline the cultural activities for promotion and projection of the arts and artists of far-flung areas. With the support of the present Government and artist community we hope to achieve this cherished goal. Today's programme is a step in this direction. Young singer from Balochistan Kehkishan, "Nur Sur" and "Banur" bands presented popular Balochi tracks while university students presented folk dances of Balochistan. Banu Band started its journey from cove studio, also collaborated with famous singer Atif Aslam in Mubarak Mubarak, a festive number showcasing melodies and rhythms depicting Balochistan history and tradition.

Adapting to 'new normal' is critical after Covid-19

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The biggest challenge for Pakistan after Covid-19 is to get adapted with the 'new normal' to protect every individual from the pandemic.

The experts said this while sharing their views with the participants of the webinar 'Life after Covid-19: Are we ready to opt for a new normal' organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), as a part of its campaign 'No one is safe until everyone is safe' here on Tuesday.

Member National Assembly, Parli-

mentary Secretary Ministry of National Health, Dr. Nousheen Hamid, while covering different aspects of the topic said that efforts to raise mass awareness at every level are imperative to become adapted to 'new normal' as a nation. She added further government has planned a massive vaccine programme and by the end of 2021, about 70 million people are expected to get vaccinated. However, every individual would have to play role to respond to the challenge posed by the pandemic. Mr. Hamza Shafqat, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, was of view that we can get adapted to 'new normal' only

when people would start following all SOPs as new way of life. He said that the government cannot invade into private life to ensure that SOPs are being followed properly.

Therefore, cooperation from public is critical for the successful response to the pandemic instead of showing resistance to administrative measures, he added.

Dr. Abid Qayyum Suleri, Executive Director SDPI, remarked that "The challenge has multiple dynamics including challenges such as maintaining balance in lockdown and livelihood, online and face to face education and availing health facilities etc."



ISLAMABAD: Friends from Hindu Community (Narowal) Mr. Rattan Arya, Vijay Kumar, Seth Javed, Rana Muhammad Idrees and Mr Jahangir Sagar came to visit Mr. Isphanyar Bhandara CEO Murree Brewery Company to discuss current political situation of minorities of Pakistan. — DNA

Bangladesh High Commissioner visits RCCI

DNA

RAWALPINDI: High Commissioner of Bangladesh Ruhul Alam Siddique visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) on Tuesday.

President Nasir Mirza, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, former presidents, members of the executive committee and chamber members were also present on the occasion.

Talking to the President of the Chamber Nasir Mirza, said that Bangladesh attaches great importance to its relations with Pakistan and there are deep historic relations between the two countries.

The high commissioner said mutual trade opportunities can be explored in the Construction material, light engineering, surgical goods, sports goods, food processing,

Denim Cotton, yarn, tourism and pharmaceutical sectors. He said that this was his first visit to any chamber. He appreciated the role of the Rawalpindi Chamber in promoting trade and business activities.

The high commissioner added that the trade balance between the two countries has always been in favor of Pakistan, and stood at \$700 million where Bangladesh exports to Pakistan are just \$50 million.

Trade and economic ties can help both countries to move forward and his office is ready to provide all kinds of assistance for Visas for businessmen, he added. The last meeting on joint economic cooperation was held in 2007, suggesting that the bilateral trade ties can only be further cemented once we have regular meetings on trade. On this occasion, the President of the Chamber Nasir Mirza said that Bangladesh is an important member of SAARC and the Chamber is ready for any kind of cooperation for the exchange of delegations and holding of bilateral business conferences. Bilateral trade can be promoted in the fields of tourism, education, agriculture, IT and pharmaceuticals.

Relations between the two countries need to be enhanced at the level of the Chamber of Commerce. Bangladeshi investors can take advantage of investment opportunities in Pakistan.

RTA challans 645 PSVs

RAWALPINDI: Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Rawalpindi challaned 645 Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) and impounded 523 for overcharging, overloading and on other violations during February. According to Secretary RTA, Rashid Ali, the teams of the authority conducted raids and those found indulged in overcharging and overloading were fined and the vehicles were also impounded.

He said, several vehicles for having substandard CNG cylinders and a large number of vehicles which were without fitness certificates were also penalized. He informed APP that fines amounting to over Rs 474,000 were imposed on the rules violators.

RTA squads constituted to check and prevent overcharging by the transporters, checked thousands of PSVs during last month and penalized the violators, he added.

Mobile squads were also performing duties at different public transport terminals and at various routes to facilitate the people, he said.

The authority on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi, was imposing fines and issuing challan slips to the violators. The vehicles of violators were also being impounded, he added.

He said, the operation would continue and the vehicles found involved in violating the rules would be imposed fines or impounded. APP

RDA advises citizens not to invest in illegal projects

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) has advised the citizens not to invest in illegal and unauthorized commercial buildings and check their status before any investment.

According to RDA spokesman, Director General, RDA had directed the authorities concerned to take strict action against encroachments, illegal and unauthorized construction and commercial activities in residential areas without any discrimination. He said, the Land Use and Building Control (LU&BC) Wing of RDA conducted an operation against illegal and unauthorized buildings particularly commercial and sealed 10 buildings constructed illegally at High Court Road and Gulraiz Housing Scheme.

RDA was conducting mega operations against the rules violators, illegal construction and land mafia in the city, he informed.

IRSA releases 88,600 cusecs water

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Tuesday released 88,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 55,500 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1410.93 feet, which was 18.93 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 18,500 and 24,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1134.70 feet, which was 96.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 22,400 and 50,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 33,100, 13,600 and 10,300 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 6,600 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 2,500 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala.

Promoting tourism

WHILE speaking to journalists in Multan after the inauguration of Al-Biruni Radius, Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan shared his government's plan for the uplift of the tourism industry. The efforts for boosting tourism in the country are commendable. Ever since PTI has come to power, the government has taken laudable initiatives to make Pakistan one of the ideal destinations for foreign tourists. PM Khan rightly points out that the ancient sites, if rightly promoted, can attract visitors to Pakistan. There has not been such a high-level focus on specific aspects of this sector in the past. The government's attention to this industry suggests that there is a massive potential for growth in it. However, the much-desired boom is contingent upon the practical steps that the government has outlined. The previous governments, unfortunately, did not understand the value of heritage sites and the role they play in making tourism a thriving industry. Nor did they invest in surrounding areas for infrastructure and hospitality development. But those days might soon be in the past now. The ruling party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), rightly sees this industry as a great source of amassing revenue. Many countries earn billions of dollars every year from this sector alone. People visit Egypt, Turkey and Malaysia for interest in history, Saudi Arabia for religious reasons and Switzerland to marvel at nature. Pakistan is unique in the sense that it has all three reasons that can attract tourists. The PM's vision in this regard can transform the tourism and hospitality industry. His pledge to provide every facility at the site to the visitors can indeed bring the "small city on the world map." On the one hand, the government's attention will preserve our history and make it easy to learn from. On the other, the locals will find employment opportunities. Given the amount of money that the government is injecting into this sector, it can certainly emerge as one of the leading contributors to the national exchequer.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

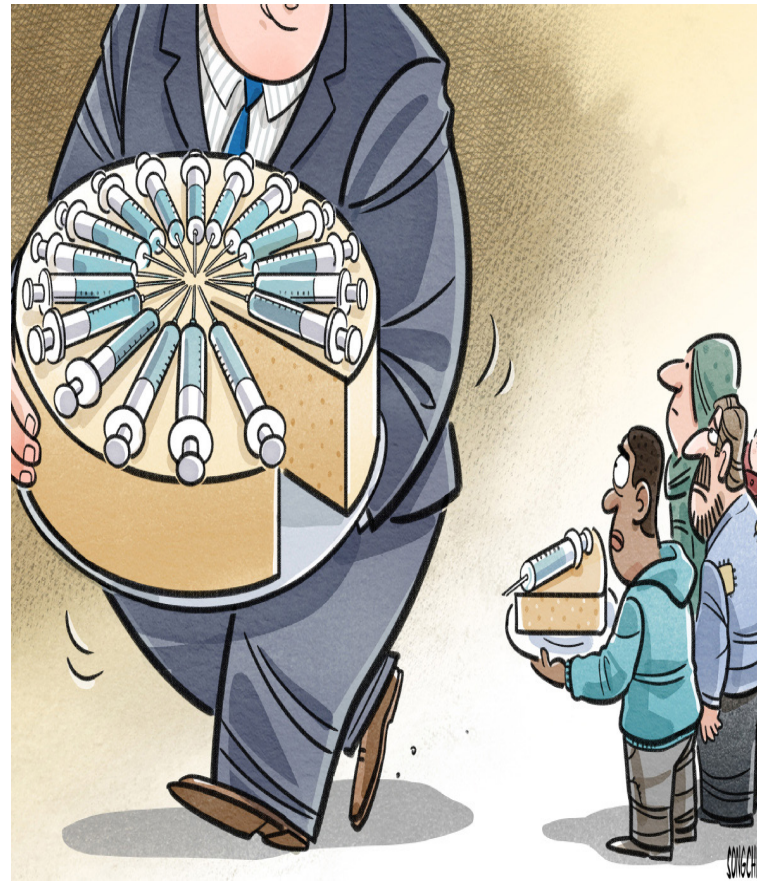
ABC CERTIFIED

Vol: 01 Issue: 290

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Secret ballots

AFTER careful consideration of the arguments presented, the Supreme Court has delivered its verdict on the upcoming Senate elections. The ballot will remain secret, although the Election Commission of Pakistan can make adjustments to prevent corruption and the illegal trade of votes. The Honourable Court's decision has also settled the debate on the Presidential Ordinance associated with the upcoming contest, which makes the executive order redundant. If the government now wants to pursue the matter any further, it must do so in the halls of parliament. This is probably for the best. Legislative change—especially one as significant as the decision to remove secret ballots—needs to go through elected representatives of the public. Parliamentary oversight is also needed on amendments in the interest of stability. If political parties do not have consensus on such a crucial issue, each change of government could stand to bring changes to the structural makeup of the constitution. The SC's short order also clearly states that the onus to eradicate corruption from voting is on the ECP. Secrecy is not absolute, the proceedings indicated that votes can be opened up for verification if needed. Whether it is in the general elections or contests in the parliamentary houses, the electoral watchdog must proactively try and make sure each election is conducted free and without any irregularities. The government has immediately sought out the printing of ballot papers that are verifiable through bar code or other forms of identifiability. There were other questions raised that all political parties must also consider. The party's ideological trajectory and how steadfastly workers must follow the leaders are also factors for the parliament to ponder. As ever, the SC's timely intervention will hopefully have put the minds of all political leaders at ease. The government must now look to empower ECP where possible and take this matter forward if it still wishes to do so after this round of Senate elections are over.

True spirit of faith in fighting extremism

Wajeeha Bilal



Islamist militancy is a conservative phenomenon innate to the discrimination and oppression found in most Muslim states, and the imperial mediation of non-Muslim powers. Human ache and misery are truly universal, and thus it calls for a collective, unconditional love to comprehend, feel, understand, eventually heal its wounds

EVERY religion highlights a bedrock of guidelines and practices as enshrined within the dictum of its edicts. It spotlights specific guidelines and practices. As the guidelines are followed or those rituals are performed, the person is attempted to be made just with His Creator. Though there are differences in focus and the observance of rituals, but then that may be more related to a personal distinction among individuals, their demographics and skin tone, but we live together on this earth with the intention of leading a happier and better life. Though this sentiment is commendable, the contrary is prominent on the pages of human history. Prominent nowadays; the currents of wars, assassinations, genocide, violence, and crimes against humanity are directed by those who claim to believe in following their Creator. No matter where in the world we look, there is always a reactionary narrative borne of either prejudice or oversimplification that tends to profile people it does not fully comprehend. Amongst the vicious narratives that have had an immense impact on humanity and its perception of Islam, is Islamophobia, where Muslims are profiled and criticized, eventually mistreated, either strictly due to their faith or consequently due to the brutal actions of a few arbitrary entities and individuals acting in the name of Islam, often, as non-state actors. The story of pain and human suffering is worldly and global, it is not bound to any faith or a geographical setting, nor is it dependent upon any demographic component. One suffering cannot be highlighted above another because of its secular or religious settings; whether it's a terrorist attack in the west or the east. The accounts of these incidents that are everywhere make our hearts bleed with sorrow. Regarding this, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, while virtually addressing a session of the UN's Economic and Social Council, stressed on the issue of Islamophobia. Mr Qureshi condemned the "discriminatory citizenship laws ... and repeated state-sponsored pogroms against minorities" at the same time requesting for a "global alliance against the rise and spread of Islamophobic

as well as other violent nationalist and racist groups". With all the cultural similarities, all the parallel feelings and mutual interests how can we explain the atrocities that are inflicted in the name of that One Creator? It is the interest of the few that poisons the majority's minds. The religious divide is established, nurtured and promoted because it suits a certain group. Over the years, religious emotions have been exploited by these stubborn people who consider themselves superior to the rest. It seems that religions do not have a pretty history. Unfortunately, most religious people are not educated, or well versed in the religions they follow. They depend on what they hear from their leaders and ancestors. But how can a Creator provide special treatment to those who follow a particular religion just because they happen to be born in the family who follows it. It is surprising that their religion has cursed those who are created the same way but happen to be born in a family following a different religion. Nonetheless, regardless of the ingrained intolerance against Muslims and others in several communities, the role of extremist militants who have immensely added to the intolerance against their own religion, cannot be overlooked. Controversial terrorist organizations, so-called Islamic state groups and others of their type who declare their services to Islam have done more harm and insulted this noble religion and its followers. Their felonies against Muslims and non-Muslims are contrary to the divine decree of the moral practices of faith and belief. Besides, Islamist militancy is a conservative phenomenon innate to the discrimination and oppression found in most Muslim states, and the imperial mediation of non-Muslim powers. Human ache and misery are truly universal, and thus it calls for a collective, unconditional love to comprehend, feel, understand and eventually heal its wounds. True belief systems convey a message of affection, mutual awareness, patience, care, acknowledgment; showing compassion and empathy to everything that lives without judging others for their beliefs or culture. The religious societies of the world need to acknowl-

edge both these concerns; discrimination in non-Muslim societies and the oppressive organizations that help create fighters for religiously inspired militancy. Paigham-i-Pakistan, the allied message of collaboration against terrorism and fanaticism registered by 1,829 Islamic scholars in 2018, seemed like a beneficial agreement but was never owned truly in spirit by the religious sects. Speaking on the eve of the unveiling of the Paigham-i-Pakistan, religious scholars had urged collective efforts by state institutions, within the compass of the Constitution, to cleanse society of the dangers of extremism and terrorism. People can acquire immense power to come closer to their spiritual nature through their Love for others and conscious living. Humanity is the common factor that unites different people. We are all human beings who want to be happy, so we search for love and ways to discipline our spiritual progress. We give comfort only to receive it in some way. Then why not treat others as we would have them treat us. It is great to be a spiritual person with rituals but even greater to be a conscious human with passion. Even if you learn to find your own peace through religion, your struggle should continue till your practices are helpful in generating awareness, love and compassion. The true essence of one's spiritual journey comes with finding balance and discipline which is the real purpose of religion. These can be developed by anyone inside or outside one's spiritual practice. So, let us enjoy life with no fear of being judged; making mistakes only to learn from them, listening to others only to show empathy, observing patience only to treat others with respect, supporting freedom only to live in harmony with compassion. All religions pursue the same goals: those of cultivating goodness and bringing happiness to all human beings. Though the means might seem different, the ends are the same. We may never agree with each other about who Created us, or whose interpretation of religion is correct, however, one thing we can all agree on is our humanity. — Wajeeha is author of "The Conscious Ego", "The Beautiful Present". She runs "Apurposeful life" blog

Improving quality of LESCO complaint department

Shahzad Ahmed

First-hand, there are numerous stories from people that feel conned and deceived by LESCO's advertisement. Many people think that LESCO is purposely misleading those who are buying his book. LESCO looks and sounds as if it is straightforward to receive grants and support from the government. There seem to be two big problems and you will not be considered for the overwhelming bulk of the services. Typically, consumers have concerns about conversion efficiency, payment, tariff selection, energy bills, and interfaces. If you have a LESCO concern, the safest way is to contact your nearest LESCO offices to submit the allegation

ELECTRICITY is now the day's most essential requirement. Electricity providers have newly launched an online framework to make it easier for consumers to obtain a new agreement from LESCO. It requires an online form and a print of that request that will be obtained by the nearest workplace. If you live in a town that is under LESCO's surveillance then the process is the same for it as it has the same requirements. In most districts of the state, such as Okara, Sheikhupura, Lahore, Kasur, Nankana, LESCO is the only energy distributor. LESCO calls for Lahore Electric Supply Company. The superior authority that oversees LESCO is WAPDA and to build a specific WAPDA system, LESCO was founded in 2001. WAPDA was pre-charged as a kit and it was (Area Board of Electricity) traditionally. As you know it is the rapidly increasing technology but on the other hand, many factors are making this system less preferable for people. There is much-increasing moaning like it is charging too much but not providing sufficient services. Also, it gets too late to respond if the customers. When there occurs any sort of issue, people do not often get timely responses. This is the reason; this network system is becoming less popular day by day. Also, there is a demand for people to make this system better and effective. Otherwise, there are more chances of going down the LESCO. Thus, the basic purpose of writing this article is to let you know about the grievances that are raised due to the poor system supply of this network. Also, you will come to know the factors and the management system that can help to make this system better. First-hand, there are numerous stories from people that feel conned and deceived by LESCO's advertisement. Many people think that LESCO is purposely misleading those who are buying his book. LESCO looks and sounds as if it is straightforward to receive grants and support from the government. There seem to be two big problems and you will not be considered for the overwhelming bulk of the services. Typically, consumers have concerns about conversion efficiency, payment, tariff selection, energy bills, and interfaces. If you have a LESCO concern, the safest way is to contact your nearest LESCO offices to submit the allegation. Typically, around 7-10 days, they would fix it. But the reality is that they do not respond within the given time. People have a lot of issues with the customer support services as they do not respond on the time. As compared to the charges they are taking, the services are nothing. People have a lot of issues with the customer support services as they do not respond on the time. As compared to the charges they are taking, the services are nothing. People got frustrated due to the late responses and high prices. Everyone is now demanding that its cost should be less or increase the service quality they provided. There is also a major issue of the billing system that people have to wait for long to fix the meter. After that, the next issue is billing that is a major drawback. Once the meter has been fixed then the problem of load shedding occurs. This is the most frustrating problem that makes people aggressive as well. For an example, following is a news that is given in the newspaper.

Moreover, the company has fallen back on its time-tested strategy as government pressure increases on Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) to enhance its bill collection and financial health. This system massively over-charges customers, slap huge detection bills at mass level, and use unreliable meters to maneuver units and bills. The officials of the company deny any shortage of meters but agree that their field formation was WA. The officials of the company deny any lack of meters but accept that their field formation used the meters problems to make money for themselves and the company, and punish the "non-compliant" customers. Everyone's over-billing suits; it brings more money to demonstrate results for the company and it gets extra bucks for the workers who now sell meters to the highest bidders. The company received two very warning letters from the government this year, keeping the former chairman directly responsible for delivering the processing of bills, reducing line losses (control of corruption) and retrieving dues from foreclosing customers, claims a current LESCO chief. The power grid was limited in the initial phases of electric power generation and its function was quick. When the requirement for electrical energy developed, so also the control systems. In essence, most of those large networks were integrated to extract the different technological and economic strengths resulting in the synchronized functioning of the electrical systems. This is the established pattern right now. As you know the complaints of the people are increasing day by day and it is becoming problematic. But don't worry, in this portion, you will get the solution and better idea to solve the poor management system of LESCO. So, let's talk about it in detail! To make this system better, there is a need to make a properly organized team of LESCO management in which every employee will be properly trained to get quality controlled outcomes. They have to perform their duties with full responsibility. All the services will be provided by the LESCO management team to all the customers in the given specified time. When there occurs any sort of problem or electricity shortage, the management will handle that issue instantly. There will be the system of an online system where people can submit their complaints and they will get an instant response to the messages. Also, they can directly send the messages to the customer servicemen that are responsible to provide all these services. In this way, they will not have to wait and get the service instantly. It is also necessary to evaluate the power needs of the people and then provide that accordingly. So, this facility will also be provided according to the people needs and requirements. The higher authority will timely check the system and monitor properly. In this manner, the whole system will be monitored and work under the guidance of upper authority. The company named Sharavathi power station in India is adopting this system that is given above. By following all the rules and regulations in that model, they have improved their system to the next level. There are no conflicts between customers and service. All the sectors are working

accurately without any service shortage. This will always respond accurately. The Sharavathi Hydro Power Plant is the core of Karnataka's range of electricity generation today. The 10-unit Sharavathi Power Plant has a generation capacity of 1035 MW and the two-unit Increasing concerns Dam Bolster has a generation capacity of 55 MW. This is because the system is following all the management rules and regulations. The complete power and service are provided by this company to the customers and this is the reason, the company is rising day by day. There are no negative reviews of the customers as they are getting the complete power supply without any complaint. In the same manner, this LESCO system should also follow the proper rules and policies to make better this system. [10] Electric power in Pakistan is a hot problem, and protecting it is a requirement and LESCO is the best part of it. All that has been explained in this article is about the poor management system of LESCO in Pakistan and its drawbacks. All the complaints of the customers and their issues had highlighted in this article. So, after completely reading this article, you will come to know that what are the major flaws of this LESCO. But on the other side, you will also get the solutions to these issues as all the better alternatives to solve this problem are also given in it. While reading the whole article thoroughly, you will get very effective information about LESCO and its management. So, if you enjoyed reading this article then must share your remarks in the comment section and do share this with others. Your remarks will be taken into serious consideration. [11] To make the LESCO system better in Pakistan, here are few recommendations that can play an important role. So, go ahead and get that information!

- The billing system of LESCO should be enough lenient and easy that they're raised fewer complaints.
- If the budget of the system that keeps charging to the people is decreased then there are also many chances of system development.
- If the proper equipment is arranged for the system services and maintenance then it will also make the people and system better and improved.
- Once the issue of tripping, failure, and fluctuation is resolved then there are so many chances that the system will work properly.
- In the running situation, when the people will get enough power supply then their reviews will automatically be changed towards the network system. [12]
- By focusing on the budget value and cost of the services, the network can also make it better. In this way, when the budget will be satisfying and services will be provided accordingly then there will less chance of failure.
- Manpower is also playing an important role, so it should also be improved for the betterment of the system.
- There must be a complete online system of billing, meter fixing, complaint reporting along with quick response.
- To save energy, everyone should take care of electricity usage in homes as well. [13]

Briefs

Sindh Assembly: PTI MPs beat party rebels

From Page 01

PPP members also got involved to disengage the fighting lawmakers. The assembly turned into a wrestling ring by the PTI members. Abro spoke to the media and said they have made it clear to everyone that they will not vote along the party lines. He alleged that Senate tickets were sold and that they do not agree with the selection of Saifullah Abro and Faisal Vawda. "We were not kidnapped," he said. On Monday, the local PTI leadership had accused the PPP of pressuring their members to win the upcoming Senate elections. Karachi PTI President Khurram Sher Zaman alleged that their lawmakers were kidnapped and they were no more in contact.

Pak-China friendship anchor of peace: FM

From Page 01

He said, "We pay tribute to the Chinese leadership which has done an incredible job in changing the lives and destiny of its 1.4 billion people. We believe that President Xi Jinping's leadership at a momentous moment in history has greatly helped China in achieving its national aspirations. Towering Chinese leaders like Mao Zedong and President Zhou Enlai played a crucial role in strengthening our ties."

"Similarly successive generations of leaders and people of both Pakistan and China made invaluable contribution to strengthen these ties over the past seven decades. We have built our ties around the principles of mutual understanding, mutual trust and mutual support." The multifaceted strategic and political cooperation of the two countries was stronger than ever. The two sides were coordinating at the multilateral and regional fora and support each other on the basis of their core interests, he continued. He said Pakistan adhered to the one China policy and China had stood by Pakistan in supporting our key strategic, economic and developmental priorities. "We are looking forward to receive President Xi Jinping in Pakistan this year."

"We believe that this visit will further elevate our ties. Our two countries have a fine tradition of standing by each other in the hour of need. At the outbreak of COVID 19 in China, Pakistan immediately dispatched essential medical supplies to China to support in its fight against COVID 19. President Arif Alvi travelled to Beijing in March, 2020 to express solidarity with the people and government of China."

"When pandemic was spreading in Pakistan, China helped us generously and we are thankful to China for gifting us 500,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine which helped in saving lives of our frontline health workers." In recent years our social and cultural relations had become much stronger, he said adding currently over 28,000 Pakistani students were studying in China benefiting from the China's advanced educational system. "We have established seven sister provinces and thirteen sister cities relationships with China. Seven Pakistan study centers, 11 Urdu language departments in various Chinese universities and four Confucius Institutes were promoting cultural understanding between the two countries. He said Pakistan supported President Xi's visionary belt and road initiative that had become a pivot for connectivity and global economic growth. As the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was set to become a high quality demonstration project. There was a complete consensus across the political spectrum in Pakistan on CPEC's indispensability for our national development, he noted.



Match-10



Islamabad United beat Quetta Gladiators by six wickets in PSL 6

However, a brilliant half-century from captain Sarfaraz Ahmed helped the side in posting a respectable total of 156 for the loss of seven wickets in their allotted 20 overs. Sarfaraz finished the innings with the top score of 54 off 41 balls with the help of three fours and four sixes

DNA

KARACHI: Brilliant performance from Faheem Ashraf and Paul Stirling was enough for Islamabad United to secure a comfortable eight-wicket win against Quetta Gladiators in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2021.

In the 12th match of the competition, Shadab Khan won the toss and asked the Gladiators to bat first at the National Stadium in Karachi on Tuesday. The decision proved a correct one as Quetta lost four wickets inside the power-play for just 41 runs. However, a brilliant half-century from captain Sarfaraz Ahmed helped the side in posting a respectable total of 156 for the loss of seven wickets in their allotted 20 overs. Sarfaraz finished the innings with the top score of

54 off 41 balls with the help of three fours and four sixes.

For Islamabad, pacer Faheem was the star performer as he claimed three wickets and gave away just 11 runs in four overs.

In reply, United chased down the target in the 17th over at the expense of just four wickets.

Opener Paul Stirling was the star of the show as he played a brilliant knock of 56 off 33 balls with the help of eight fours and two sixes. For Gladiators, right-arm leggie Zahid Mahmood was the pick of the bowlers as he claimed two wickets. Islamabad United need 157 to beat Quetta Gladiators in Pakistan Super League's (PSL) match 12 at Karachi's National Stadium today (Tuesday).

The Gladiators' opening order collapsed in the power play, however, skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed (54) and



Mohammad Nawaz (31) led the way for Islamabad United. The game was delayed yesterday after a player from Islamabad United, Fawad Ahmed, tested positive for coronavirus. The match will start at 7pm. Quetta Gladiators haven't

had the start they wanted in the tournament, losing all three games initially, as they were first outplayed by the Karachi Kings before being knocked out by Lahore Qalandars and Peshawar Zalmi.

Meanwhile, the United are placed in the middle of the table with two wins from three games. Of the 11 PSL games so far, Quetta has an edge over Islamabad as it has won seven and lost 4.

SQUADS:

Islamabad United: Alex Hales, Asif Ali, Fawad Ahmed, Faheem Ashraf, Hussain Talat, Musa Khan, Shadab Khan, Zafar Gohar, Hassan Ali, Paul Stirling, Lewis Gregory, Phil Salt, Rohail Nazir, Ali Khan, Iftikhar Ahmed, Mohammad Wasim Jr, Ahmed Saifi Abdullah, Zeeshan Zameer
Quetta Gladiators: Anwar Ali, Azam Khan, Ben Cutting, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Zahid Mahmood, Dale Steyn, Tom Banton, Usman Khan Shinwari, Cameron Delpoit, Qais Ahmad, Abdul Nasir, Saim Ayub, Arish Ali Khan, Usman Khan, Faf du Plessis, Dale Steyn.

Movies to be made on historical events with Erdogan's

DNA

ISTANBUL: Fakhraddin Altun, Head of the Public Relations Department of the Presidential Administration of Turkey has met with Azerbaijani Culture Minister Anar Karimov who is on a visit to Turkey, the press service of the Turkish Embassy to Azerbaijan told media.

The issues of cooperation in the fields of media, culture, TV series and cinema were discussed at the meeting.

F. Altun noted that "One nation, two states" is not just a word, Turkey also closely cooperated with Azerbaijan in the field of media in the liberation of Karabakh. He noted that Turkey and Azerbaijan strengthen cultural cooperation. According to F.Altun, a

book called "Victory in 44 days in Karabakh" published in three languages by Public Relations Department of the Turkish Presidential Administration is a symbol of the Turkish-Azerbaijani brotherhood. "Alongside with Karabakh Victory, we will implement joint serial and film projects regarding historical events like the Islamic Army of the Caucasus, Khiojaly genocide on the instruction of Turkish President" F. Altun said. F. Altun has also noted that the scale of damage caused by Armenia to the material and spiritual heritage in Karabakh should be delivered to the world: "Solidarity with Azerbaijan is our national duty. I am a witness of our Mr. Prtesident's brotherhood with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev".

US defends not sanctioning MBS for Khashoggi's murder

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: The US President Joe Biden's administration has defended its decision not to apply sanctions on Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) for the 2018 killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. "We are working to put the US Saudi relationship on the right footing," State Department spokesman Ned Price said at a news conference in Washington on Monday, defending the Biden administration's decision not to sanction the crown prince, who is the de facto ruler of Saudi Arabia. The Biden administration is

seeking to "recalibrate", not "rupture" the US-Saudi relationship, Price said. Had the Biden administration done "something more dramatic and something more drastic" by naming MBS for sanctions, it would "greatly diminish" US influence in Riyadh, Price said. The administration's decision not to punish the crown prince drew harsh criticism from the publisher of the Washington Post, where Khashoggi was a columnist. Accusing Biden of breaking his campaign promise to make the Saudi regime "pay the price" for the killing of Khashoggi, Post publisher Fred Ryan wrote.

Amb. Sajjad, Chukhlantsev discuss trade relation

DNA

MINSK: Ambassador of Pakistan to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan held a meeting with Mr. Konstantin Chukhlantsev, owner of M/s BestTex, which is involved in Import and Wholesale distribution of Textile products. The meet-

ing was also attended by Mr. Borokov Oleg, Director of company. Based in the Brest City of Belarus, BestTex is among the leading textile companies in Belarus mainly making women garments, for which textile is being imported from Indonesia, China and Turkey. The company which was established 30 year's ago

has branch offices in Minsk, Moscow, Saint Petersburg, China and Taipei, besides, running multiple retail stores in all the big cities of Belarus. Sharing the quality and price competitiveness of Pakistani Textile products, the Ambassador highlighted the possibilities of importing textile from Pakistan. The Ambassador also assured to extend required facilitation in finding suitable business partners. Appreciating the briefing, Mr. Chukhlantsev assured to connect with the Pakistani exporters soon. The two sides also agreed to meet again in the near future to evaluate the progress and way out to provide impetus to the trade ties.

Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan mull Karabakh peace deal

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and Uzbekistan's Ambassador Bahrom Ashrafkhanov have discussed the regional situation, the fulfilment of the Karabakh peace deal and all economic and transport links' unblocking, the Foreign Ministry reported on March 1.

The meeting, which took place on March 1, also focused on Azerbaijan's position based on international law. Moreover, the parties discussed prospects for the comprehensive development of bilateral cooperation between

Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan. The sides stressed the importance of expanding cooperation in the economic and trade spheres and the holding of the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation in this regard, the development of ties in humanitarian and cultural spheres, the expansion of interregional cooperation, as well as the positive contribution of reciprocal high-level visits to the further development of bilateral cooperation. Along with the bilateral level, the issues of cooperation and mutual support on international platforms were noted with satisfaction. At the meeting, mutual interest was expressed in

the further development and expansion of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan, the report added. In late January, Trend reported, quoting Uzbekistan's Investment and Foreign Trade Ministry that the outstanding details of the "Agreement between governments of Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan on industrial cooperation" were completed, owing to systematic interaction between the countries. According to the ministry, the main purpose of the agreement is to strengthen cooperation ties between entrepreneurs of the two countries in the field of metallurgy, chemical and oil and gas industries and other sectors of the economy of mutual interest.

Press watchdog sues MBS over Khashoggi murder

The complaint, which seeks an inquiry by prosecutors under Germany's international jurisdiction laws, accuses Saudi Arabia of persecuting Khashoggi as well as dozens of other journalists

FOREIGN DESK

BERLIN: Media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has filed a criminal case in a German court against Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and four other high-ranking officials for "crimes against humanity" in connection with the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The media watchdog's lawsuit announcement came on Tuesday, four days after the United States released a declassified intelligence report which said that the crown prince, popularly known as MBS, approved the killing of the Saudi journalist. Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist critical of Saudi policies under the crown prince, was

murdered at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October 2018. The gruesome killing led by a Saudi hit squad drew global condemnation and adversely affected MBS's global standing. The complaint, which seeks an inquiry by prosecutors under Germany's international jurisdiction laws, accuses Saudi Arabia of persecuting Khashoggi as well as dozens of other journalists. "We call on the German prosecutor to take a stand," Christophe Deloire, secretary-general of RSF, said in a statement. "No one should be above international law, especially when crimes of humanity are at stake," he said. After the report's release, Khashoggi's fiancée called for MBS to be punished "without delay"

US President Joe Biden's administration has decided not to apply sanctions on the Saudi crown prince for the murder of Khashoggi. Saudi officials denounced the report, insisting that Khashoggi was

killed in a "rogue operation" that did not involve the crown prince - the kingdom's de facto ruler. But RSF said it had gathered evidence of a "state policy to attack and silence journalists" which it had submitted to the Federal

Court of Justice in Karlsruhe, Germany, on Monday. Its report details the cases of 34 other journalists who have been jailed in Saudi Arabia, including the blogger Raif Badawi, who has been imprisoned in his home country since 2012 on charges of "insulting Islam". The principle of universal jurisdiction was enshrined in German law in 2002. It allows for grave crimes like genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity to be tried in national courts if international courts are not an option. The procedure has already been used, for example, by campaigners fighting for accountability in Syria, with the trial of two former intelligence officers for alleged state torture during that country's civil war.



PSL-6 Fixture

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 (1 v 2) (7pm)
Friday, March 19: Eliminator 1 (3 v 4) (7pm)
Saturday, March 20: Eliminator 2 (loser Qualifier v winner Eliminator 1) (7pm)
Monday, March 22: Final (7pm)

Pakistan committed to regional peace: COAS

From Page 01

While interacting with tribal elders at Mir Ali, COAS appreciated them for their unflinching support and sacrifices in fight against terrorism. COAS said that peace has largely returned to these areas. The hard-earned normalcy will be retained and enhanced through collective efforts of the local population, civil administration and LEAs. We have to remain vigilant and steadfast to thwart hostile attempts to create chaos and reverse the gains of Operation Radd ul Fasaad," COAS remarked. To continue the journey towards enduring peace and development we need to stay determined and united, COAS concluded. Earlier, on arrival, COAS was received by Corps Commander Lieutenant General Nauman Mahmood.

Allies assure PTI of their support

From Page 01

Following the meeting, Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin-ul-Haque, Finance and Revenue Affairs Minister Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, and other federal ministers addressed a joint presser. Haque said the MQM-P, along with other allies of the government, would stand with PTI in the upcoming Senate elections. The federal government's allies are on the same page, including the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA), Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q), Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), and the MQM-P, he said.

The minister said that despite the MQM-P's reservations with the PTI, it had decided to support the ruling party in the elections for the upper house. Lashing out at the PPP, the federal minister said that the 'corrupt' Sindh government had 'destroyed' the province. "In 13 years, they did not provide 13 gallons of water for Karachi and neither did they give 13 buses for Karachi." "I want to make it clear to the Sindh government; no one will be allowed to interfere in Karachi's development," he warned, adding that all of MQM-P's provincial lawmakers were standing behind the PTI.

Briefs

Belgium intends to lift ban on tourist travel

FOREIGN DESK

BRUSSELS: Belgium intends to lift the ban on optional, including tourist, trips outside of the country, introduced at the year start over the threat of new coronavirus strains' spread, by April 1, Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said. According to De Croo, the Belgian authorities will soon prepare and send a response to the European Commission, in which they will indicate that the restrictions are "temporary in nature and concern only optional travel." Instead of a travel ban, the Belgian federal authorities are proposing that the regions negotiate stricter quarantine and testing rules. "We will have another tool that will allow us to restrict unnecessary travel," the Belgian prime minister explained.

EU vaccine approval 'too slow'

VIENNA: Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz on Monday criticised the EU's medicine regulator for being "too slow" in approving coronavirus vaccines as he outlined plans to co-ordinate more closely with Israel on inoculations. Kurz said in a statement that while the EU's common procurement and licensing policy for vaccines was "right in principle", the European Medicines Agency (EMA) "is too slow in approving vaccines and there have been supply bottlenecks at manufacturers". He said that in order to prepare for possible mutations of the coronavirus and to develop "second generation" vaccines, "we should not be solely dependent on the EU anymore". To that end Kurz is travelling to Israel on Thursday together with his Danish counterpart Mette Frederiksen to agree a plan for common production of future vaccines and co-operation on research treatments. Kurz said that experts estimate "that in the coming years we will have to vaccinate two-thirds of the population every year - that's more than six million Austrians". For her part Frederiksen said the world was "crying out" for increased vaccine production but that "we also have to make sure that we have enough vaccines in a year's time, and in two, three, five and ten years". "One of the partners I have a lot of faith in is Israel, which is currently ahead in the field of vaccination," she told the Ritzau press agency. Ahead of the trip to Israel Kurz is to discuss the country's vaccination strategy with domestic pharmaceutical companies and researchers. The president of Austria's association of vaccine manufacturers Renee Gallo-Daniel defended the EMA's handling of the approval process. "The highest priority of the EMA has been not to make any shortcuts in the process of approval," she said.

Twitter to permanently ban on misinformation

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: Twitter says it will start labelling misleading tweets about COVID vaccines and ban users who continue to spread such misinformation. The microblogging platform introduced on Monday a "strike system" that will gradually escalate to a permanent ban after the fifth offending tweet. "We believe the strike system will help to educate the public on our policies and further reduce the spread of potentially harmful and misleading information on Twitter," the San Francisco-based company said in a blog post. "Particularly for repeated moderate and high-severity violations of our rules," Twitter users will be notified when a tweet is labelled as misleading or needs to be removed for breaking the platform's rules, earning a strike, according to the company. The second and third strikes will each result in the violating account being blocked for 12 hours.

SCO Secretary-General V. Norov

SCO countries have made significant progress in achieving gender equality

The Platform called on the international community to take strategic measures to improve the situation in specific areas of concern: inequalities in education, health care, unequal rights of women in economic and political structures

DNA

BEIJING: International Women's Day, 8 March, is celebrated in many countries around the world. The UN Charter was the first international document proclaiming equality between men and women as a fundamental human right. On March 8, 1975, on the International Women's Year, the UN celebrated its first official International Women's Day, which has acquired a new global dimension. Thereafter, the international women's movement was strengthened by the four UN World Conferences on Women, which gave great impetus to the coordination of efforts to achieve gender equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. The founding documents of the UN in this direction were the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted in 1995 at the end of the 4th UN World Conference on Women, which was a truly historic event, bringing together 17,000 delegates from 189 countries. The Beijing Platform for Action identified equality between women

and men as an aspect of human rights and a condition for social justice. The Platform called on the international community to take strategic measures to improve the situation in specific areas of concern: inequalities in education, health care, unequal rights of women in economic and political structures, in the division of power and decision-making at all levels, discrimination against girls and the violation of their rights, etc. Since Beijing, the UN has been guided by these areas of concern, driving positive change around the world. The UN Commission on the Status of Women and UN Women have worked hard over the years to promote gender equality and women's economic empowerment. According to experts, in the 25 years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration, the general opinion of the importance of gender equality has been strengthened in many countries. In 143 countries of the world laws have been passed that ensure gender equality, and obstacles to women's participation in political and economic activities have been eliminated at the legislative level. At the same time in



several countries and regions of the world, there is still an imbalance in the level of development of women. Out of 800 million people in the world living in poverty, more than half are women. Different forms of discrimination against women still exist in the world. All of which shows that a huge joint effort is still needed to implement gender equality. According to UN Secretary-General António Guterres, achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls is the unfinished task of our time and the greatest human

rights challenge in the world today. According to experts, the quarantine measures and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have affected women the most. According to a UN study, rates of domestic violence in various countries during the pandemic increased by up to 33%. A technical review by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) notes that women make up 70 percent of the workforce in the health and social sectors worldwide. In this regard, UN Women has called on the world's govern-

ments to take five specific actions: First, address the needs of nurses and female doctors who are involved in the fight against the pandemic. Second, ensure uninterrupted hotlines and access to services that must remain open to assist all victims of domestic violence. Third, crisis economic assistance packages envisioned by national governments must include funds to provide social protection tailored to women's specific circumstances and consider the specifics of the domestic economy, including caregiving for family members. Fourth, leaders must find ways to include women in decision making about the response and the subsequent recovery whether decisions are made at the local, municipal, or national level, women's participation will invariably lead to the most positive outcomes. Fifth, policymakers must take into account family dynamics and promote equal sharing of the burden of care and domestic responsibilities between women and men. At the same time, the pandemic has exposed and aggravated the growing "digital divide" both within and between developed

and developing countries, especially in terms of the availability, accessibility, and degree of use of information and communication technologies and access to the Internet, deepening existing inequalities. Approximately 60 percent of the world's population, mostly women in emerging and developing countries, still do not have computers or access to the Internet. These recommendations by UN Women are relevant to all countries of the world, including the SCO states, in determining and implementing a set of measures to overcome the consequences of the pandemic. As for the SCO countries, it can be noted that the member states have achieved significant success in achieving gender equality during the 20 years of our organization's activity. All SCO countries have ratified and implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as other international conventions on human rights, women, and children, in addition, to the national legal framework for achieving gender equality has been established.

Morocco suspends contact with German embassy

FOREIGN DESK

RABAT: Morocco has suspended contacts with the German embassy in the North African kingdom in part over what officials said was Berlin's stance on the Western Sahara dispute. In the letter addressed to the prime minister late on Monday and published by Moroccan media, foreign minister Nasser Bourita said the decision to suspend dealings with the embassy as well as German cultural

organisations was taken in response to "deep misunderstandings" on "issues fundamental for Morocco". "Morocco wishes to preserve its relationship with Germany but this is a form of warning expressing unease over many issues," a senior foreign ministry official told AFP news agency. "There will be no contact until we have received answers to the various questions we have posed." Morocco was angered by German criticism of former US President Donald Trump's recognition of

Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara in return for moves by Rabat to normalise its relations with Israel, the official said. It was also dismayed that it was kept out of discussions on Libya's political future at a congress in Berlin in January 2020. The moves showed "disregard" by German authorities, the senior official said. Morocco has generally had good relations with Germany. Three months ago, Morocco's foreign minister hailed the "excellence

of bilateral cooperation" after Berlin released 1.39 billion euros (\$1.6bn) in support of Moroccan financial reforms and coronavirus countermeasures. There was no immediate comment from the German embassy in Rabat. The Algeria-backed breakaway movement Polisario Front seeks to establish an independent state for Western Sahara, a vast desert region Morocco has held since Spain withdrew in 1975 and which Rabat considers its southern province.

'China's int'l poverty reduction focus on Pakistan from 2021'

BEIJING: As Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that China has scored a "complete victory" in its fight against poverty, the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC) claimed that China's international poverty reduction will focus on Pakistan from 2021. The IPRCC has set out to research and design proper poverty reduction plans for Pakistan, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. According to the Poverty Reduction Report in Asia 2020, released by BOAO Forum for Asia, Pakistan has been removed from the list of low-income and food deficit countries. "It's a positive trend for poverty reduction," IPRCC said, "however, Pakistan's per capita national income remains low." Pakistan ranks 37th out of 47 Asian countries with a per capita national income of \$1,530. China's international poverty reduction programme is working for 45,725 thousand impoverished Pakistani and 1,900 thousand extreme impoverished Pakistani. IPRCC said, "In the process of reducing poverty, Asian countries have

been in a leading position. China's achievements in this field also have been recognized around the world. As a responsible country, it is our responsibility to help our friendly neighbors alleviate poverty. "China sincerely supports and helps developing countries, especially the least developed countries, in their efforts to eradicate poverty," IPRCC said to Gwadar Pro, "actually, we have been working on several international poverty reduction projects to support several BRI countries such as Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. After researching local situations and matching similar cases in China, we designed proper plans for the regions. Now, each project has gained positive fruits." Pakistan will be the next key emphasis of China's international poverty reduction work. IPRCC said, "we are working on researching situations and designing plans. Though the cultural and natural situations in Pakistan with complex particularities bring difficulties to our work, we keep full confidence and have already made initial progress." - APP

US expected to sanction Russians

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States is expected to impose sanctions on Russians connected with the poisoning of Kremlin critic Alexey Navalny, two sources familiar with the matter said on Monday. President Joe Biden's decision to impose sanctions for Navalny's poisoning reflects a harder stance than taken by his predecessor, Donald Trump, who let the incident last August pass without punitive US action. The sources declined to identify the targets or the legal authorities Washington would use to penalise them as it seeks to impose consequences for the poisoning of Navalny. The critic of the Kremlin fell ill on a flight in Siberia last August and was airlifted to Germany, where doctors concluded he had been poisoned with a nerve agent. The sources said on Monday on condition of anonymity that the US was expected to act under two executive orders: 13661, which was issued after Russia's invasion of Crimea but provides broad authority to target Russian officials, and 13382, issued in 2005 to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Both orders let the United States freeze the US assets of those targeted and effectively bar US companies and individuals from dealing with them.

Kremlin says West's sanctions don't work

MOSCOW: Russia said Tuesday that Western sanctions are ineffective and vowed to respond in kind following reports that the European Union and the United States are preparing new penalties against Moscow. "Those who continue to depend on these measures should probably give it some thought: are they achieving some goal by continuing such a policy?" Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "The answer will be obvious: such a policy does not achieve its goals," he added. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov meanwhile said Moscow would "definitely answer" measures from the West. "Nobody has cancelled the rules of diplomacy, and one of these rules is the principle of reciprocity," he said at a press briefing with his counterpart from Uzbekistan. EU member states this week approved sanctions to be slapped on four senior Russian justice and law enforcement officials involved in the detention of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny. Navalny was jailed in mid-January after returning to Moscow from Germany, where he had spent months recovering from a poisoning with a banned nerve agent he blames on Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Kremlin denies it was behind the attack. CNN reported Monday that US President Joe Biden's administration is also preparing to impose sanctions on Russia for the poisoning and imprisonment of Navalny. - APP



KATMANDU: Ambassador of Pakistan to Nepal Syed Haider met with Nepal's Foreign minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali. They discussed ways to further enhance bilateral relations between Pakistan and Nepal. - DNA

Nigeria: Kidnapped schoolgirls released

FOREIGN DESK

ZAMFARA: Kidnappers have released all the girls abducted from a boarding school in the northwestern Nigerian state of Zamfara on Friday, the state governor told media, as President Muhammadu Buhari expressed "overwhelming joy" over the news. Bello Matawalle said on Tuesday the students were safe with authorities and that no ransom had

been paid for their release. "Today, we have received the children who were under captivity since Friday. I initiated a peace accord which yielded a positive result. No ransom was paid to anyone. I insisted that we were not going to give anything to any of them," Matawalle told media. The governor said the students were being taken to a health facility for medical examination. On Friday, police said 317 girls were abducted in the raid by more than

100 gunmen on the Government Girls Secondary School in remote Jangebe village. However, Matawalle told Al Jazeera the total number of kidnapped students was 279. Zamfara state spokesman Sulaiman Tanau Anka told Reuters news agency some of the missing girls had run into the bush at the time of the assault, confirming the number of those kidnapped was 279. One of the girls told reporters early Tuesday how the kidnapping took place.

Merkel proposes easing virus curbs

BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel wants to allow more socialising between households from next week as part of plans to gradually loosen virus curbs in the Covid-weary nation, a draft text showed Tuesday. Private get-togethers between two households, not exceeding five adults, will be allowed again "from March 8", according to the document seen by AFP. Under the current rules, one household may only socialise with one other person. The text also proposes that flower shops, book stores and garden centres be next in line to reopen, after hairdressers were already allowed to open their doors earlier this week. However, most other shops, restaurants, as well as leisure, cultural and sporting facilities should remain shut until March 28, according to the draft. The text has yet to be agreed by Germany's 16 regional premiers, who are due to hold talks with Merkel on Wednesday. It comes as Merkel faces growing calls to ease Germany's partial lockdown, with surveys suggesting citizens are losing their patience and businesses are struggling to stay afloat after months of shutdowns. But a gradual relaxation of curbs is warranted, it says, because of the upcoming ramp-up in vaccine deliveries and the arrival of mass rapid antigen tests. "These two factors will clearly change the pandemic situation," it reads. For the weeks ahead, Germany's strategy will be based around "vaccinations, testing, contact tracing and reopenings", it adds. From April, pupils and teachers back in school should be get at least one free test a week. The text however stresses that the relaxation of curbs must happen gradually and can be reversed should infection rates spike again. - APP

FPCCI, GMCC signs MoU on business partnership

STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: Pak-UK Business Council of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) organised a Partnership Collaboration Agreement Signing Ceremony with Greater Manchester Chambers of Commerce (GMCC) - which has over 5000 registered British Businesses based out of Greater Manchester region of the UK. The high-level understanding between the two sides is indeed a formal agreement; which also happens to be first of its kind. The historic agreement mandates enhancement of business partnerships; increase in bilateral trade; mutually beneficial corporate engagements; modernising trade marketing practices, and accelerating the pace of bilateral investments and new ventures.

Gracing the virtual meeting, Chairman of Pak-UK Business Council, Mr. Imran Khalil Naseer, briefed the participants on the benefits and merits of FPCCI signing the agreement with GMCC; and the commencement of joint

events between businesses on both sides. The first such event would be held in May 2021 - aimed at exploring the opportunities and avenues present in Pakistan for British businesses. GMCC will also organise reciprocal events

and meetings. Addressing the historic meeting, the president of FPCCI, Mr. Nasser Hyatt Maggo, expressed his earnest desire and resolve to strengthen business and trade relationships between Pakistan and the UK through

such decisive and transformational agreements and collaborative endeavours. The event was also attended by Mr. Mike Nithavrianakis, British Deputy High Commissioner in Karachi & the Trade Director for Pakistan; along with Mr. Gufran Abbas Naqvi and other team members from Department of International Trade (DIT). Addressing the esteemed gathering, Mr. Mike Nithavrianakis said that "This partnership agreement between FPCCI and GMCC is testament to the strong bilateral trade relationship between Pakistan and the UK. It will enable businesses from both countries to explore trade & investment opportunities, engage with each other more frequently through visits and webinars, and raise the profiles of the many thousands of companies in both regions. I am excited at the prospects and potential that this partnership will help unlock."



Briefs

Afghan peace common goal of Pak, US: Sh Rasheed

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed on Tuesday said Pakistan had rendered unmatched sacrifices for achieving the lasting peace in Afghanistan, which was the common goal of Pakistan and the United States (US). "Pakistan has rendered immense human and financial sacrifices for durable peace in the Afghanistan," he expressed these views during a meeting with acting US Ambassador to Pakistan Angela P Aggeler who called on him here, a news release said. The minister said Pakistan would continue extending its full support to the new US administration for securing lasting peace in Afghanistan. During the meeting, the minister and envoy also discussed the existing ties and the matters related to mutual interest. Sheikh Rasheed said Pakistan and US were enjoying old relations and hoped that there would be considerable improvement in these ties under the new US administration. The acting ambassador said there existed ample opportunities to bring improvement in the existing bilateral ties under the new US administration. The envoy said Afghanistan also valued Pakistan's efforts it made for achieving the durable peace.

Govt to issue smartcards for Afghan refugees

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan announced the issuance of new smartcards for Afghan refugees who are Proof of Registration (PoR) cardholders. The Chief Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CCAR)/Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) and the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), with the support of UNHCR, will start the exercise, "Document Renewal and Information Verification Exercise" (DRIVE), from 1 April 2021. During this six-month exercise, NADRA will verify and update the data of registered Afghan refugees who are in possession of a PoR card with an expiry date of 31 December 2015. The initiative takes place within the framework of the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees, fostering renewed partnerships and stronger strategic linkages between humanitarian and development investments.

SC orders to demolish illegal lawyer chambers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court ordered the demolition of all illegal chambers of lawyers in Islamabad on Tuesday. An apex court bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Gulzar Ahmed, heard a case related to the illegal chambers of lawyers at a football ground. The CJP asked on what basis had the illegal chambers stayed open. The lawyers have no claim on the football ground, this petition of lawyers is rejected, the CJP ordered. Hamid Khan, the lawyers' counsel, asked the court for a "reasonable" amount of time to vacate the football ground. When the Islamabad High Court shifts to the Red Zone, we will vacate the chambers, the lawyer argued, saying an affidavit will be submitted in court to vacate the chambers. He said the chambers would be vacated within one to two years. The CJP responded that such a lengthy period of time cannot be granted. If the lawyers want, he said, they can get two months to vacate the premises and hand it over to the authorities. Demolish the chambers constructed on the land of the football ground, the CJP ordered.

PNC asks world to stop Israel's annexation plans

PNC welcomed the contents of the message of the parliamentarians addressed to the European foreign ministers, and their request to exert more pressure on the Israeli occupation to stop the de facto annexation of the occupied Palestinian territories

ZURABIR AHMAD

RAMALLA: Palestine National Council (PNC) called on the parliaments of the world and their regional and international unions, foremost of which is the International Parliamentary Union, to build on the message of the European parliamentarians to put pressure on the Israeli occupation to stop the colonial annexation project in the occupied Palestinian territories.

In a press statement today, Monday, PNC said that the message of 442 European parliamentarians from the parliaments of 22 European countries constitutes a responsible sensing by them of the threat to the future of the peace process in the region, as a result of the Israeli occupation authorities continuing violations of international law and international legitimacy decisions related to the Palestinian issue, especially the decision of the International Security Council No. 2334 of 2016. Palestine National Council (PNC) welcomed the contents of the message of the parliamentarians addressed to the European foreign ministers, and their request to exert more pressure on the Israeli occupation to stop the de facto annexation of the occupied Palestinian territories.

Palestine National Council (PNC) praised what was stated in the parliamentarians' message that it is necessary to work to prevent the occupation unilateral action undermining the possibility of peace, and urged the European Union and European countries to demonstrate leadership capacity and use various political tools in their possession to stop the Israeli violations in the Palestinian occupied territories.

PNC called on the European Union governments to take practical steps and build on this message to stop the de facto annexation that is progressing rapidly, especially the increase in the pace of rapid settlement expansion, the demolition of Palestinian property and the displacement of their owners within the framework of the Judaization program practiced by the occupation authorities in the occupied State of Palestine.



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce & Investment Abdul Razak Dawood in a meeting with Aybek Arif Usmanov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan. - DNA

Gillani son video causes ripples Election Commission takes notice; starts action

MULTAN: The video of former prime minister Yousaf Raza Gilani's son, Ali Haider Gilani, allegedly instructing a lawmaker on how his vote can be wasted, has surfaced on social media. The Election Commission has taken notice of the video. Gilani is contesting the Senate elections against the PTT's Abdul Hafeez Shaikh from Islamabad. His son, Haider Ali Gillani, is a Punjab MPA. It isn't possible to make out who Gilani is speaking to allegedly about wasting the Senate vote. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communication Dr Shahbaz Gill urged the ECP to take notice against Gilani. Gill held a press conference, lashing out at the former prime minister. "We all know how a necklace was stolen from a Turkish princess," he said. "You saw how one of his children was also involved in the ephedrine scandal." Gill said that from the video, it can be made out that Gilani's son is telling lawmakers to either "vote for us or waste your vote". "This video of corruption has once again proven that Imran Khan was right when he said this mafia will never let a transparent Senate election take place," he said. He urged the ECP to take action against Gilani according to its Constitution, adding that the electoral body was an independent institution and the government was ready to provide it with the necessary assistance. The prime minister's aide called for strict implementation of the Supreme Court of Pakistan's recent opinion on the open balloting of Senate election, saying that otherwise the country will have to suffer such instances of humiliation in the days to come. Ali Haider Gilani responded to the allegations by holding a news conference, saying that he had met a lot of people whilst campaigning for his father. "All the NA members are our constituents," he said. - DNA

Majority of doctors ready to be vaccinated

SHAHEEN IQBAL

ISLAMABAD: About 81% of the doctors in Pakistan are ready to get vaccinated against coronavirus, while 14% of the health professionals have refused to be vaccinated, according to the findings of a recent survey conducted by Gallup Pakistan. More than 500 doctors across the country were surveyed in collaboration with Gallup Pakistan of the Pakistan Islamic Medical Association. The survey found that despite intentions to get vaccinated, 59% of the people said the vaccine was not yet available, while 41% said they had already been given the COVID-19 vaccine shot. According to the survey, 74% of the doctors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa complained of the vaccine being inaccessible. In the survey, 68% of doctors said they were not infected with coronavirus, while 32% said they had contracted it.

GS APNS Sarmad Ali meets VC of Punjab University

Mr Ali expressed his keen interest in promotion of academia-professional linkages with the School of Communication Studies

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Sarmad Ali, General Secretary, All Pakistan Newspapers Society visited the University of Punjab, Lahore and had a meeting with Punjab University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Niaz Ahmad at his office on Tuesday. Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Regional Integration Centre Director Dr Fauzia Hadi Ali, Centre for Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad, Executive Director, Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram and others participated in the meeting. Mr Ali expressed his keen interest in promotion of academia-professional linkages with the School of Communication Studies. He said that both the organizations were rich in history and must work together for provision of quality human resource in the media. He said that various technological advancements had



brought several changes to the media industry and there was a need to equip our students with technical skills to meet the modern requirements of the profession. PU VC Prof Niaz Ahmed said that PU would extend full support to promote industry-academia linkages. He said that it was our duty to serve the country as well as society. He said that as per the modern demands of the subject of communication

Private sector to be allowed vaccine import

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Tuesday was told that the private sector pharmaceutical companies and healthcare facilities have applied with the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) to import Covid vaccine where the process was underway. The NCOC meeting chaired by National Coordinator Lieutenant General Hamood Uz Zaman Khan took detailed review of epidemic curve chart data and national vaccine strategy. The Forum was briefed that private entities had applied for the authorisation to import Covid vaccine whereas the federal cabinet had also given its assent for private sector to procure Covid vaccine and administer at fixed prices. - DNA

"ECP's narrative 'weak' on reforms"

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry Tuesday termed the Election Commission of Pakistan's narrative to delay in bringing reforms in Senate elections as "weak". The federal minister, addressing a press conference in Islamabad, said it was compulsory for the ECP to follow the Supreme Court's orders on using technology for the Senate elections. "It is surprising the ECP has postponed reforms till the next elections [...] however, the Supreme Court had given a different opinion," the science minister said. The minister stressed that the orders of the apex court could have been carried out very easily. "Election Commission's job is not only to distribute ballots but also to make the election transparent." Lashing out at PPP, he said that despite the numbers not favouring the party, it had fielded candidates in Islamabad. "What option does PPP have other than buying people and horse-trading." Chaudhry said that Maulana Fazlur Rehman did not have the capacity to bring about a change in the country with his reliance on the "use of madrasah children". "Senate election is the last battle, after that there will be general elections."

Govt plans to vaccinate 70m people by year's end

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: Government has planned to administer Covid vaccination among some 70 million people by end of 2021 to save them from the deadly pandemic, Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of National Health, Member National Assembly Dr Nousheen Hamid said Tuesday. Sharing views with the participants of the webinar 'Life after Covid-19: Are we ready to opt for a new normal' organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), as a part of its campaign 'No one is safe until everyone is safe', she said every individual would have to play role to respond to the challenge posed by the pandemic. Covering different aspects of the topic, she said that efforts to raise mass awareness at every level are imperative to become adapted to 'new normal' as a nation, said a press release. Speaking on the occasion, experts said the biggest challenge for Pakistan after Covid-19 was to get adapted with the 'new normal' to protect every individual from the pandemic.

Turkey mulls joint ventures with Pakistan

DNA

NEW YORK: Turkey is looking to co-manufacture missiles and warplanes with Pakistan, with the collaboration likely to pave the way for the country to access Chinese war technology as well. According to a Bloomberg report, Turkish defence and government officials have held meetings with their Pakistani counterparts on the prospects of developing and manufacturing military hardware together. People from both countries, according to Bloomberg have confirmed the development, adding that the last such meeting took place in January. However, they didn't disclose how far the two countries are to reaching a deal or when such a meeting will take place again. Pakistan develops the JF-17 Thunder fighter-jet with China. This means that Turkey can get its hands on Chinese military technology when it collaborates on defence projects with Pakistan. Islamabad is said to have adopted Chinese designs for its Shaheen ballistic missiles as well. Turkish officials familiar with the matter spoke to Bloomberg on the condition of anonymity to say that Ankara sees Islamabad as a strategic ally and a potential partner in developing its Siper long-range missile-defence project and TF-X fighter jets.

The "Martisor" tradition in Romania

The tradition of Martisor spread not only in Romania, but also in the neighboring countries like Moldova, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Serbia etc., and has been included since 7th of December 2017 in the UNESCO's list of "intangible heritage of humanity"

DNA

BUCHAREST: The tradition of Martisor on 1st of March symbolizes the rebirth of the nature and marks the beginning of spring and changing of seasons in Romania, being the first in line of a series of celebrations in the month of March. Martisor is an old tradition celebrated all over Romania and archaeological discoveries (small stones painted in red and white) suggest that the Martisor traces its history more than 8,000 years back. Some

ethnologists believe that the Martisor celebration has Roman origins while others support the theory that it is an old Dacian tradition. In ancient Rome, the New Year's was celebrated on the 1st of March. March ('Martius') was named in the honor of the god Mars. Mars was not only the god of war but also the god of agriculture, which contributes to the rebirth of vegetation. The Dacians also celebrated the New Year's on the first day of March. Ample spring celebrations were consecrated to this event. In the old times, Martisor were

made of small river pebbles, colored in white and red, strung on a thread and worn around the neck. They were worn, to bring good luck and good weather, from March 1 until the first trees would bloom. When the first trees were flowering the Martisor were hanged on tree branches. Nowadays, on March 1, Romanians buy silky red-white threads (snur) tied into a bow to which a small trinket is attached and offer them to their (female) family members, friends and colleagues to show friendship, respect or admiration.

All these small items are considered talismans and special in their own way, some Martisoare have a specific significance. Although this specific is up to anyone's imagination, here you have a few examples: a four-leaf clover is a symbol of good luck - the four leaves represent hope, faith, love and luck, the horseshoe Martisor is also among the most popular in Romania, as it is also said to bring good luck and good fortune, a heart-shaped Martisor the symbol of love and affection, a star Martisor is also a symbol of good luck, while an owl

Martisor is the symbol of wisdom. The tradition of Martisor spread not only in Romania, but also in the neighboring countries like Moldova, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Serbia etc., and has been included since 7th of December 2017 in the UNESCO's list of "intangible heritage of humanity". Starting with 1st of March, and all the way to March 8th, Martisor are offered to dear and beloved ones - small symbolic items tied with a red and white entwined cord, white for purity, red for life, as a sign of friendship, respect and affection.

