



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Gwadar to play bigger role in improving Pak-China livelihood

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Embassy of Korea organizes 'Korean Night'

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Waseem regains WBC silver flyweight title

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Briefs

Xi vows 1 bn doses for Africa

NEWS DESK

DIAMNIADIO: China's president pledged to offer Africa one billion Covid vaccine doses on Monday, with the continent struggling to acquire enough jabs to immunise against the disease. In a speech made via videolink to a China-Africa summit near Senegal's capital Dakar, President Xi Jinping said his country would donate 600 million doses directly. A further 400 million doses would come from other sources, such as investments in production sites, which are sorely lacking across much of Africa.

Jack Dorsey quits as Twitter CEO

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: Twitter announced Monday that co-founder Jack Dorsey was stepping down immediately as the CEO, with the company's chief technical officer Parag Agrawal replacing him. "Twitter, Inc. today announced that Jack Dorsey has decided to step down as chief executive officer and that the Board of Directors has unanimously appointed Parag Agrawal as CEO and a member of the board, effective immediately," the company said in a statement. Dorsey's departure marks the end of his second CEO stint at the social networking site.

Shahbaz slams mini-budget proposals

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League (N) President and Leader of Opposition Shahbaz Sharif said he had already told the nation that the next mini budget will be on IMF terms. The government again proved itself of lying to the nation and parliament of Pakistan. It played a criminal role in protecting the interests of the nation. Shahbaz Sharif said in a statement that making budget on IMF terms is a threat to Pakistan's national security.

Omicron Variant Govt urges public to get vaccinated

– Asad Umar says spread of the virus variant in Pakistan is inevitable

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Monday said that keeping in view the impending threat of the new variant of COVID-19, the government had decided to re-intensify the vaccination campaign across the country by utilizing extra resources. "The vaccination process was already going on but now we are going to escalate the process and within two or three days, a reinforced vaccination campaign would start in all the provinces to minimize threat of the new variant (Omicron)," he said while addressing a press briefing here along with Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan after chairing a meeting at National Command and Operation Center. He said the new variant was a very dangerous virus and it had potential to spread across the world. "What we can do is to at least delay the arrival of virus in Pakistan by taking prompt actions," he added. He said the testing process had also been slowed in the country due to the low rate of cases,

Continued on Page 06

Govt beefs up safety guards: Faisal Sultan

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan on Monday said the government, keeping in view the recent wave of another Covid-19 virus spreading in various European countries, had beefed up all safety measures to prevent spread of the new variant 'Omicron'. Addressing a joint media briefing flanked by Chairman National Command and Operation Centre (NCO) and Federal Minister Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, he said the government, through the forum of NCO, had taken numerous unanimous

Continued on Page 06

Pak, KSA sign accord for US\$3 bn deposit

NAZIR SIYAL / DNA

KARACHI: Saudi Arabia has signed an agreement with Pakistan for depositing US\$3 billion in the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) for helping country foreign exchange reserves and mitigating COVID-19 effects. The Central Bank shared the details of the agreement from its Twitter handle saying that the Kingdom was represented by Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) while the SBP represented Pakistan in the agreement that was signed by Chief Executive Officer of SFD Sultan Bin Abdul Rahman Al-Marshad and

Continued on Page 06

PM thanks Saudi Crown Prince

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to PM on Finance Shaukat Tarin called on Prime Minister Imran Khan here on Monday and briefed him about the financial assistance from Saudi Arabia as well as the oil facility on deferred payments. The Prime Minister was also apprised of the progress on revenue receipts. During the meeting, matters relating to the dividends paid by

Continued on Page 06



JEHLUM: Prime Minister Imran Khan inaugurating academic blocks of Al-Qadir University in Sohawa. DNA

'Strong faith a blessing of God'

Says terming someone Kaafir on different opinion is a dangerous trend

STAFF REPORT

SOHAWA: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday stressed reviving the culture of glorious Muslim era where religion and science did not come into conflict, and that also emphasised on the 'Ijtihad' (reasoning) to find solutions to the emerging challenges. He was addressing at the inauguration of academic blocks at Al Qadir University, known as a cradle of knowledge on science and Sufism. The prime minister said a strong faith and moral character was a blessing of the Almighty that guided a person to choose the righteous path. He said today's youth was facing confusion in the era of social media that provided unhindered access to western culture. However, he said, that since restrictions could not be imposed on

Continued on Page 06

Only PPP can pave way for democracy

STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that after a long struggle and unprecedented sacrifices, only Pakistan Peoples Party can pave the way for democracy in Pakistan. Only PPP's manifesto and strategy can make the homeland of 220 million Pakistanis a truly democratic and welfare state. According to a statement issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House, on the occasion of the 54th foundation

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Pakistan supports Palestinian people: FO

The international community must shoulder its responsibility to protect the lives and fundamental rights of the Palestinian people

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday reaffirmed its consistent and unstinted support for the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause, which has always been a defining principle of the country's foreign policy. "The government and people of Pakistan join the world community in observing the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (29 November)," Foreign Office said in a statement issued here. "The commemoration of this day is a reminder to the international community that the question of Palestine remains

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Iran vows to reach N. deal in Vienna

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri is leading the Iranian delegation in the talks

DNA

TEHEAN: Iran has said it is firmly determined to reach an agreement with major powers on salvaging its 2015 nuclear deal. "The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran is in Vienna with a firm determination to reach an agreement and is looking forward to fruitful talks," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Saeed Khatibzadeh told reporters on Monday. "The government has shown its willingness and seriousness by sending a quality team known to all. If the other side shows the same willingness, we will be on the right track to reach an agreement," he added. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri is leading the Iranian delegation in the talks. Talks are attended by Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia, while the United States is set to participate indirectly. Khatibzadeh signalled Iran's longtime distrust of the United States. "We are looking for practical verification of the implementation of American commitments under the nuclear agreement," he said, adding that was one of their "main focuses in continuing the talks."

Covid claims 9 more lives

ISLAMABAD: The national tally on Monday of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 13,738 with 176 more people tested positive for the deadly virus while 09 more people died from the disease during the last 24 hours. All 09 corona patients died in the hospital during past 24 hours, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Centre (NCO). During the last 24 hours most of the deaths had occurred in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa followed by Punjab. Out of the total 09 deaths occurred during last 24 hours, 01 of the deceased had died on ventilators during their treatment. – APP

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Abid, Abdullah steady as Pakistan in strong position – Page 06

Azerbaijan, UNDP fulfill joint program for women's rights – Page 07

Omicron poses very high global risk, WHO warns – Page 08

Airports: Taliban govt seeks EU help

Taliban also reiterated its pledge to allow Afghans and foreigners to leave

CENTRELINE REPORT

DOHA: The Taliban asked for help in keeping Afghanistan's airports running in weekend talks with EU officials that also raised "grave concern" about the humanitarian situation in their country, according to an EU statement late Sunday. Both sides sent senior officials to the Qatari capital Doha for the talks, which happened just ahead of two weeks of negotiations between the US and the Taliban due to start Monday, also in Doha. The EU's European External Action Service (EEAS) said in its statement that "the dialogue does not imply recognition by the EU of the interim (Taliban) government but is part of EU's operational engagement, in the interest of the EU and the Afghan people". The Taliban delegation was led by interim foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, accompanied by the interim ministers for education and health, the acting central bank governor, and officials from the foreign, finance and interior ministries

Saudi Arabia calls OIC meeting on Afghanistan

Qureshi says Pakistan supports Saudi initiative

NEWS DESK

RIYADH: Guided by principles of Islamic solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, as chair of the Islamic Summit, and in-line with relevant OIC decisions on Afghanistan, called upon the OIC to urgently convene an

Continued on Page 06



and the intelligence directorate. The EU side was headed by the EU special envoy for Afghanistan Tomas Niklasson, with officials from the EEAS and the European Commission's service handling humanitarian aid, international partnerships, and migration. The EU statement said the Taliban vowed to stick to its promise of "amnesty" for Afghans who had worked against it during the two decades of Western-orientated rule up to the hasty exit and evac-

uation by the US and its allies in August. The Taliban side also re-committed to allowing Afghans and foreigners to leave if they wish so, but "requested assistance for maintaining operations of airports" so that could happen. "The two sides expressed grave concern about the worsening humanitarian situation in Afghanistan as winter is arriving," the statement said, adding that the EU would continue supplying humanitarian aid. The EU side pressed the Taliban to create an "inclusive government", foster democracy, ensure girls had equal access to schooling, and prevent Afghanistan serving as a base for any group "that threatens the security of others". It also suggested that, if the Taliban met EU conditions, that could unlock extra financing for Afghanistan's cash-strapped new rulers but only "for the direct benefit of the Afghan people". The Taliban reiterated they would uphold human rights "in line with Islamic principles" and would welcome back diplomatic missions that had closed, according to the statement.

PML-N doles out ads worth Rs 9 billion

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting on Monday was informed that the PML-N government had given advertisements worth approximately Rs.9 billion to electronic media from 2013 to 2017 while the sitting government had released funds of about Rs.143 crore from 2018-to-date for advertisements to electronic media. The Chairman Committee sought details of spending on government advertisements from 2008-2013 in the next meeting. The Chairman Committee disposed of deliberation on the bill titled, "The Right of Access to Information (Amendment) Bill 2020", moved by Senator Wali Iqbal and Senator Manzoor Ahmad Kakar. The Chairman committee said that due to the absence of the movers for the third consecutive time the consideration on the amendment bill is hereby disposed of. The standing committee received a comprehensive briefing on the amount spent on ad campaigns by the Federal Govt for the periods of 2008-2013, 2013-2018 and 2018 to date. – APP



HYDERABAD: Girls are enjoying the live music of a famous and international Musical band Roxen at a local hotel. – DNA Photo by Jan Ali Laghari

PHMA organizes seminar for exporters on Alibaba

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD. Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PHMA) in collaboration with Hive Technologies organized an introductory Seminar for exporters on Alibaba.com at PHMA House Faisalabad.

Mian Kashif Zia, PHMA North Zone said that Alibaba.com is a leading global wholesale trading platform providing direct business services to millions of buyers and suppliers around the world. He said that most of the businesses have been shifted from virtual to e-commerce due to the pandemic. He said that Alibaba.com has been playing an instrumental role in connecting millions of buyers and suppliers online so that they could grow their business in a highly efficient and profitable way.

Mian Farrukh Iqbal, Former Senior Vice Chairman, while giving a brief introduction of PHMA, said that it is an apex body of Knitwear & Hosiery Garments. "It has more than 2000 members on its roll, comprising large, medium and small enterprises across the country", he said and added that this sector is producing highly value added products and contributing more than 3.8 Billion US dollars towards national exch-

uer. He said that PHMA also has offices in Faisalabad, Lahore, Sialkot and Karachi. Mr. Song Song Country Manager Pakistan & Ms. Jesse Lee Channel Manager of Alibaba.com said that Alibaba.com is a trading platform which provides web portal to buyers and sellers for doing business online so that people could be provided with the necessities at their doorsteps.

Saad Mehmood Khawaja, CEO of Hive Technologies said that the world is now moving towards digital marketing and almost all the countries of the world are working on B2B E-Commerce which is playing a key role in the promotion of online businesses. He said that Hive Technologies is the first company in Pakistan at Faisalabad level to provide Alibaba.com services.

He said that unfortunately the business community of Faisalabad is not on this portal while the business community of Sialkot is fully benefiting from it.

He said that his registration fee in Pakistan is much lower than other countries so we should take advantage of this opportunity and if exporters need any help, they could contact it.

Zohaib Khalid CEO ZK International and Abdul Rehman CEO Talia Apparels shared their Experience and Success Stories with other members on Alibaba.com.

Paigham-e-Sufia conference held

FAISALABAD. The Paigham-e-Sufia conference and mehfil samaa was held at Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan auditorium, here on Monday.

The conference was held in collaboration with Punjab Arts Council and Mashaikh Ittehad Council Pakistan in which ulema from all over the country participated.

Provincial Minister for Culture and Colonies Mian Khayal Kastro was chief guest while Khwaja Muhammad Amir Fareed Koreja Peer Kot Mithan Sharif, Peer Syed Suhail Hussain, Syed Aly Bilal, Hussain Chishti and others especially participated.

The minister appreciated the efforts of organizers and said that the government was taking measures for the promotion of religious harmony.

He welcomed the participation of ulema in the conference and urged the need of organizing such types of conferences on a regular basis. – APP

District Admin mulling open door policy, says DC

He listened to the concerns of citizens about WASA, Waste Management Company, Revenue and other departments and issued instructions to the concerned officers on the spot by calling them

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad has said that open door policy is underway on daily basis and public complaints are being resolved on the spot.

He directed the heads of district departments to satisfy the grievances of the complainants in a satisfactory manner and to abandon the practice of ignoring public issues, undue and unwarranted delays would not be tolerated in this regard. Listening to the problems of the citizens in the office, the Deputy Commissioner said that departmental action against the officers who do not listen to the public issues will not be avoided so they should increase the standard of departmental performance in relation to public relief.

He asked the Assistant Commissioners to address the grievances and problems

of the people at their level responsibly and keep a close watch on the performance of the tehsil offices so that the people do not face any problem in their affairs. He said that there should be no delay in resolving issues that need to be resolved immediately.

He listened to the concerns of citizens about WASA, Waste Management Company, Revenue and other departments and issued instructions to the concerned officers on the spot by calling them. He listened to the problems of senior citizen, men and women and assured them that there would be no delay in departmental action for immediate resolution of their grievances and problems.

Meanwhile, under the anti hoarding campaign, as many as 68396 bags of fertilizer were confiscated from gowdons and sold at notified rate to farmers in the last 15 days, in which 46050 bags of DAP and 22346 bags of Urea. Accord-

ing to the spokesman of District Administration, Assistant Commissioners of the district took action and sealed 27 gowdons in this regard. Spokesman informed that AC City sealed six gowdons and confiscated 2900 bags of DAP and Urea.

Likewise AC Sadder sealed 8 gowdons and confiscated 1596 bags, AC Jaranwala sealed 6 gowdons and 33400 bags confiscated, AC Samundri sealed two gowdons and 2100 bags and AC Tandlianwala confiscated 37400 bags and sealed five gowdons. Spokesman further informed that fertilizer control rooms are function in every tehsil and as well as DC office and received complaints of farmers of overcharging and hoardings.

The banners inscribed of fix price were also pasted outside the shops of fertilizer dealers and monitoring was also carried out by ACs and Agriculture officers.

Governor suggests reserved seats for overseas Pakistanis

LAHORE. Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar, while suggesting reserved seats for overseas Pakistanis in the National and Provincial Assemblies, has said that in addition to the right to vote, overseas Pakistanis should also be represented in the assemblies through special seats.

In Azad Kashmir, the number of seats reserved for overseas Pakistanis should be increased.

A spokesman for the Governor House told media here Monday that Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar expressed these views in a meeting with Lord Mayor Mohammad Afzal, Councillor from Birmingham Wasim Zafar, Mohammad Idrees, Fahim Kayani, Chaudhry Mahmood, Councillor Za-

far Iqbal, Chaudhry Najeeb and overseas Pakistanis.

During the meeting, Lord Mayor of Birmingham Muhammad Afzal entitled Governor Punjab as the representative of overseas Pakistanis. The meeting also discussed various issues including the solution to the problems of overseas Pakistanis and the politics of overseas Pakistanis in the UK.

The Governor said that the PTI government as per its promise, gave overseas Pakistanis the right to vote but 'I think in addition to giving the right to vote, reserved seats in the National and Provincial Assemblies should be reserved for overseas Pakistanis so that they can be a part of important decisions in the country including legislation, and it will definitely help resolve the problems of

overseas Pakistanis in a better way.' Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar said that overseas Pakistanis must participate in the politics of Pakistan but at the same time they must participate in the politics of the countries where they live.

There was a time when Pakistanis were doing politics in Europe more actively than Indians but this is not the case today. In order to increase Pakistan's influence in European countries, it is necessary for Pakistanis to be active in the politics of United States, European countries along with the United Kingdom and apart from local bodies, take part in elections there as well. All Pakistanis must get united and enter into the politics, victory would be their destiny, he added. – APP

15.6mln children vaccinated

PESHAWAR: The special campaign to vaccinate children against measles and rubella diseases ended with the vaccination of 15.6 million children across the province.

According to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Health Department, there were some reports of refusal cases from seven districts of the province among which Peshawar remained at the top where 63 percent of children were vaccinated against rubella and measles. However in other districts, the vaccination ratio was much encouraging as in Upper Chitral, Lower Chitral and Upper Kohistan, 99 percent of children were vaccinated during the campaign. In Khyber district, 95 percent while in Swabi and Kolai Palas 96 percent each vaccination targets were achieved.

The Health Department said during the campaign the target of vaccinating children from the age of 9 months to 15 years was set that has been achieved to its maximum. – APP

Five posts to become police stations

FAISALABAD: As many as five police posts would be upgraded as full-fledged police stations here in the district.

A spokesman said here on Monday that after up gradation, the number of police stations in Faisalabad would reach 47. These police posts include-Tariqabad, Bachiana, Jhok Ditta, City Jhumra and Barnala. The spokesman said the summary for up-gradation had been moved and forwarded to IG Police Punjab. It may be noted that front desks had already been set up at these posts and the biometric attendance system would be activated, he added.

Four women beggars caught

The district social welfare department caught four professional beggar women from different areas on Monday. According to focal person anti-beggary operation Muhammad Tahir, the women were apprehended from Abdullahpur Chowk, Canal Road, Punjab Pulli. – APP



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Health Dr. Azra Pechuho, after press conference about covid vaccines booster shot for new strains, she was keenly reading credible Pakistan's first diplomatic Daily "Islamabad Post" on Monday. –DNA

Sindh Govt to take strict action against hoarders: Khusro Bakhtyar

the Minister said there was an ample amount of urea was available for Rabi season as the government had arranged for additional production of 2,25,000 tons over last year by extending the operations of Northern plants and FFBL till February

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Industries and Production Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar Monday said Sindh-based fertilizer dealers had purchased an extra 1,25,000 tons urea as compared to last year, similarly dealers from peripheral areas of Punjab (adjacent to Sindh) bought 50,000 tons of urea extra as compared to last year for hoarding purpose.

He regretted that unfortunately due to severe negligence of Sindh government, these stocks could not be moved to food-bowl areas of Punjab, thus threatening the Rabi farming season which was matter of our national food security, said a news release.

He reiterated that Sindh government should take measures against hoarder on basis of data of suspected hoarders in Sindh provided by the federal government.

The Minister announced that a new enactment



to reward whistle-blowers was being promulgated to check hoarding and profiteering, by which, a maximum of Rs five million would be awarded to those who would provide credible and actionable

information about hoarding of fertilizers to the government.

Moreover, the Minister said there was an ample amount of urea was available for Rabi season as the government had arranged for additional production of 2,25,000 tons over last year by extending the operations of Northern plants and FFBL till February.

In addition to these measures, the government was finalizing import of urea which would reach to Karachi by mid-December for maintaining buffer stocks of urea.

Earlier, the Prime Minister Imran Khan chaired a meeting on fertilizer supply position, where he lauded the efforts of Ministry of Industries and Production, Punjab government and cooperation from fertilizer Companies for making collective efforts to reduce prices of urea by Rs. 400 in a week. – APP

UET organizes National Ideas Bank

PESHAWAR: The University of Engineering & Technology (UET) Peshawar organized National Ideas Bank (NIB) with KP Minister for Science & Information Technology, Atif Khan as chief guest.

Besides, Vice Chancellor, UET Professor Dr Iftikhar Hussain and faculty members, a large number of students also participated in the event. During the event, the participants presented innovative ideas in education, health, e-commerce, construction, agriculture and national resources.

Addressing the participants of the NIB, the Provincial Minister for Science & Information Technology, Atif Khan termed development in digital technology inevitable for socioeconomic uplift of the province, saying the provincial government is spending hefty funds for various projects including imparting advanced digital skills to the youth.

He was of the opinion that NIB-like functions would prove highly beneficial for the resolution of the local problems, identifications of creative ideas, exhibitions, mutual cooperation among academia, government, industries, society and provision of a central platform to them. – APP

Corps Commander Peshawar calls on Chief Minister

At the meeting both discussed overall law and order in KPK

PESHAWAR: Corps Commander Peshawar, Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed on Monday called on Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mahmood Khan here at CM's Office.

At the meeting both discussed overall law and order in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and issues relating to national importance.

The Chief Minister and Corps Commander Peshawar expressed the resolve for expediting efforts to further improve the law and order in the province, especially in the newly merged districts.

The Chief Minister Mahmood Khan congratulated Lt. Gen Faiz Hameed on assuming his new responsibilities as Corps Commander Peshawar and conveyed

best wishes for him in discharging future responsibilities.

The Chief Minister also lauded the role and sacrifices of the security forces in maintaining peace in the province, especially in erstwhile FATA.

The Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mahmood Khan has appointed two advisors Muhammad Ali Khan Saif and Sahibzada Saeed Ahmad, said a notification here on Monday.

According to the notification, Muhammad Ali Khan Saif has been assigned the portfolio of Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Information and Public Relations while Sahibzada Saeed Ahmad as Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Energy and Power. – APP

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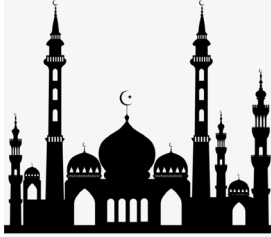
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Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	05:25 am
Zohr.....	11:56 am
Asr.....	03:22 pm
Maghrib.....	05:00 pm
Isha.....	06:27 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....	111 133 133
Marriott.....	051-2826121
Monal.....	0334-5421812



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Emergency

Rescue (Police).....	15
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Motorway Police.....	9266044
Motorway Police.....	9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....	9222596
Rawalpindi.....	9270601-20



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CAA.....	9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....	5611111
MH.....	5611116
Cantt Hospital.....	9270907-11
DHQ.....	5556311-4
RGH.....	9290301-7
Holy Family.....	9290322-7
PIMS.....	9261170-79
Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
Shifa International.....	4603666



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CDA.....	9208301-04
Met Office.....	9250360-6
RDA.....	5555864
TMA.....	5770886
Cantonment Board.....	9270151-3



Complaints

Water Tanker Service E-7, F-10 & F-11.....	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8.....	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8.....	9266316
Wapda Islamabad.....	9217579
Wapda Rawalpindi.....	111-309-309

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....	9209224
Potohar Town.....	9209224
Rawal Town.....	5773343

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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Embassy of Korea organizes 'Korean Night' in Islamabad

The Korean Night opened with the Squid Games series opening video which is Netflix's most-watched series as of November 2021

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Korea in Islamabad organized the Korean Night at the residence of the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea H.E. Mr. Suh Sangpyo on the 25th of November, 2021. This event was held to celebrate Korean culture, art and its music under the theme of the Squid Game. The event was attended by more than 300 high-level dignitaries including Minister MNFSR Syed Fakhar Imam, the Heads of embassies and International organizations, and Pakistani officials, artists and

businessmen. The students of National University of Modern Languages NUML volunteered at the event as the Monitors in the Red suits, while embassy staff dressed in the 456 Protagonist uniforms projected the Squid game themed event. The event is a testament to the growing interest in Korean arts and culture among Pakistanis and the world. The Ambassador commented that events like this reaffirm the cultural exchanges are the most effective ways to make different people friendly. The Ambassador wished that this event could be



a building block towards more solid cultural ties between Korea and Pakistan. The Korean Night opened with the Squid Games series opening video which is Netflix's most-watched series as of November 2021. The participants both young and old participated in the traditional Korean games including Red Light, Green Light (Mugunghwa Kkochi Pieot Seumnida: 'Mugunghwa Korean National flower has bloomed'), Dalgona and Ddakji. Mugunghwa was the first game whereby players competed to reach the Young-hee character and going beyond the finish line while

staying undetected. The Korean Embassy Chief Lee demonstrated the Dalgona Candy making process on stage and then the guests volunteered to play the second Dalgona challenge in pursuit of prizes. Ddakji/Takji was the last challenge where contestants competed with the card-board tiles and flipped the opponent tile to win the game. There was a K-Pop dance performance by Sophia Mujahid and the program ended with a musical duo 'Jinspark' performing with their traditional Gayageum and modern Handpan serenading the audience.

Pearson urges Pakistan to improve English proficiency

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pearson has reached out to Pakistan to improve English language proficiency of those aspiring to get education or job in an English country. Pearson has highlighted the importance of English language proficiency tests to study abroad or even to migrate to other countries. The English language proficiency tests are for aspirants looking to work or study in a foreign country, but whose primary language isn't English, said Premila Paulraj, Director of Employability & Qualifications, South Asia at Pearson. These tests are aimed at determining the language proficiency of aspirants and ensuring that they have the necessary skills to

understand academic/ scholarly writing and communicate effectively with their supervisor, she added. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the education landscape completely and learners were confined to online learning in the new normal. With travel restrictions and stringent checks and balances to movement, PTE is ensuring that the talent across finds appropriate opportunities to learn and work. Beginning 16th November 2021, the duration of the PTE test will be reduced by an hour making it just a 2-hour test, whilst the accuracy of the test remains the same. Waqar Shah, Deputy General Manager, Pearson Pakistan said that, PTE Academic Online has been launched aimed to play a key role in almost all professional environments.

Shafqat lauds women's role in development

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Women are playing a significant role in the development of Pakistan, as a large number of women are rendering services in their respective capacities in different important institutions and sectors. Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood made these remarks at the launch ceremony of a six-day five-module training under the Women Leadership Programme 2021 being organised by National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) in collaboration with the British Council Pakistan. The ceremony also marked the in-

auguration of the All Pakistan Women Universities Consortium (APWUC). In his remarks, Shafqat Mahmood highlighted the importance of NAHE efforts for developing and training heads need to know how to handle finances, he stated while emphasizing the role of university leadership. He emphasized that the government does not believe in gender discrimination in making appointments and selections. The Minister advised the universities to promote

administrative talent at an early age so as that this talent could be honed through training and exposure. Amid the financial hardships facing the universities, the university heads need to know how to handle finances, he stated while emphasizing the role of university leadership. He emphasized that the government does not believe in gender discrimination in making appointments and selections. The Minister advised the universities to promote

skill-based education, as the future belongs to those who have skills. He emphasized that the universities need to ensure quality and relevance of education. "It is important to have a huge number of universities in the country, however, this should not be at the cost of quality." In her welcome address, Executive Director Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr. Shaista Sohail underscored that women have a great role in the national uplift. "We need to utilize their talent and acknowledge their stake in the country's progress," she stated. She noted that leaders are not born, but a person can become a leader through struggle, determination, will-power and vision.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Denmark Lis Rosenholm calls on Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed in his office. - APP

Covid-19 claims two more lives

The report updated that six more were tested Covid positive during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 39,270

RAWALPINDI: Two more people died of fatal coronavirus during the last 24 hours, taking the total death toll to 1601 in Rawalpindi district. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here on Monday, as many as 1601 people had died in the district since the start of the pandemic, out of which 1217 Rawalpindi's residents and 384 from outside districts. The report updated that six more were tested Covid positive during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 39,270 in the district included 36,253 from Rawalpindi and 3017 from other districts. Two were reported from Taxila among the new cases, while one of each patient has arrived from Rawalpindi Cantt, Rawal town, Potohar town, and Chakwal. "Presently, 20 confirmed patients were admitted to five city facilities, counting eight in the Fauji foundation hospital, seven in Institute of Urology, three in Benazir Bhutto and one each in Bilal and Attock hospital," the report said. District Health Authority updated that 37,942 patients had been discharged after recovery, 34,935 with Rawalpindi and 3007 from other districts. - APP

PPP chief grieved over death of journalist Ziauddin

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Monday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the demise of veteran journalist and columnist Muhammad Ziauddin. In a condolence message issued here by the party secretariat, he said after the death of Ziauddin, an era of impartial and responsible journalism was ended in the country. Bilawal Bhutto said that late Ziauddin always spoke about the rights of people through his pen and advocated for democracy in the country. The chairman said the vacuum created by the death of a brave journalist could not be filled and the services rendered for the journalism by the late Ziauddin were unforgettable. Bilawal Bhutto prayed to Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss with equanimity. - DNA



NPO's training on "Policy Making in HRM" on Dec 2

ISLAMABAD: National Productivity Organization (NPO) in collaboration with Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) is going to organize a webinar on "Policy Making in Human Resource Management (HRM)" on Thursday, December 02. The program provides information of making HR and organizational policies, what to add and what to delete, so special about making policies, who are stakeholder, clauses and references in the policies, making policies for new organization, new policies for an old organization, policies implementation, changing the organizational culture through policy formulation, according to official NPO document. The session is designed for everyone doing supervision to all levels, Engineers, Head of Department, Departmental Manager, HR Generalist, HR Business Partner and executive of all function. - APP

New technology to help identify 'ghost employees'

Addressing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony, the minister said strict disciplinary action would be taken against ghost employees, if found in any department

DNA

ISLAMABAD, Nov 29 (APP): Minister for Railways Azam Khan Swati Monday said the newly introduced technology would help identify and remove 'ghost employees' from the Railway departments. Addressing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony, the minister said strict disciplinary action would be taken against ghost employees, if found in any department. Under the MoU, signed between Pakistan Railways (PR) and Akhuwat Islamic Micro Finance, monetary assistance would be provided to railway employees for different

purposes like construction of homes and children's education. Among others, the ceremony was attended by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan, Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Muhammad Afridi, Secretary Railways Habib ur Rehman Gilani, Chairman Akhuwat Micro Finance Dr Amjad Saqib and senior officials of the departments concerned. As per the MoU, Azam Swati said the employees of Pakistan Railways (PR) would get interest free loan to build their houses, adding the government would do its level best to facilitate labour community in line with vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan. "All the facilities will be provided



to the employees of Pakistan Railways who put their maximum efforts to make the department into profitable entity," the minister added. Under this programme, he said initially the interest free loan

for as many as seven labourers of PR had been approved. The minister termed it a historic achievement for the employees and officers of PR, and vowed to continue working day and night for betterment of the railways. Azam said that over 100 trains were running on old track of the entire network of PR due to the hardworking employees and the ministry was doing its level best for the welfare of the employees. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Akhuwat Dr Amjad Saqib said his organization would also provide the loan facility to Railways Police and Porters (Collies) in collaboration with the ministry. "Every Pakistan Railways employ-

ee will be given interest free loan to build his own house under this programme," Dr Amjad added. Dr Amjad said that around 17,000 homes have been built under the Prime Minister's low-cost housing programme so far and the loan recovery from beneficiaries remained 100 percent. He said it was the first-ever interest free loan facility being given to PRs' employees, at the government level and the Akhuwat has also established a university to impart higher education free of cost. He said the PRs' employees could enroll their children in this university, adding that the Akhuwat had assured its full support for the betterment of low-income people.

Gang selling illegal SIMs busted in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cybercrime Wing on Monday claimed to have busted a gang involved in swindling people through fake fingerprints under Ehsaas Programme in Islamabad. According to the details, the gang of fraudsters including women duped innocent people on the pretext of Ehsaas Programme and got their thumb impression on a blank paper. Later, the fraudsters used the fingerprints to prepare silicone thumbs, which were used to activate SIM cards that were used in illegal activities. As many as 2,350 SIMs and 1,980 SIMs jacked that were sold were recovered from the custody of the arrested members of the gang. The arrested have been identified as Abdul Ghafoor, Maria Rehman, Gulnaz Bibi, Razia and Farooq. Further investigation into the matter was underway. Earlier on March 6, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had busted a gang allegedly involved in activating mobile SIMs using fake fingerprints. According to details, the FIA team had carried out a raid in Sardogha and arrested the accused allegedly involved in activating SIMs through illegal means. "We have recovered a laptop, mobile SIMs and fingerprints from their possession," the agency had said. The accused had also used fingerprints to activate fake mobile accounts.

Hospitals register 7 new dengue patients

RAWALPINDI: As many as seven new dengue positive cases had arrived at city hospitals during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of positive cases to 3758 at three public sector hospitals. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control, Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Monday informed that District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) had registered four new patients, two at Holy Family Hospital (HFH) while one patient had arrived at Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH) in 24 hours. He updated that 3730 patients had been discharged out of the total cases reported so far. "Presently, 18 dengue patients are under treatment in HFH out of which 11 are positive, eight positive out of ten in BBH and nine confirmed cases out of the total 12 admitted in DHQ hospital," he said, adding six patients were in a critical position at HFH. Dr Sajjad said dengue fever cases had dropped significantly with weather conditions; however, there was a need to remain alert as dengue larvae breeding can occur in the houses due to indoor temperature favourable for its growing. - APP

Police arrest double murder accused

RAWALPINDI: Police arrested an accused allegedly involved in the double murder case reported in the jurisdiction of Jatli Police Station. A Police spokesman said an effective investigation was launched by Jatli Police where, the most important development in the investigation occurred after finding human remains two days ago. According to the preliminary investigation, the accused Nadeem killed Ashiq after exchange of hot words whereas, later the accused also killed his sister. Superintendent of Police Sadder Kamran Amir, SDP Gujjar Khan and Station House Officer Jatli were also part of the team which arrested the accused. City Police Officer, Athar Ismail said strict action should be taken against the culprits.

Briefs

ANF seizes 24 kg hashish, 9 kg opium

ISLAMABAD: Anti-Narcotics Control (ANF) had seized about 24 kilograms of hashish, nine kilograms of opium and 200 grams of ice near Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad.

According to a spokesperson, the drugs were expertly hidden in a CNG cylinder in the trunk of Margalla Suzuki's car.

During the operation, three suspects, including two women were arrested on the spot by the ANF force.

The investigation has been started by registering the cases against the accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act. In another action, the force foiled an attempt of smuggling 3.5 kg ice at Islamabad international airport to Abu Dhabi. The ANF had arrested Jahanzeb Khan. The investigation is underway as per the ANF laws. — APP

SC dismisses plea seeking dismissal of NADRA officer

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a petition seeking dismissal of National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) Shakargah Incharge Muhammad Boota from service. A two-member SC bench comprising Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed and Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar heard the case.

During the course of proceedings, the counsel for NADRA apprised the court that a woman named Parveen Akhtar visited NADRA center to change her Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC). The woman's husband's name was Irshad Ahmed but mistakenly Usman Yusuf Mobin was written on the card, he added.

He said Usman Yusuf Mobin was the chairman of NADRA at that time.

Upon this, the Chief Justice asked how was it possible that such an error occurred in data entry?

Muhammad Boota said that the woman who entered data incorrectly was reinstated. — APP

PTA blocks 526,082 fake SIMs

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) during the last three years has blocked about 526,082 fake SIMs and 360,569 Computerised National Identity Cards used for getting telecom sector gadgets. The authority also blocked around 86,000 mobile devices that were found involved in fraudulent activities, a senior official of the authority said.

"Blocking of SIMs involved in frauds is a less plenty to the elements looting the peoples, so cause them a financial damage, the authority has blocked about 86,000 mobile devices during last one year," he added.

From November 2020 to November 2021, he said about 600 percent decrease had been witnessed in the sale of fake, illegal SIMs across the country. — APP

US Embassy inaugurates Maker Lab at National Library

US Embassy Public Affairs Minister Counselor Ray Castillo and Joint Secretary 'Maker Lab' inaugurated at Lincoln Corner to equip students with knowledge of modern technology

ISLAMABAD: The state-of-the-art "Maker Lab" was inaugurated at the Lincoln Corner, National Library of Pakistan (NLP) on Monday to equip students with the latest knowledge of modern technology, enabling them to come up with solutions to real-world problems.

The new Maker Lab, which is one of several tech labs in the 19 American Spaces in Pakistan, was established by the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad in partnership with the NLP.

American Spaces in Pakistan conduct Science, technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) programs that focus on teaching 21st-century technology like 3D design and printing, robotics, coding, and virtual reality. By learning about technology and developing new skills, Pakistani innovators can come up with

solutions to various real-world problems. STEAM programs also allow participants to learn about the latest U.S. innovations in the field of science and technology.

The space will serve as a tech lab that will provide young Pakistani inventors, entrepreneurs, and educators with the latest technology and resources to foster innovation. Speaking on the occasion, U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Minister-Counselor, Mr. Ray Castillo said that the Maker Lab at the Lincoln Reading Lounge will be a substantial resource for young leaders seeking to hone their tech skills while deepening their relationship with the United States. He said that a Maker Lab like this is all about "turning knowledge into action" and allows for a true opportunity for personalized, hands-on learning.

Talking to APP exclusively, Mr. Castillo said this lab would emerge as one of the few hi-tech maker labs that exist in the country. "We are providing tools for the creative students to learn the new technologies like 3D printing, robotics, and virtual

reality, etc".

These students will be able to design technologies for solving problems that exist here as well as around the world. "We can add more technologies in this lab with the passage of time", he said.

Such initiatives as well as other educational collaborations will help strengthen the relationship between Pakistan and United States and both countries will get closer and closer. About the criteria of participation in the program, Mr. Castillo said the participant should be a student and have the ability to learn.

To a question about the funding involved in this initiative, he said that the amount of 60,000 dollars is being utilized to get the initial set of tools and to modify the space for the lab.

Speaking on the occasion, Joint Secretary, Muhammad Mureed Rahimoon said that creativity is the secret source of STEAM education. This Maker Lab will prove a catalyst for the youngsters towards self-discovery and enlightenment.

He emphasized mobilizing resources to focus on STEAM education which is crucial for elevating the standard of education in our country at par with the modern world. The Maker Lab staff will hold workshops on the use of 3D printers, 3D scanners, basic robotics, virtual reality headsets, coding, and circuits. All programs and activities of the Maker Lab are free of charge and open to the public.

The appointment can be made by a group to use the Maker Lab through irl.islamabad@lincolncorner.net.

Lincoln Corners are partnerships between the Embassy of the United States of America and selected institutions in Pakistan. Located within universities, public libraries, and cultural centers, Lincoln Corners are multi-media resource centers, where visitors can connect, practice their English, and learn about America in many different ways.

Director-General, NLP, Madaris Mushtaq, other officials, and volunteer trainers were also present on the occasion. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Artists perform during the Foreign Office Charity bazaar. — DNA

Omicron variant: Pakistanis' can return till Dec 5

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) would facilitate all those Pakistanis, stranded in Omicron variant-affected countries to return home, till December 5 under the set Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs).

The travel for stranded Pakistanis would be allowed 'without exemption' but under the prescribed health and testing protocols, the authority said in a recent notification, imposing a 'complete ban' on direct and indirect inbound air travel from seven countries after the emergence of the Omicron virus in South Africa and its spread in adjoining regions.

The authority placed the countries, including South Africa, Hong Kong, Mozambique, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, and Botswana, in the Category-C and completely restricted inbound travel from there.

It elaborated that Pakistani passengers traveling from these countries on 'extreme emergency' would only be allowed after 'obtaining exemptions' and following health/testing protocols like vaccination certificate, negative PCR report (maximum 72 hours old) before boarding, and the RAT (Rapid Antigen Test) on arrival at the airport.

The RAT negative cases would undergo a three-day mandatory home quarantine, followed by the re-RAT on 3rd day by the respective civil administration. While the RAT positive cases would be bound to a 10-day quarantine (at government/self-paid facilities) and the PCR test would be conducted on the 10th day in quarantine. — APP



Ehsaas Scholarship last date extended till Dec 31: Sania

Students enrolled in 4 to 5-year undergraduate programmes of public sector universities are eligible to submit scholarship applications for the year 2021

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar Monday announced an extension in the last date to submit scholarship applications for the year 2021 till December 31. Earlier, November 30, 2021 was the last date for the online submission of applications.

"Given the delays in the admission process at several public sector universities in the country, the last date for Ehsaas scholarship applications has just been extended. The decision has been made to enable a maximum number of deserving students to apply for this opportunity", said Dr. Sania in an official statement.

Since the reopening of the portal in the first week of September 2021, as many as 77,210 applications have been submitted and 23,740 application cases are in process of submission.

The Ehsaas undergraduate Scholarships are targeted at students from low-income families earning less than Rs 45,000 a month and marginalized regions to assist them in their undergraduate studies. 135 public sector universities recognized by the Higher Education Commission are part of this



programme. Students enrolled in 4 to 5-year undergraduate programmes of public sector universities are eligible to submit scholarship applications for the year 2021. Eligible students can apply through an online portal: <https://ehsaas.hec.gov.pk/>.

In the last two years, 142,000 Ehsaas scholarships were awarded to undergraduate students nationwide. This year also, 50,000 scholarships will be awarded to deserving students. The Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholar-

ship covers the hundred percent tuition fee and a monthly stipend.

Recipients who had secured Ehsaas undergraduate scholarship in the last two years will continue receiving scholarship till the completion of undergraduate degree based on their academic performance.

Total budget of the programme is Rs. 24 billion. Over 4 years, 200,000 undergraduate scholarships will be awarded on a need and merit basis. 50% of scholarships are reserved for girls. — APP

"China Culture Day" organised at NUML

ISLAMABAD: The department of Chinese language and literature, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Monday organised "China Culture Day" under the supervision of Dean (FoL) and HoD Chinese. The event was comprised of different cultural performances including Chinese songs, Tea culture, Chopsticks competition, Flute, Dragon show, Ribbon show, Tongue twisters etc. The Dean FoL highlighted the deep rooted Pak-China relations, its rich and ancient history and the future prospects.

She talked about Mao Zedong inspiring Nation making theory and the existing enduring, promoting and co-curricular friendly organisational behaviour towards the organisation development.

All the students and faculty members of the department participated and made the occasion successful and memorable. It was applauded by the guests and audience. — APP

Fawad grieved over Ziauddin's demise

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Husain on Monday expressed deep and sorrow over the demise of Ziauddin, a senior journalist and former editor of Dawn News. The minister said Ziauddin was one of most capable, fiercely independent journalist he (the minister) came across, has left for his final abode.

Ziauddin was no commoner, a wise man - integrity and boldness added to his personality. You will be missed Zia sb," he tweeted.

The services of deceased journalist would be remembered for ever, the minister said. Fawad prayed Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss. — APP

AIUO exams commence from Dec 16

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIUO) is commencing final examinations of programs offered in spring 2021 semester including MA, MSc, M Com, MBA, MLIS, M Ed and PGDs from December 16, 2021.

Date sheet and roll number slips have been uploaded on the university website (www.aiuo.edu.pk) and dispatched to the students as well. Roll number slips, downloaded from the university website, would be acceptable in the examination halls. Examination centres have been established in the nearby vicinities of the students and at the union council level to facilitate them upon the special directives of the Vice Chancellor, AIUO.

Moreover, examinations schedule for MSc (face to face) programs is being finalized and it would be uploaded on the university website soon. It is pertinent to mention here that these examinations will not be taken online.

Exports of readymade garments increase

ISLAMABAD: The exports of readymade garments from the country witnessed an increase of 22.34 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

The exports of readymade garments during July-October (2021-22) stood at \$1158.603 million against the exports of \$947.070 million during July-October (2020-21), according to data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Overall exports of textile commodities witnessed an increase of 26.55 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

The textile exports during the current fiscal year were recorded at \$6021.815 million against the exports of \$4758.473 million last year, according to PBS data.

Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the readymade garments exports witnessed an increase of 21.09 percent during the month of October as compared to the same month of last year. — APP

Business community is playing a vital role: Chairman NAB

Investigation of white collar crimes is very challenging as the crime was committed in one city and property exists somewhere else

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal Chairman NAB said that the Business Community is playing a vital role in the economic development of the country. He said income tax, sales tax and under-invoicing cases of the business community had already been referred to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) as per law.

The Chairman NAB said that NAB is making all out efforts to eradicate corruption from the country.

The Chairman NAB said that investigation of white collar crimes is very challenging as the crime was committed in one city and property exists somewhere else but NAB officers are working with the realization that eradication of corruption from the country is their national duty. Criticizing fake housing societies, he said that the illegal housing societies have plundered the poor persons by posting alluring advertisements despite having no or little land.

Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chair-

man NAB said that NAB has introduced a new concept of Combine Investigation Team (CIT) in order to benefit from the experienced and collective wisdom of its senior supervisory officers. NAB has itself prescribed a timeframe of 10 months in which complaint verifications in two months, inquiries in four months and investigations in four months on alleged allegations of corruption and corrupt practices. Moreover, NAB has established a state of the Art Forensic Science Laboratory with the aim to facilitate / assist in investigation and prosecution.

Furthermore, NAB has established its own Pakistan Anti-Corruption Training Academy at NAB Headquarters with the purpose to train and equip NAB investigation officers/Prosecutors with modern techniques in order to investigate white collar crimes and vigorously NAB cases in the learned Courts. He said that NAB strongly believes in "Accountability for all" policy to eradicate corruption by adopting three pronged strategy of Awareness, Prevention and Enforcement.

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Protecting locals

AFTER intense rounds of negotiations, the federal government has been successful in persuading opposition groups—like that of Gawadar Ko Huqooq Do Tehreek—to postpone their 3-day sit-in which was aimed at protesting against its inability to uplift and protect the rights of the locals in the province. CPEC projects have done well in opening up a host of opportunities that will extract resources from Balochistan but emphasis must be placed on meeting at least some of the legitimate demands set forth by the people. This previous week, the Balochistan government banned fishing and trawling off the Gawadar coast after reports of adverse effects on the local fishing community flooded the media and rightfully so. Fishermen voiced their grievances about how large industries swoop in and rob people of the prospects that they were promised when the project was being initiated. Outside of robbing people of the opportunities that come along with massive developmental projects like this, large businesses also pose a real threat to the marine life of the region. They lack the incentive to follow preservation-based laws and their aim of profit maximisation often comes at the expense of the people and environment. Much like the provincial government taking a stance for its people, the federal government must step up to at least hear out the demands of local groups. A few of the demands being put forward involve the complete blockade of the coastal highway and the Eastbay expressway. Furthermore, they asked for the provincial governments to take over the powers of running the Pak-Iran border from the Frontier Corps and handing it over to their respective district administrations. Some mutual ground can definitely be achieved through more negotiations and there is an onus on the government to factor in such local and environmental concerns.

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Revenue for development

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

ACCORDING to a report released recently, the net receipts of Pakistan's revenue will only suffice debt servicing. It further added that out of the Rs. 100 earned as total net revenue, Rs. 85 were used to pay the debts. In comparison with regional neighbors, Bangladesh used Rs. 20 while India consumed Rs. 51 out of their respective revenues to pay off for the debt servicing. The thorough report was written by Mr. Mehtab Haider, also presented an analysis of Pakistan's fiscal position. It states that FBR collected Rs 4,764 billion in 2020-21. The defense spending was at Rs 1,316.418 billion while Rs. 441 billion were allocated for the federal Public Sector Development Program. To finance the budget deficit, the government borrowed Rs 3,403 billion. This amount equals nearly 7.1% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The report also stated that by September 21, Pakistan's liabilities and debt had crossed Rs. Rs50.5 trillion. The external debt and liabilities rose from \$95 billion in 2017-18 to \$127 billion as of September 30, 2021. Such numbers are not only big on paper, but they also have serious socio-economic repercussions as well. The country needs economic experts and analysts who can provide solace to the common man during these times of rising inflation. With Pakistan's inflation touching the 9.2% mark, the price of commodities and services has increased to unprecedented heights. It is high time the government acts to give relief to the people. While the elite can survive in such harsh times, the economic conditions are not conducive for the emotional and mental state of the middle-class nor for the underprivileged sector. The public and external debt must be minimized at the earliest so that the revenue can be invested in the development of the public sector and providing citizens with amenities to pursue education, health, career, etc.

Alliance of Islamophobes looks to lobby governments

CJ Werleman

“Turkish-Pakistani-Russian joint production of combat UAVs should alarm democracies around the world, and with the recent drone strikes in Kashmir the last two weeks, the addition of Turkish combat UAVs combined with Pakistan’s existing jihadi ground forces poses a real threat and would be a toxic mix for America’s ally India”

AN alliance of supporters of the Indian and Israeli governments have found common ground with an Armenian group looking to push Islamophobic policies in the West. The day after the global financing watchdog, Financial Action Task Force (FATF), added Turkey to its revised list of “jurisdictions under increased monitoring,” joining Pakistan and 21 other countries on what it calls its “grey list,” the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) posted an eyebrow raising tweet. “Retweet if you’re Indian, Armenian, Greek, Kurdish or Hindu, Chinese, Jewish or Muslim, or if you’re pleased to see Pakistan and Turkey held accountable for fostering hatred and financing terrorism,” tweeted ANCA on October 22. More curious still were the inclusions of banners belonging to the Hindu American Foundation (HAF), a Hindu nationalist organization with ties to Hindu supremacist paramilitary outfit Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS); and Middle East Forum (MEF), a pro-Israeli group described by the Southern Poverty Law Centre (SPLC) as an “anti-Muslim think tank.” While commentators have pointed to the formation of an “Islamophobic Alliance” between supporters of the Israeli and Indian governments – which have become united in their respective

subjugation of Muslim populations – with the latter taking a leaf out of the former’s international lobbying strategies, as observed by TRT World earlier this year, the inclusion of a pro-Armenian activist organization makes this alliance a triumvirate. These groups have been feverishly working together to oppose Turkey and Pakistan, wherever and whenever it can, and with help from whomever. A recent press release issued by HAF in support of a US congressional investigation into Turkey’s drone program and sale of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to Pakistan and several other countries. “Turkey’s increasingly destabilizing role, from North Africa to the Middle East, to the South Caucasus, and to South Asia, poses a clear and direct threat to the US, our interests, and to our allies and strategic partners like India, the largest democracy in the world,” stated HAF. “Turkish-Pakistani-Russian joint production of combat UAVs should alarm democracies around the world, and with the recent drone strikes in Kashmir the last two weeks, the addition of Turkish combat UAVs combined with Pakistan’s existing jihadi ground forces poses a real threat and would be a toxic mix for America’s ally India.” HAF said its remarks are shared and supported by MEF and ANCA, along with the Hellenic American Leadership Association (HALC), In Defence of Christians (IDC) and American Friends of Kurdistan. Turkey has become a target for Hindu nationalist groups because of its close ties to Pakistan and China, and the willingness of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to call out India’s human rights abuses against Muslims in India and Kashmir, including his recent address to the United Nations General Assembly, where he restated his commitment to “solving the ongoing problem in Kashmir...within the framework of relevant UN resolutions.”

What really struck Hindu nationalist sensibilities hard, however, was Erdogan’s scathing indictment of the Indian government for its role in inciting the 2020 Delhi Riots, which left more than 50 Muslims dead. “India right now has become a country where massacres are widespread. What massacres? Massacres of Muslims. By who? Hindus,” said the Turkish president during a speech in Ankara last year. Essentially, this Hindutva-Armenian-Zionist triumvirate aims to fulfill several objectives, including: pressuring the US and European Union into sanctioning Turkey and Pakistan; normalising India’s revocation of Kashmir’s semi-autonomous status; weaponising “Hinduphobia” against anti-Indian government op-

ponents the same way pro-Israel groups have used bogus charges of anti-Semitism against their critics; providing diplomatic cover for Israel’s human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian Territories.

This nexus hit the ground running last year, when the pro-Israel and anti-Muslim hate group MEF launched a “smear campaign” against the secular and pluralist US-based advocacy group Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC) by baselessly accusing it of having ties to “violent and extremist” groups and peddling “Hinduphobia,” a smokescreen used by Hindu nationalists. “The term [Hinduphobia], and the violent rhetoric employed by Hindutva supporters, is built on misinformation and fear, which are classic tools of fascism everywhere,” says Shreera Gandhi, an assistant professor of religious studies at Michigan State University.

IAMC responded to these baseless and transparent allegations by pointing to the fact that not only has MEF been identified by SPLC and the Centre for American Progress as an “anti-Muslim hate group,” but also it and its founder Daniel Pipes were cited 16 times in the manifesto of Anders Breivik, the far-right extremist who murdered 77 Norwegian students and teachers in 2012. “The pathetic attacks published in a barely known online publication are laughable for their sheer absurdity. However, they also demonstrate the desperation of Hindu nationalist front organizations in the US to besmirch IAMC, even at the expense of collaborating with racist and xenophobic organizations like MEF that have zero credibility,” said Mr. Rasheed Ahmed, Executive Director of IAMC.

More recently, MEF, HAF and ANCA have been working together to block the sale of F-16 fighter jets and drone technology to Turkey, and arms to Ankara-backed Azerbaijani Armed Forces, while also calling for sanctions against Turkish Airlines and Pakistan. “Under President Erdogan, Turkey has increasingly become an ally-in-name-only, using their NATO membership as a shield to blunt criticism, more than acting like a true ally,” said MEF Washington Project Director Cliff Smith, accusing Ankara of fostering closer relations with Russia at the expense of Israel. This gathering of pro-Indian government, pro-Israel and pro-Armenian groups is not only an alarming revelation but also damning, showing how nefarious anti-Muslim forces are coalescing to advance policies that negatively affect Muslim communities and Muslim majority country in order to advance Hindutva, Zionist and Armenian interests.

— Courtesy: TRT World

Why the world cannot afford the UN to fail

Hafed Al-Ghwel

In the Trump leadership’s protectionist view, US national interests were better served via a raft of lop-sided bilaterals that benefited US military largesse and wealth. Working through few multilateral frameworks, where the balancing of varying interests was fundamental...

THE UN has faced mounting criticism in recent years, but remains the foremost manifestation of a multilateral world order, still well-positioned to navigate the complexities of trying to balance sovereign equality with great power politics in order to preserve and promote relative global peace. However, our world faces an unprecedented confluence of crises that are slowly upending accepted conventions about multilateral cooperation and repeatedly stress-testing its limits. The UN finds itself lacking the capacity to oversee its clear-cut mandates, constrained mostly by its own member states increasingly prioritizing sovereignty – often militarized – interests above the preservation or promotion of regional or global “commons.” In short,

the world is rapidly approaching an inflection point. Should the UN remain curtailed by veto-wielding powers in its Security Council, while funding cuts continue to erode the organization’s capacity to act, it is unlikely its legitimacy will survive, spelling doom for global cooperation at the worst possible time. Beyond the glaring failures at dealing with the pandemic, slow mobilization to counteract the outbreak’s socioeconomic fallout in the developing world, and the ineffectual climate fight, the UN also remains notoriously poor at intervening in conflicts. Its preference for cleaning up rather than pre-empting not only fuels concerns about the UN’s political impotence, but also undermines any UN-led interventions aimed at forging long-term peace. For now, a climate crisis looms – alongside the perennial threat of resurgent COVID-19 waves and mutations, hobbled economies, and a rising tide of socioeconomic ills – that threatens to drown the world’s poorer regions. The Middle East and North Africa, in particular, face growing turbulence as democracy, long thought to be the panacea of most of the Arab world’s troubles, retreats, leaving societies crippled by political upheaval or ripe for extra-territorial skirmishes sparked by far-off interests competing for regional hegemony. Elsewhere, the very powers entrusted with the world’s relative peace now bicker and exchange insults – a symptom of the yet unresolved trauma of the previous White House administration’s flirtation with a fragmented international order. In the Trump leadership’s protectionist view, US national interests were better served via a raft of lop-sided bilaterals that benefited US military largesse and wealth. Working through few multilateral frameworks, where the balancing of varying interests was fundamental to their continued existence, had become a major constraint, especially in in-

stances where Washington became a de facto underwriter of the growth, development and security of others, while its domestic priorities suffered.

In the end, the inevitable US “pivot” has had a profound impact on the UN and most other international organizations’ capacity to act. For instance, a beleaguered World Trade Organization remains crippled by the inability to resolve trade disputes, as well as regulate international trade, while criticisms from farmers, environmentalists, labor groups and policy-makers mount. Stalled talks and largely ineffectual incremental interim agreements have only accelerated the WTO’s slide toward irrelevance.

Additionally, as untenable as it is, the world must push for major reforms in the UN, particularly the composition of the Security Council, to better reflect contemporary geopolitics. The General Assembly alone cannot hope to achieve effective multilateral initiatives without the sponsorship of great powers. Meanwhile, the permanent five cannot hope to safeguard their interests without the backing of an increasingly vocal General Assembly, united by shared woes regarding climate change, the pandemic and stalled economies. Granted, it is largely impossible to return to the heyday of the early UN based on collective security, free trade and self-determination, and neither will America’s return miraculously transform this “me first” world. However, the greatest folly will be to surrender and/or pursue ineffective alternatives in some “new” Concert of Powers in an effort to cure multilateralism’s many ills. After all, the first such concert, in 1815, was successful for a mere three decades, only to end up ushering in a century of tumult that included two world wars. Meanwhile, the post-1945 global order that gave birth to the UN has so far preserved relative peace for close to 80 years. The world must not give it up.

— Courtesy: Arab News

Vaccine nationalism only perpetuates pandemic

Fatima Hassan

Timing matters in this pandemic. As Professor Sarah Gilbert of the University of Oxford has warned, stopping transmission in every corner of the world is vital to stop the virus from evolving and mutating dangerously. As in all parts of the world, African govts have made mistakes in this pandemic. Indeed, my organisation in SA, the Health Justice Initiative, has been vocal about our government’s errors, including on vaccine contract transparency. South Africa also had to contend with serious political violence in mid-2021 and the govt has changed health ministers twice in 12 months

THE United Kingdom and wealthy European nations are in a panic. Unsurprisingly, hoarding huge swaths of the global vaccine supply has enabled the emergence of dangerous new variants of COVID-19. And once again, rich countries are punishing the victims of global vaccine inequality by slamming shut the borders to anyone from southern African nations. Of course, the Omicron variant, as the World Health Organization has named it, has not exclusively been found in Southern Africa. Cases have been discovered in Asia and Europe, including in the UK, but the Global South is being blamed for it, while the means to deal with COVID-19 have been kept from it. This is perfectly fitting with how rich countries have dealt with the pandemic.

At each stage of their response, hopes for collaboration have been junked. Western nations have hoarded – and even binned – vaccines rather than donate them on scale, or on time. For more than a year, the UK and European Union have blocked a proposal from South Africa and India to suspend intellectual property on COVID-19 technologies including vaccines. Most countries in the world recognise this is crucial for scaling up vaccine production to levels needed to end this pandemic. But to leaders like British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, propping up pharmaceutical monopolies is more important. Just seven percent of people in Africa are fully vaccinated and recent data shows only one in four health workers in Africa are fully protected. This is not just morally grotesque, but also dangerous: it creates a breeding ground for new variants. Timing matters in this pandemic. As Professor Sarah Gilbert of the University of Oxford has warned, stopping transmission in every corner of the world is vital to stop the virus from evolving – and mutating dangerously. As in all parts of the world, African governments have made mistakes in this pan-

demic. Indeed, my organisation in South Africa, the Health Justice Initiative, has been vocal about our government’s errors, including on vaccine contract transparency. South Africa also had to contend with serious political violence in mid-2021 and the government has changed health ministers twice in 12 months. This has been compounded by devastating job losses and a hunger crisis, worsened by often irrational travel bans.

But South Africa’s lingering apartheid-era health system, enduring levels of poverty, and year-long inability to obtain decent amounts of vaccines on time meant the government faced an impossible task. For the better part of 2021, with limited global supplies siphoned by the Global North, South Africa was dripped vaccine supplies. AstraZeneca was at first one of the few vaccines trickling into Africa. But disinformation from Pfizer board member Scott Gottlieb questioning the jab’s efficacy and safety, exacerbated by EU leaders, also led to mistrust in the vaccine. Its use was then paused in many African countries, and halted in South Africa, with the emerging Beta variant and Indian export restrictions also factors. The African Union negotiated a new deal with Johnson & Johnson, via Aspen Pharmacare, a company in South Africa. But most of the 220 to 400 million vaccines promised have still not been delivered. Worse, when it mattered most, during our devastating third wave in South Africa, Johnson & Johnson actually exported millions of vaccines that were filled and finished in South Africa, to highly vaccinated nations in Europe and North America.

In August, working with the South African government and Cape Town-based biotech company Afrigen, the WHO started building the first global manufacturing hub to produce mRNA vaccines and share them with the world, dispelling the racist notion that Africa is unable to safely manufacture vaccines. Shamefully, Moderna and Pfizer have refused to share any knowledge with the hub. So African scientists are having to reverse-engineer the process themselves, which could take some time. Sensing a PR crisis, these companies are trying to bypass the hub with parallel partial licensing deals. Far from benevolence, these deals seem designed to undermine the WHO’s efforts.

Along the way, the litany of delays, misinformation, and the secrecy of corporate vaccine contracts with broad indemnification against liability clauses, have fuelled mistrust of vaccine companies – aided by an increasingly well-oiled anti-vaccine movement and politicians seeking to score points. We need a different way of doing things. More than 100 states have been pressing for at least a year for an emergency suspension of intellectual property rights on technologies crucial to end the pandemic. The waiver would make it easier for South Africa and other countries to produce vaccines, especially to scale up supplies for everyone and save lives. But it has been blocked repeatedly by the UK and EU countries, for no good reason. In contrast, South Africa has consistently been a constructive global partner in the pandemic – with hundreds volunteering for vaccine trials and its advanced scientific surveillance systems helping to discover new COVID-19 variants quickly. If we do not want COVID-19 to continue exacerbating the racist and colonial world order, we need change. And believe it or not, it would benefit the UK and Europe, too. Because you cannot impose rigid policies or build high enough walls to keep the consequences of vaccine equality out. We need to pull out all of the stops and remove every barrier to vaccine production – and intellectual property is first among them. We need solidarity and cooperation, not knee-jerk travel bans.

— Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Briefs

Govt urges public to get vaccinated

FROM PAGE 01
but now "we are going to start testing in the high risk areas to check the virus". The minister said the government had also decided to put specific restrictions on international flights and travelers. He said as per news pouring in about the the new variant, it was very dangerous but the vaccination could be proved as effective against the virus. Asad Umar informed that till date, some 50 million people in the country had been completely inoculated while 30 million had received first dose of the vaccine. "In order to minimize the threat of the new variant, I urge all those who had received first or no dose, to please complete the vaccination as soon as possible," he added. He said by taking prompt actions during coming few weeks, the government would be able to reduce the threat of the new virus to minimum level. "Vaccination, Vaccination, and Vaccination is the only way to control the disease," the minister concluded.

Govt beefs up safety...

FROM PAGE 01
decisions that led to successful mitigation of Covid-19 disease spread since the pandemic outbreak. Dr Faisal said due to the recent break out of new Covid-19 variant many deaths had been reported in European countries where non-vaccinated people or those who had delayed their vaccination were mostly infected. He added that the new variant was more transmissible than the previous one infecting people at a fast pace. The SAPM informed that the variant's genetic structure was analysed and observed, adding that the studies revealed it went through mutation. He urged people to adhere to standard operating procedures (SOPs) of mask wearing, vaccination and social distancing. Dr Faisal noted that with better vaccination and safety precautionary measures it could be prevented.

Pak, KSA sign accord..

FROM PAGE 01
the Dr. Reza Baqir in Karachi. It shared that under the deposit agreement, the SFD shall place a deposit of US\$3 billion with SBP and it will become part of SBP's foreign exchange reserves. "It will help support Pakistan's foreign currency reserves and contribute towards resolving the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic," the SBP release said adding that it reflects a strong and special relationship between the Kingdom and Pakistan and will further augment the economic ties between the two brotherly countries.

PM thanks Saudi Crown Prince

FROM PAGE 01
the Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs). Prime Minister Imran Khan also thanked Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman following the Saudi Arabian "generous gesture" of depositing \$3 billion in the Pakistani central bank to support the country's foreign exchange reserves. PM Khan said in a tweet earlier in his official account that he wants to thank His Royal Highness (HRH) Prince Mohammad bin Salman for supporting Pakistan with the deposit of \$3 billion in the State Bank of Pakistan and for "financing refined petroleum product with \$1.2 bn". On the other hand, Minister of Finance Shauqat Tarin called on Prime Minister (PM) Pakistan Imran Khan and briefed him with the news of Saudi oil and financial contribution. Moreover, PM was briefed about the recent addition of revenues which the finance department received from the public sector institutes.

Abid, Abdullah steady as Pakistan in strong position

Shaheen trapped Liton leg-before and then had Abu Jayed out for a duck to complete his fourth five-wicket Test haul, before off-spinner Sajid Khan, who finished with 3-33, wrapped things up by dispatching Tajjul Islam

SPORTS DESK

CHITTAGONG: Pakistan are in a strong position to take a lead in the two-match Test series as they are only 93 runs away from chasing the 202-run target in the first Test in Chittagong. Abid and Abdullah have posted an unbeaten 109-run stand at stumps on day four. Both the batters have scored the fifties. Earlier, Shaheen Afridi claimed a fiver by giving away only 32 runs while Liton Das made a batting set half-century to help Bangladesh settle a decent target. Resuming the day on 39-4, the home side lost Mushfiqur Rahim in the first over to Hasan Ali. First innings' centurion Liton Das put up a fight and scored 59 off 89 balls. Das joined overnight batsman Yasir Ali to prevent further collapse. Bangladesh had a decent partnership but Shaheen's low bounce hit the helmet of Yasir, who retired hurt after making 36.

Meanwhile, off-spinner Sajid Khan trapped Mehidy Hasan leg-before for 11. Yasir's concussion substitute Nurul Hasan didn't survive enough and was caught-behind appeal just before lunch. Shaheen trapped Liton leg-before and then had Abu Jayed out for a duck to complete his fourth five-wicket Test haul, before off-spinner Sajid Khan, who finished with 3-33, wrapped things up by dispatching Tajjul Islam. Pakistan openers Abid Ali and Abdullah Shafique once again gave a brilliant start and reached 38 at Tea. They continued their hard work after the break and finished on 109/0. Abid reached fifty for the second time in the matches and his Test batting average has moved above 50. He has the highest average of any Pakistan opener to have hit 1,000 Test runs. Abdullah also hit the second fifty of the match and batted with a better strike in this innings. Abid and Abdullah are 56 and 53 respectively.



Djokovic likely to skip Australian Open

LONDON: Novak Djokovic is unlikely to play at the Australian Open if rules on COVID-19 vaccinations are not relaxed, the world number one's father, Srđan Djokovic, said. Organisers of the year's first Grand Slam have said that all players will have to be vaccinated to take part. read more Djokovic has so far declined to disclose whether he is vaccinated and his father told Serbia's TV Prva that governing body Tennis Australia's stance on players being vaccinated was tantamount to "blackmail". "As far as vaccines and non-vaccines are concerned, it is the personal right of each of us whether we will be vaccinated or not. No one has the right to enter into our intimacy," news website B92 quoted Srđan as saying. "Under these blackmails and conditions, (Djokovic) probably won't (play). I wouldn't do that. And he's my son, you decide for yourself." Djokovic has nine Grand Slam titles at Melbourne Park, including this year's tournament, and shares the record of 20 men's Grand Slam titles with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. Nadal has confirmed he will play at Melbourne Park in January but Federer will miss the tournament as he recovers from another knee surgery. The Australian Open begins on Jan. 17. - Agencies

EU observers of elections are 'spies': Venezuela

CARACAS: Venezuelan strongman Nicolas Maduro said on Sunday that European Union observers of his country's elections were "enemies" and "spies." "Those who came as enemies, the delegation of spies from the European Union, found not a bit of evidence to criticize the electoral system," he said. The EU mission said local and regional elections in Venezuela had better conditions than the previous ones. However, they also raised concerns about arbitrary bans on candidates for administrative reasons, delays in opening voting centers and "extended use of state resources in the campaign." Maduro said they were trying to "stain" the electoral process of Venezuela. The EU mission did not immediately make a statement on Maduro's comments. It was the first one in 15 years to observe elections of the country. It included 1,000 observers who monitored voting in 22 out of 23 elections. The mission flagged some irregularities, and a full report will be presented in two months. Mission head Isabel Santos said "some laws affected the equality of conditions, the balance and the transparency of the elections." Opposition politicians contested for the first time since 2017, but Maduro's ruling party won 210 mayoral races. Other parties won only 3 out of 23 governorships. Some elections were yet to be called. Votes for Maduro's socialist party went down to fewer than 4 million from the 5.9 million in 2017. "The European Union couldn't stain the electoral process, it was impeccable, beautiful," said Maduro. - Agencies



Pakistan, China sign MoU to deepen tourism cooperation

BEIJING: Pakistan and China on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding on expansion of bilateral tourism, exchanges and cooperation. Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque and Chinese Vice-Minister of Culture and Tourism Zhang Xu signed the MoU from both sides at an august signing ceremony held at the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism in Beijing.

The event was also attended by senior officials from the two countries and media representatives. The MoU signing was a part of activities to commemorate the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries being celebrated this year. The MoU envisages upgrading tourism cooperation between Pakistan and China as outlined in the China Pa-

kistan Economic Corridor (CEC) Long Term Plan. As per the MoU, both sides would enhance their bilateral tourism cooperation in a coordinated manner for the sustainable development of tourism industry. The MoU seeks to cover all aspects of tourism cooperation from policy formulation and institutional support to development of tourism products and expanding business to busi-

ness (B2B) linkages. It would particularly assist Pakistan to upgrade its tourism infrastructure and facilities and develop a sustainable ecosystem for spurring domestic and international tourists' inflows. Both sides have also decided to establish a Joint Working Group to implement the MoU and initiate specific projects in the two countries with mutual consultation.

NZ draw opening Test against India

KANPUR: Debutant Rachin Ravindra and number 11 batsman Ajaz Patel survived intense pressure to help New Zealand draw the opening Test against India in Kanpur on Monday. Chasing a target of 284 for victory on the final day, New Zealand slumped to 155-9 with nearly nine overs to go and an upbeat India was pressing for victory in fading light. But Ravindra and Patel battled resolutely to deny India and guided New Zealand to 165-9 when bad light stopped play. Ravindra faced 91 balls for his 18 not out, while Patel survived 23 balls to be unbeaten on two. Tom Latham top scored for New Zealand with 52, but it was New Zealand's unbroken last-wicket partnership which saved the match for them. After a wicketless morning session, India claimed three wickets in the second session to take charge, though they eventually had to settle for a draw. Ravindra Jadeja (4-40) and Ravichandran Ashwin (3-35) took the bulk of the wickets for the hosts. The second and final Test starts in Mumbai on Friday.

Waseem reclaims WBC silver flyweight title

KARACHI: Pakistan's most successful professional boxer and the only one from the country Muhammad Waseem made a comeback with style as he became the World Boxing Council (WBC) silver flyweight champion for the second time. Waseem defeated Columbia's Rober Barrera after a unanimous decision in Dubai on the night of November 26. The win will help Waseem fulfil his life-long dream of becoming the world champion. Waseem rose to prominence in professional boxing in 2015. Before that, he was representing Pakistan and had won Commonwealth and Asian Games medals, along with a gold medal at the World Military Games. He holds the impeccable record of 11 wins and only one defeat that too came during a title bout in 2018 against

South Africa's Moruti Mthalane. However, Waseem had been determined to bring the glory home. After the International Boxing Federation title bout loss to Mthalane, Waseem went on to fight three more times, with the last fight in Lahore against Philippines' Jeny Boy Boca. With the win in Dubai, according to Waseem's social media updates, he has qualified for the WBC and World Boxing Association world title bout.

Turkey ready to mediate between Ukraine and Russia

ANKARA/MOSCOW: Turkey is ready to act as a mediator between Ukraine and Russia, President Tayyip Erdogan was cited as saying by broadcaster NTV on Monday, despite having angered Moscow by selling armed drones to Kyiv earlier this year amid tensions in eastern Ukraine. U.S., NATO and Ukrainian officials say Russian forces have massed on the border of Ukraine, which is also battling Moscow-backed separatists who control part of its territory in the east. Ukraine's military intelligence has said Moscow was preparing for an attack in early 2022. Russia has



to Kyiv, angering Moscow. Speaking to reporters on a flight from Turkmenistan, Erdogan was cited as saying by NTV and other media Turkey wanted the Black Sea region to be in peace, adding he was discussing the issue with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin frequently. "Whether it is as a mediator or speaking to them about the issue, by holding these talks with Ukraine and Mr Putin, God willing, we want to have a part in the solution of this," he was cited as saying. Asked about Erdogan's offer, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov declined to comment. - APP

Russians knock holders Spain out of Davis Cup

Kazakhstan and Croatia also reached the last eight. Dan Evans' surprise 6-2, 7-5 loss to world number 143 Tomas Machac left Britain needing to fight back to secure a second straight win and take top spot in Group C

SPORTS DESK

PARIS: Russia knocked reigning champion Spain out of the Davis Cup on Sunday to set up a quarter-final against Sweden. The Russians' tie against the depleted Spanish team came down to a late-night doubles encounter in Madrid. Andrey Rublev and world number five Andrey Rublev won 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 against Marcel Granollers and Feliciano Lopez to win Group A and deprive the Spanish team of the chance to play in front of a home crowd in Madrid on Thursday. The Russians, playing under the name of the Russian Tennis Federation because of sanctions against Russian sport for doping, made a bad start to the tie when Lopez beat Rublev 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the opening singles rubber. US Open champion Daniil Medvedev stepped up to bring the tie level with a 6-2, 7-6 (7/3) win over Pablo Carreno Busta, before the doubles decided the match. Britain booked their place in the last eight with a come-from-behind victory over the Czech Republic on Sunday and will play Germany in Innsbruck on Tuesday. Kazakhstan and Croatia also reached the last eight. Dan Evans' surprise 6-2, 7-5

loss to world number 143 Tomas Machac left Britain needing to fight back to secure a second straight win and take top spot in Group C. But Cameron Norrie overcame a second-set blip to see off Jiri Lehecka 6-1, 2-6, 6-1, before Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski teamed up to beat Machac and Jiri Vesely 6-4, 6-2 in Innsbruck. "We've been underdogs and managed to get

wins. The Czech team played well - very young team. Machac turned into a top 20 player overnight!" British captain Leon Smith told the BBC. The ties in Austria are being played behind closed doors due to new coronavirus restrictions in the country. France, after winning against the Czechs and losing to Britain, are out of the tournament. Germany backed up their shock



victory over Novak Djokovic's Serbia by fighting back to edge out hosts Austria and go through as Group F winners. Serbia had to settle for second place but progressed to a quarter-final against Kazakhstan in Madrid on Wednesday as one of the best runners-up. Dominik Koepfer lost 6-1, 7-5 to Jurij Rodionov to put the Germans in trouble, but Jan-Lennard Struff levelled the tie by cruising past Dennis Novak 7-5, 6-4. Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz completed the job in the doubles, as they did against Djokovic and Serbia on Saturday, winning 6-3, 6-4 against Oliver Marach and Philipp Oswald. Croatia just needed to win one rubber against Hungary to wrap up first place in Group D and the 242nd-ranked Nino Serdarusic did just that in the opening match against Fabian Marozsan in Turin. His 6-4, 6-4 success helped avoid a nervy finish to the tie for the two-time winners, as Marin Cilic lost the second singles 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 to impressive Hungarian youngster Zsombor Piroos. Italy will have the advantage of home support when they face the Croatians in Turin on Monday. Kazakhstan moved into the knockout stage by downing 2019 runners-up Canada in Madrid.

Saudi Arabia calls OIC meeting...

FROM PAGE 01
Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting to discuss the humanitarian situation in the country and pathways for an urgent humanitarian response. Pakistan has offered to host this meeting, in Islamabad on Dec. 17, 2021. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi says Pakistan supports Saudi Arabia's initiative of convening an Extraordinary session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers on Afghanistan. In a tweet on Monday, he said we have offered to host the session in Islamabad on the 17th of next month.

'Strong faith a blessing...

FROM PAGE 01
the flow of information, it was important to give "informed choices" to youth by telling them about right and wrong. To any future incident of blasphemy against the Prophet (PBUH) committed in the world, he said he would encourage the nation to rather demonstrate an "intellectual and reasoned response". He regretted that calling someone Kaafir (infidel) on difference of opinion on religious beliefs was a dangerous trend, that needed to be shunned through intellectual debates. The prime minister mentioned that his government introduced the singular national curriculum to end the unjustified three parallel education systems, i.e., English medium, Urdu medium and madrasah, that was resulting in creation of ideologically different streams of youth in the society.

Only PPP can pave...

FROM PAGE 01
day of the party, Chairman PPP said that Pakistan Peoples Party is a revolutionary movement based on the ideology of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the philosophy of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, and the struggles and sacrifices of many generations. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that even in face of the most difficult circumstances, PPP had given the country and the nation a rich strategic gift, including the country's first unified constitution, nuclear program guaranteeing invincible defense and missile technology, provincial sovereignty, and agrarian and economic reforms. Other hallmark achievements of PPP include making Pakistan the hub of the Islamic world politically by organizing Islamic Summit and Pak-China friendship, the CPEC project. "Today, I salute all the jiyalas who sacrificed their lives for the cause of democracy, endured the hardships of imprisonment, deportation, and undemocratic forces, and also faced sponsored media trials," stated Chairman PPP. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that party officials and workers possess the unwavering courage and determination to carry out the unfinished mission of Quaid-e-Azam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. They are the ones who are breathing a new life into their struggle.

Pakistan supports Palestinian people: FO

FROM PAGE 01
must shoulder its responsibility to protect the lives and fundamental rights of the Palestinian people, and play its rightful role in promoting a just and lasting resolution of the Palestinian question in accordance with international legitimacy in the interest of durable peace and stability in the Middle East. The international community should also ensure accountability for the widespread violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in the occupied territories, it added. "We renew our call on this day for a viable, independent and contiguous Palestinian State, with pre-1967 borders, and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital being the only just, comprehensive and lasting solution of the Palestinian question, in accordance with the relevant United Nations and OIC resolutions," the statement concluded.

Briefs

Tarin directs FBR to expand tax base

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin has directed the FBR to launch the taxpayer outreach initiative at the earliest to expand the existing tax base and boost the revenue collection. He was chairing a meeting on broadening of tax base by the FBR in Islamabad Monday. According to a press statement here, Chairman FBR and his team gave a detailed presentation on the progress on readiness for potential taxpayer outreach initiative to boost the revenue growth and resource mobilization. Chairman FBR apprised the Adviser that pragmatic steps have been initiated for compilation of data, with the support of NADRA, which would be available to potential and current taxpayers in a presentable and comprehensible manner through a web portal. Key challenges to reach out potential and current taxpayers, public awareness and confidence building measures taken by FBR were also discussed in the meeting.

Allocation of new EC members on Dec 8

DNA

LAHORE: The Parliamentary Committee decided to reschedule the conference for allocation of new Election Commission members to December 8 as the conference held on Monday dissolved without any decision. Pertaining to the allocation of two members of Election Commission (EC), a conference was held under the presidency of Chairperson Sherry Rehman. Various ministers including Federal Minister Asad Umar, Azam Swati, Fawad Chaudhary, Manzoor Kakar, Shahid Akhtar Ali and Senator Taj Haider attended the meeting. Moreover, Rana Sananullah, Minister of Defence Pervez Khattak, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Azam Nazir Tarar attended the conference through a video link. In addition, the opposition demanded that the decision must be done on the fair and transparent basis following merit. The government's ministers said that the opposition must consult with each other. It granted time on the demand of opposition due to the conduction of Lahore elections. The one who fulfills all criterion of merit will be accepted, the government stated. Moreover, the government ensured to observe the perimeters of merit carefully.

Fauci urges vaccines as US on 'high alert'

WASHINGTON: Senior government scientist Anthony Fauci said Monday the United States was on "high alert" for the new Covid-19 variant and urged people to get vaccinated after Canada confirmed its first cases of the new strain. "No confirmed cases (of Omicron) but obviously we're on high alert," Fauci said on ABC's "Good Morning America." Fauci also encouraged people to get coronavirus vaccines or boosters quickly, rather than waiting for pharmaceutical companies to tailor doses specifically to the Omicron variant. "A variant like this, although there's a lot we don't know about it, one thing we do know is that vaccinated people do much, much better than unvaccinated people, and particularly when you boost someone," he said. "When you get vaccinated and boosted and your level (of antibodies) goes way up, you're going to have some degree of protection, at least against severe disease," Fauci said. - APP

Omicron poses very high global risk, WHO warns

"Omicron has an unprecedented number of spike mutations, some of which are concerning for their potential impact on the trajectory of the pandemic," the WHO says

NEWS DESK

GENEVA: The heavily mutated Omicron coronavirus variant is likely to spread internationally and poses a very high risk of infection surges that could have "severe consequences" in some places, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday. No Omicron-linked deaths had yet been reported, though further research was needed to assess its potential to resist vaccines and immunity induced by previous infections, it added. Anticipating increased case numbers as the variant, first reported last week, spreads, the U.N. agency urged its 194 member states to accelerate vaccination of high-priority groups. "Omicron has an unprecedented number of spike mutations, some of which are concerning for their potential impact on the trajectory of the pandemic," the WHO said. "The overall global risk ... is assessed as very high."

South Africa's President calls for lifting of travel bans

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's president has condemned travel bans enacted against his country and its neighbours over the new coronavirus variant omicron. Cyril Ramaphosa said he was "deeply disappointed" by the action, which he described as unjustified, and called for the bans to be urgently lifted. The uk, eu and us are among those who have imposed travel bans. Omicron has been classed as a "variant of concern". Early evidence suggests it has a higher re-infection risk. The heavily mutated variant was detected in South Africa earlier this month and then reported to the world health organization (who) last Wednesday.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO director-general, said Omicron's emergence showed how "perilous and precarious" the situation was.

The variant is responsible for most of the infections found in south africa's most populated province, Gauteng, over the last two weeks, and the number of cases of "appears to be increasing in almost all provinces" in the country, according to the WHO. South Africa reported 2,800 new infections on Sunday, a rise from the daily average of 500 in the previous week. Government adviser and epidemiologist Salim Abdool Karim said he expected the number of cases to reach more than 10,000 a day by the end of the week, and for hospitals to come under pressure in the next two to three weeks. But health minister Joe Phaahla said there was "absolutely no need to panic". - Agencies

"Omicron demonstrates just why the world needs a new accord on pandemics," he told the start of an assembly of health ministers expected to launch negotiations on such an agreement. "Our current system disincentivizes countries from alerting others to threats that will inevitably land on their shores." The new global deal, expected by May 2024, would cover issues such as sharing of data and genome sequences of emerging viruses, and of any potential vaccines derived from research. Scientist Richard Hatchett, CEO of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), a foundation that funds vaccine development, said Omicron's emergence had fulfilled predictions that transmission of the virus in areas with low vaccination rates would speed its evolution. "The inequity that has characterized the global response has now come home to roost," he told the talks, noting that Botswana and South Africa had fully vaccinated less than a quarter of their populations.

Ex-Defense Secy sues Pentagon

WASHINGTON: Former US Defense Secretary Mark Esper filed a lawsuit Sunday against the Pentagon, as Defense Department officials asked for around 60 pages of redactions from his forthcoming memoir. Esper has said the cuts are "crucial to telling important stories" of his time in former President Donald Trump's cabinet, according to the suit. The forthcoming memoir, "A Sacred Oath," is scheduled for publication by William Morrow in May 2022. In a statement, Esper said the Department of Defense had "arbitrarily" redacted the manuscript he submitted. His lawyer Mark Zaid wrote on Twitter: "Esper is highest-ranking official to ever sue." - Agencies

Morocco to push for Israeli-Palestinian talks: King

RABAT: Morocco will push for a resumption of Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, King Mohammed VI said Monday, almost a year after his country renewed ties with the Jewish state. "Morocco will continue its efforts, building on its position and its excellent relations with all sides and relevant international actors, to provide the appropriate conditions for a return to the negotiating table," the monarch said in a televised address. Morocco renewed official relations with Israel in December last year, two decades after it cut ties with the outbreak of the second Palestinian intifada or uprising. The rapprochement came amid a string of normalisation deals between Israel and Arab countries, brokered by the Trump administration. In a speech, delivered on the UN-organised International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, King Mohammed stressed Morocco's "total solidarity with the Palestinian people" and its right to an independent state alongside Israel. He called for trust-building efforts and urged both sides "to refrain from actions that obstruct the peace process". The king, who heads the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's Al-Quds committee charged with protecting Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem, warned against any attempt to change the city's "juridical, historic and demographic" status. - APP

Sweden's first female PM returns after resignation

NEWS DESK

STOCKHOLM: Sweden's first female prime minister has been reappointed to the top job after political turmoil forced her to resign within hours of taking the post last week. MPs backed Social Democratic Party leader Magdalena Andersson by a narrow margin in a new vote on Monday. She will attempt to lead a one-party government until an election in September next year. She stood down as prime minister last Thursday after her coalition collapsed. Just hours earlier, Ms Andersson had been elected as Sweden's first female prime minister by a single vote in parliament. But the 54-year-old economist's plan for forming a new coalition government with the Green Party was thrown into disarray when her budget proposal failed to pass. Instead, parliament voted for a budget drawn up by a group of opposition parties, including the far-right Sweden Democrats. The Green Party said it would not accept a budget drafted by the far-right and walked away from the government, leading to its demise.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Omer Ayub Khan witnessing the signing ceremony, document signed by CEO of Saudi Fund for Development Sultan bin Abdulrahman Al-Marshad and Secretary Ministry of Economic Affairs Mian Asad Hayaudin at Ministry Economic Affairs. - DNA

Election for vacant Senate seat on December 20

DNA

PESHAWAR: Election Commission of Pakistan on Monday issued schedule for holding of election on the seat vacant by Senator, Muhammad Ayub Afridi and announced that polling on it would be held on December 20, 2021 at KP Assembly. According to a Public Notice issued by the Provincial Election Commissioner KP here on Monday, nomination papers could be filed from November 30 to December 2 while names of nominated candidates would be published on December 3. Similarly, December 6 has been fixed as the last date of the scrutiny of nomination papers while December 8 is fixed for filing of appeals against acceptance or rejection of the nomination papers. The last date fixed for disposal of appeals by the tribunal is December 10 while revised list of the candidates would be published on December 11 and last date of withdrawal of the candidature is December 13. The polling would be held on December 20 at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly. The Election Commission has called upon the members' provincial assembly of KP to elect a member to general seat in the Senate of Pakistan from KP, which has been fallen vacant due to resignation tendered by Muhammad Ayub as senator, who was elected against the seat in Senate Elections 2018 from KP province.

Xi promises Africa 1 bn Covid vaccine doses

DIAMNIADIO: China's president pledged to offer Africa one billion Covid vaccine doses on Monday, with the continent struggling to acquire enough jabs to immunise against the disease. In a speech made via videolink to a China-Africa summit near Senegal's capital Dakar, President Xi Jinping said his country would donate 600 million doses directly. A further 400 million doses would come from other sources, such as investments in production sites, which are sorely lacking across much of Africa. Xi's promise comes as part of a forum between China and African states with an emphasis on trade and security, among other issues, held in the city of Diamniadio near Senegal's seaside capital. - Agencies

Australian photographer captures the beauty of Pakistan

I kept hearing locals and friends speak about the beauty of Gilgit Baltistan and the dramatic mountain landscapes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Australian High Commissioner on Monday opened a photography exhibition, 'Mythical Landscapes' by Australian photographer and blogger Gaynor Shaw at Satrang Gallery in Islamabad. "After arriving in Islamabad two years ago, I knew I needed to tell a different, more positive story about Pakistan. I started this blog 'Postcards from Pakistan' to share not just the photos but stories from my travels throughout Pakistan," the Australian photographer said. Gaynor's fascination with northern Pakistan started with her trip to the Northern areas of Pakistan, Gilgit, Hunza, and Skardu. She was captivated with the beauty and grandeur of

these magical landscapes, which she captured through her lens in this series of photographs. "I kept hearing locals and friends speak about the beauty of Gilgit Baltistan and the dramatic mountain landscapes. I knew that I had to visit and see this magical landscape for myself. My trip started in Gilgit, then on to Hunza, across to Skardu, Shigar, and ended in Khaplu. I came across stories of Shangri-la, myths and legends, and mountaineering heroes such as Ali Sadpara. The descriptions I read of these breathtaking places do not do them justice, I hope my photographs do," Ms Gaynor Shaw added. Speaking at the event, the Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Dr Geoffrey Shaw said, "Today's exhibition showcases the timeless beauty of

a truly spectacular part of the world. I'm sure it will help build further the cultural connections between our two countries, as well as promote the colourful, vibrant and diverse culture of the region." "Art can often speak things that words cannot. It has a unique capacity to evoke emotions, to foster understanding and to connect people, including the people of Australia and Pakistan," the High Commissioner added. Founder Director of Satrang Gallery, Asma Rashid Khan said, "Satrang Gallery has always strived to promote art and artists from different countries as we believe art and culture build the best bridges between people and places. We are honoured to be showcasing the works of Gaynor Shaw in Mythical Landscapes."

Supreme Court adjourns Ali Wazeer's bail application

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday adjourned till Tuesday the post-arrest bail application of Member National Assembly (MNA) Ali Wazeer. A three-member SC bench comprising Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel heard the bail after arrest plea. During the course of proceedings, Justice Sardar Tariq said that

the case was mistakenly added to another bench. On Friday, the court had ordered to fix the case before the same bench, he added. MNA Mohsin Dawar appeared before the bench on behalf of Member National Assembly Ali Wazeer. He said that the counsel could not come to Islamabad after hearing adjournment of the case. Just Tariq asked Dawar to call the counsel and the court would hear

case tomorrow (Tuesday). He asked the Prosecutor General Sindh why didn't he appear in court? The Prosecutor responded that he was present before the bench on court orders. Justice Tariq said that the bail application case had been pending for five months. Later, the court adjourned hearing till Tuesday on plea of Mohsin Dawar. - APP

Gwadar to play vital role in improving livelihood

He said that China was ready to work with Pakistani side to jointly promote high quality development of CPEC and build and operate it well

BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin on Monday said that Gwadar Port would play a bigger and positive role in improving the livelihood of Pakistan and China and build even closer community of shared future between the two countries. "All programs under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) including the Gwadar port will play a bigger and positive role in improving the livelihood of the two countries and build even closer community of shared future between China and

Pakistan," he said during his regular briefing while responding to a question asked by APP. He stressed that CPEC was a landmark project and pilot program under the Belt and Road Initiative since its launch in 2013. "The CPEC has achieved fruitful outcomes and Gwadar port is leading in the CPEC programs and focuses on development and benefits people's well being," he added. The spokesperson remarked that the completion of Faqeer Community School, Gwadar vocational training school and the Medical



Center had provided opportunities of education and employment to the local people and played an

important role in responding to COVID-19 making China's contributions. He said that China was ready to work with Pakistani side to jointly promote high quality development of CPEC and build and operate it well. Responding to a question, he reiterated that the CPEC had long focused on people's livelihood benefiting people's lives and had won warm welcome from local people. China is ready to work with Pakistan to promote the building of CPEC and steady and sound development for more benefits for the

local population. In a recent interview, Chairman of China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), Zhang Baozhong said that Gwadar, an important component of the multi-billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would become the logistic hub in the region within five years. He informed that in spite of the negative pandemic impact to business development, more than 100,000 metric tonnes of Afghan cargo had been handled at the port. - APP

THE HAGUE: Dutch health authorities said Monday they have found another case of the new Omicron Covid-19 variant among passengers arriving from South Africa, bringing the total to 14. "With the help of sequencing, it has now been confirmed in 14 people that it is the Omicron variant," Health Minister Hugo de Jonge said in a letter to parliament. De Jonge had on Sunday announced 13 Omicron infections. They were among 61 passengers who were confirmed with coronavirus, out of 624 travellers who arrived in Amsterdam on two KLM flights from South Africa on Friday. Analysis of the samples "suggests that the people affected may have the virus most likely contracted in several places and in any case not during the flight", de Jonge said. The results of further samples under analysis are expected later Monday. Dutch authorities have ordered the 61 people who tested positive for Covid to remain in quarantine, and most of them are in a hotel near Schiphol Airport. A couple fled the hotel on Sunday, but border police arrested them on a plane that was about to take off for Spain and the pair are now in isolation in hospital. - APP