

# Islamabad POST

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**OIC calls for urgent unified action on Afghanistan situation**

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**World should fund Afghan food, health**

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**Bilawal directs KP workers to report rigging**

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## Briefs

**Shibli escapes attack on vehicle**

DNA

DARRA ADAM KHEL:

Minister for Science and Technology Shibli Faraz on Sunday escaped an attack unharmed as he was on his way from his ancestral town of Kohat to Peshawar city. Unidentified assailants attacked his car, shattering the windows. Faraz told the media that he is safe but his driver has been injured and is being transported to Peshawar for medical attention. Varying accounts of the nature of the attack have surfaced.

**Iranian FM presents 4 proposals**

DNA

ISLAMABAD:

Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hossein Amirabdollahian presenting four proposals to help the people of Afghanistan says the people of the neighboring state need urgent humanitarian assistance and the establishment of a financial fund among Islamic countries is necessary to achieve this goal. He went on to say the Islamic Republic of Iran considers sustainable security and political and social stability in Afghanistan to be in line with the collective interests of the entire region.

**Weak Afghan govt good for no one**

DNA

ISLAMABAD:

Afghanistan's acting foreign minister Amir Khan Motaqi said that the United States must unfreeze billions of dollars of Afghanistan as the country desperately needs cash. Speaking at the OIC's extraordinary session on Afghanistan, Amir Khan Motaqi said that weakening the government of Afghanistan will not benefit anyone. He said that drought, COVID-19, and the stoppage of foreign aids have contributed to the already fragile economic situation of Afghanistan and called on the member states of OIC to provide Afghan people with humanitarian aids.

# Palestine and Kashmir issues also echo during the moot OIC calls for unified action on Afghanistan

OIC Secy General says, the OIC is ready to carry out a follow-up of the outcome and to play its role in supporting humanitarian action; Turkish Foreign Minister calls for separate Palestine state; economic difficulties could trigger a humanitarian crisis: Saudi FM

ANSAR M BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Muslim world leaders attending the extraordinary session of OIC countries' foreign ministers, Sunday called for an immediate and unified action to avert the looming humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan which otherwise could impact world peace.

Addressing the opening session of the 17th extraordinary Session of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers to discuss the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the leaders were unanimous to call for the OIC's role to protect the brotherly country from an economic collapse.

In his address, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said that the economic difficulties could trigger a humanitarian crisis and lead to further instability, impacting impact regional and international peace. He said the people of Afghanistan have suffered for too long and had faced years of instability. The Saudi FM said that the OIC meeting expressed solidarity with the Afghans and drew the world's attention towards the need for immediate action to put an end to the deteriorating situation. He also urged OIC member states to play a part in providing the Afghans with the necessary support and to prevent an economic collapse in the country. He told the gathering that Saudi Arabia had recently airlifted food supplies on the



OIC Secretary-General Hisein Ibrahim Taha

directives of King Salman bin Abdulaziz and also condemned terrorist actions targeting minorities in Afghanistan. OIC Secretary-General Hisein Ibrahim Taha thanked the member countries for electing him to head the OIC and also thanked Pakistan for the warm welcome.

"We thank Pakistan and its people for playing host to the Conference, which is yet another expression of the country's full commitment to the advancement of the issues of the Muslim Ummah, and its concern for promoting peace and security in the region," he said.

"This effort gives a universal message of harmony and solidarity," he said, adding that the Afghan issue has always been high on the OIC agenda. "The OIC has always taken a strong position which



Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan

supports its member countries," he said adding that the Muslim world body called for the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

The OIC secretary-general said that the role of OIC members in delivering humanitarian assistance was more important now than ever before as the pandemic had exacerbated existing challenges. "We commend the humanitarian assistance provided by some member states to the Afghan people. We also call for all parties concerned to cooperate with the OIC mission in Kabul to provide relief to the affected Afghan people," he said.

"We call all Afghan parties to put the interests of their people first, protect their lives, keep away from violence and bring lasting peace in fulfilment of their aspira-



Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu

tions and hopes for stability, decent living and prosperity," Taha said. "The OIC is ready to carry out a follow-up of the outcome and to play its role in supporting humanitarian action in coordination with the relevant OIC missions and relief agencies across the Muslim world," he said. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, who spoke on behalf of OIC Asia Group, said the solidarity with the Afghan people was OIC countries' moral obligation and religious duty.

He said the OIC should play a leading role in mobilizing international support for the Afghan people and called for a coordinated mechanism for supporting the Afghan people. The Turkish foreign minister also urged the world to support Pakistan's efforts and called the establishment of a



UN Under-Secretary-General Martin Griffiths

Trust by the Islamic Development Bank a step in the right direction. Mevlut Cavusoglu also underscored the need for enhanced engagement with the Taliban to achieve peace and stability in Afghanistan, adding that the inclusive government and respect for women's rights would increase the legitimacy of the Afghan government.

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths said Afghanistan's economy was now in free fall and if we do not act decisively and with compassion, this fall will pull down the entire population with it. Martin Griffiths said the need for liquidity and stabilization of

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## PM calls for devising immediate strategy

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has called for devising an immediate medium and long term strategy to address the dire humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, warning any chaos there will not be in anybody's interest.

Addressing the inaugural session of extraordinary session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Islamabad on Sunday, Imran Khan said he is impressed with the Islamic Development Bank's suggestions of medium and long term measures to help the Afghan people and make their economy sustainable.

The Prime Minister warned Afghanistan is heading for chaos and the biggest man made crisis is unfolding there which needs immediate action on behalf of the international community especially the OIC, the United Nations, the US and the European Union.

Imran Khan said the big responsibility rests with the OIC countries as it is our religious duty to help the Afghan people. He said the United States must delink the issues of human rights from humanitarian assistance. He said that we are already late in extending help to the Afghan people as the harsh winter



season has already set in. He said this is also a country which has been affected by the breakout of COVID-19. He said the world community must also show sensitivity to Afghan culture. The Prime Minister pointed out that forty years of conflict coupled with prolonged drought, years of corrupt governance, dried up foreign aid and freezing of the banking system has aggravated the situation in the country. He said any country in such kind of situation will collapse. He said such a situation will have serious consequences including mass exodus of refugees.

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## Malaysian Saudi, FMs call on PM

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister conveyed cordial greetings to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques His Majesty King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Appreciating the Saudi initiative to convene the Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the Prime Minister expressed the hope that the world would not repeat the mistake of disengaging with Afghanistan. He urged the international community to support the vulnerable people of Afghanistan. To alleviate the sufferings of the Afghan people, the Prime Minister highlighted that

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## Joint Declaration of OIC Conference Islamabad

The resolution calls upon the Islamic Development Bank to expeditiously operationalize the Humanitarian Trust Fund by the first quarter of the next year

ALI FURQAN

ISLAMABAD: The extraordinary session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Islamabad on Sunday unanimously passed a resolution, envisaging establishment of a Humanitarian Trust Fund to serve as a vehicle to channel humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan including in partnership with other international actors. The resolution calls upon the Islamic Development Bank to expeditiously operationalize the Humanitarian Trust Fund by the first quarter of the next year. The OIC, through its resolution, called on the OIC Member States, the Islamic Financial Institutions, donors and other international partners to announce pledges to the Humanitarian Trust Fund for Afghanistan as well as to provide humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. Taking into consideration financial constraints of Afghanistan, the forum called for unfreezing Afghanistan's financial assets to prevent an economic collapse and help revive the economic activity. The OIC decided that a process will be commenced with the UN system organizations to devise a road map for mobilizing actions at the relevant fora to unlock the financial and banking channels to resume liquidity and flow of financial and humanitarian assistance. The organization also decided to launch an Afghanistan Food Security Programme, urging the Islamic Organization for Food Security to undertake necessary work in this regard. It decided to appoint a special OIC envoy on Afghanistan to coordinate aid and assistance efforts, and pursue economic and political engagement with the country. It was agreed that the OIC will play a leading role in the delivery of humanitarian and development aid to the people of Afghanistan. The forum stressed for engaging with donor financial institutions to provide necessary humanitarian and economic assistance to Afghanistan as well as Afghan refugees in neighbouring countries.

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Yow & Wing become Asian Squash champion - Page 06

NATO will not let Russia dictate its military posture - Page 07

Outrage as man beaten to death at Golden Temple - Page 08

## Pakistan proposes mechanism for support for Afghanistan

The foreign minister called for increasing the investment, bilaterally or through OIC platform in the education and skill training of Afghan youth

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday proposed a six-point strategy for addressing Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis, food security and economic revival besides the institutional capacity building to counter-terrorism. The foreign minister, also chair of the session, in his opening address at the 17th Extraordinary Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of Organization of Islamic Cooperation, started here, proposed for creating a vehicle within the OIC countries to bring a sustained humanitarian and financial support. Convened by Saudi Arabia as OIC chair and hosted by Pakistan to discuss the Afghanistan humanitarian crisis, the session is being attended by around 20 foreign ministers, 10 deputy foreign ministers and 70 delegates. The foreign minister called for increasing the investment, bilaterally or through OIC



platform in the education and skill training of Afghan youth. He proposed the establishment of an experts' group of OIC and UN to consider ways and means to ensure the revival of the legitimate banking service in the war-torn country. The foreign minister also called enhanced engagement with Afghanistan to fulfill the international community's expectations for bringing political and social inclusivity besides ensuring respect for human rights particularly women's rights.

## Pak at forefront in helping Afghanistan

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farukh Habib said on Sunday Pakistan has always been at the forefront in helping neighbouring Islamic country Afghanistan. Talking to media before start of Extraordinary meeting of the Council of OIC Foreign Ministers he said Pakistan has been hosting 4 million Afghan refugees since many decades. After 41 years, an extraordinary

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## World should fund Afghan education, health

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad said on Sunday that if the international community was not willing to politically recognise the Afghan government it should at least directly spend on education, health and food sectors to avert any crisis. In a special media talk he said Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Foreign Ministers' Conference was a major moot on Afghanistan.

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He commended Saudi Arabia for convening the session as OIC chair and trusting Pakistan to host the extraordinary moot. Besides other delegates, he also welcomed the Secretary-General OIC for rapid mobilization and arrangements for the session on short notice.

He said the gathering of OIC leaders at the short notice also reaffirmed their commitment to address the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

Calling it a matter of survival, the foreign minister said over half of the Afghan population faced food shortage, which made the population of two-thirds UN member states. He said Pakistan had hosted an OIC session on Afghanistan in 1980 and after 41 years, Pakistan was obliged to host another session on the humanitarian crisis in same country as the sufferings of the Afghan people had not ended. Qureshi referred to the World Food Program, which warned that

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# APS incident a turning point in the history of Pakistan

“Hence we must laud the book “Wafa Ki Tasveero” which has compiled and documented this tragedy for the coming generations

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Terrorist attack on Army Public School (APS) Peshawar on December 16, 2014 is one of the most tragic incidents in the history of Pakistan which played a major role in promoting unity among the nation against terrorists and helped Pakistan Army to crush them with an iron hand, said Additional Commissioner Coordination Muhammad Imran Raza Abbas. Inaugurating a book titled “Wafa Ki Tasveero” authored by the Muhammad Aslam Shahzada, he said that the geo-political changes in the region had promoted terrorism and being front-line country Pakistan was worst hit by it. “Pakistan has to suffer more than one hundred billion dollars in financial losses in addition to offering approximately seventy thousand precious human lives”, he added. He termed APS incident as a turning point in the history of Pakistan which

bolster the nation ideological, paving way to flush out the menace of terrorism from the country. Sympathizing with the parents of martyred students, he said that after seven years of this tragedy every Pakistani feels the pain of this incident along with their parents. He said that such incidents must be remembered to take necessary measures to check recurrence of such incidents in future. “Hence we must laud the book “Wafa Ki Tasveero” which has compiled and documented this tragedy for the coming generations. Mr. Imran Mahmood Sheikh Senior Vice President FCCI said that children are actually our future asset but terrorists had martyred them with extreme brutality. “This created hatred against the terrorists who are also ashamed of this gruesome carnage”, he said and added that it is very difficult for parents to bury their siblings and nation is also sharing their sentiments. “However, they are contented and

proud of the fact that the blood of their children has brought peace in this country”, he added. He said that we are thankful to the parent’s of the martyred children as due to the sacrifices of their loved ones we are now living in peace.

He also appreciated Muhammad Aslam Shahzada and said that his book will keep refresh the courage and valour of the nation to continue to fight against the terrorism. The children from different schools delivered emotional speeches to highlight the fortitude of the martyred children and their parents.

Later, SVP Imran Mahmood Sheikh presented a cash prize of Rs. 5000 to a young orator for delivering a beautiful speech. He along with Vice President Rana Fayyaz Ahmad also presented FCCI shield to Mr. Muhammad Imran Raza Abbas Additional Commissioner Coordination while certificated were also distributed among the prominent speakers and children.



## Cop killed, 3 injured as truck falls upon them

FAISALABAD: A police constable was killed while three others sustained multiple injuries in a truck accident, in the area of Dijkot police station. Police said on Sunday that constable Basharat Ali and three others were busy in dragging out a car from a roadside ditch near Jahangir Mohr at Samundri Road when a truck loaded with bricks fell upon them. As a result, Basharat Ali died on the spot while Waqem (25), Zubair (25) and Junaid (28) sustained multiple injuries and they were shifted to District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital for treatment. — APP

## CS inspects healthcare facilities at DHQ, AHF

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Secretary Kamran Ali Afzal on Sunday paid a surprise visit to DHQ Hospital, Allied Hospital Faisalabad and inspected the emergency, urology, surgical, dengue and various wards. According to handout issued here, he inspected the medical facilities, sanitation and other arrangements being provided to the patients. Later, the CS also visited General Bus Stand Shelter Faisalabad. The CS expressed displeasure over the poor cleanliness condition in Allied Hospital and directed the authorities concerned to further improve the arrangements in this regard. However, Kamran Ali Afzal lauded the initiative of hospital administration to appoint staff for the guidance of the patients. He inquired the patients about the facilities being provided to them. He asked them about the availability of medicine and other facilities. He also asked them that they can

tell him if they have any complaints in this regard. Patients expressed satisfaction over the behaviour of doctors and other paramedical staff and facilities available in the hospitals. The CS further stated that better look after of the patients could be ensured by displaying true spirit of humanity. He directed the doctors and other paramedical staff to treat the patients in a well manner. He also directed to ensure the best medical facilities, availability of medicines and attendance of staff should be ensured. Punjab Chief Secretary Kamran Ali Afzal assured that required resources would be provided for ensuring the provision of better health facilities besides further improving the standard of health services. He said that adequate funds would be allocated for district hospitals in the annual development programme. — APP

## Chairman Tevta welcomes Hybrid Training Programs

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Engineer Asim Munir Chairman TEVTA (Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority) Board of Management Faisalabad and Chinioi has welcomed hybrid training programs for Pakistani diploma engineers in collaboration with Chinese organization TANG and Zalami Foundation. Under this program fifty Diploma Engineers will get two years training in Pakistan and later, one-year practical sessions in China. Engineer Asim Munir was appreciative of the innovative approach of Mr. Salman Siddique Chairman TEVTA Punjab who has been introducing new and productive techniques to upgrade the professional’s skills of the Pakistani youth. He said that trained Pakistani diploma engineers would be accommodated in new and hi-tech industries being setup in Pakistan with foreign collaboration. He said that this trained manpower could also be exported to earn precious foreign exchange for the country.



PESHAWAR: An aged woman casting her vote at Frontier College Polling Station during Local Government Elections 2021-22. — APP

## Govt approves additional funds for development

1.5 billion rupees would also allocated for DDP II fr next financial year. He said that the schemes of parliamentarians would also completed from 4.5 billion development package

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: The meeting of District Coordination Committee was held under the chairmanship of District Convenor Chairman Standing Committee, MNA Faizullah Kamooka in the committee room of DC office. Punjab Minister for Colonies & Culture Mian Khayal Ahmad Kastro, Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad, Parliamentarians Sheikh Khurram Shahzad, Ch. Ali Akhtar, Adil Pervaiz Gujjar, Latif Nazar and Firdous Rai were participated. DD Development Rana Tahir, MD WASA Jabbar Anwar, CEOs Education and Health Ali Ahmad Siyan, Dr. Kashif Mehmood and other officers were also present. District Convenor said the house that CM Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has approved additional funds of 4.5 billion rupees for the completion of fast moving development schemes during current financial year and schemes of District Development Package I and ADP would completed and citizens would facilitate in

roads, health and other sectors. He said that the new development chapter would started after completion the schemes. He further informed that 1.5 billion rupees would also allocated for DDP II fr next financial year. He said that the schemes of parliamentarians would also completed from 4.5 billion development package. Parliamentarians thanked the CM Punjab for approving additional funds for Faisalabad and stressed the concerned departments to pull up the schemes so that could completed in time. Deputy Commissioner gave detailed about fast moving schemes and directed the heads of department to participate in the meeting himself and solved the issues presented from parliamentarians during the meeting regarding betterment of public.

**District Price Control Committee meeting held**  
The District Price Control Committee meeting held at DC office under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad, in which consultation with wholesalers,

retailers, traders and consumer representatives has re-fixed the wholesale and retail prices of various essential commodities. During the meeting, reviewing the current market prices of various essential commodities and fluctuations in their availability rates, the prices of various essential commodities for the general markets were unanimously fixed. According to the detailed the Basin would be sold at Rs 142 per kg in wholesale while the retail price was Rs 147 per kg. Similarly, gram white(mota) Rs 192 per kg and Rs 198 per kg respectively White gram(break) at Rs 176 and Rs 182 per kg, black gram(mota) at Rs 132 and Rs 136 per kg, black gram(break) at Rs 127 and Rs 132 per kg, pulse gram(moti) at Rs 134 and Rs 138 per kg. Pulse gram breek Rs 126 and Rs 130 per kg, Pulse mash washed foreign Rs 247 and Rs 252 per kg, Pulse mash unwashed foreign Rs 224 and Rs 230 per kg, Pulse Masoor will be sold at Rs 189 and Rs 195 per kg, pulse masoor(breek) at Rs 206 and 210 per Kg. Rice super basmati (old) at Rs

131 and Rs 136 per kg. Ari rice Rs 53 and 58 per kg, milk at Rs 95 per kg, yoghurt at Rs 100 per kg, meat at Rs 950, Beef Rs. 450 per kg, flour 20 kg bag at Rs.1100,10 kg bag at Rs. 550, open flour at chaki would be sold at Rs 62 per Kg. Roti Rs. 7 per kg weighing 100 grams, khameri roti 8 rupee, naan 120 gram price 10 rupee and coal would sold Rs. 80 per Kg. The prices of fruits and vegetables will be auctioned in the daily markets while the prices of poultry products will be provided by the Livestock Poultry Association to the Secretary Market Committee at 7 am daily in consultation with the Livestock Poultry Association. Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad said that price control magistrates were active in conducting raids in the markets and there would be no concession from illegitimate profiteers. He directed the PCMs to ensure the price list at every shop. He asked the consumers to register complaint regarding over price at Toll free number 080002345 it would resolved quickly.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Quraishi recied Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Tahsin Ertugruloglu at the eve of 17th Extraordinary Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC. — DNA

## Over 5.106m people vaccinated against Covid in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: Over 5.106 million people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the district. District Health Officer Dr Ataul Mun'im said on Saturday 3,239,842 people were injected first dose while 1,800,622 administered the second dose of vaccine. He further said that 38,431 health workers were also given first dose while 28,075 received the second dose of vaccine. He said that sufficient stock of coronavirus vaccine was available in the district. As of now 212,707 first doses and 141,804 second doses were in the stock in Faisalabad. He said that 37 vaccination centers and 20 mobile vaccination camps were operational in Faisalabad where registered people were being vaccinated. In order to facilitate the people, these centers had been established in various areas of the city including Allied Hospital, District Head Quarters Hospital, Government General Hospital G.M Abad, Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology, Government General Hospital Samanabad, Children Hospital, sports Complex Samanabad, Tehsil Head Quarters Hospital Jaranwala, Samundri, Tandlianwala, Chak Jhumra, Sports Complex Chak Jhumra, he added.

He further said that timing of these vaccination centers was 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. except Sports Complex Samanabad center which remains operational round the clock. — APP

## KP LG Polls: Clashes at several polling stations

DNA

PESHAWAR: Several people were killed and injured after clashes erupted between supporters of different political parties at several polling stations of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In Peshawar’s Tehsil Shah Alam clashes erupted outside woman polling station after supporters of a political party tried to enter the station. Police have also arrested a man from ladies polling station in Pishtakhara area. In Khyber, shots were fired and furniture of polling station was damaged, while a scuffle also erupted between polling agents in Charsadda. Another scuffle between candidates in Dera Ismail Khan injured one person; however, police have arrested the suspects. In Buner, workers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) traded blows and damaged furniture of the polling station. At least two people were killed and three others sustained injuries in a firing incident Sunday at a polling station in the Takht-e-Nasarati Tehsil of the Karak district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The incident happened when the polling for KP’s local body election was underway.

However, the polling was subsequently stopped after the situation turned chaotic there. According to the report, one of the deceased was a paternal cousin of PTI’s MNA Shahid Khattak, while the other was his bodyguard. Per eyewitnesses, the assailants fled the scene after opening fire at the polling station.

On the other hand, armed men attacked polling stations in Zalkha Khel and Landi Kot areas of Khyber District, as a result of which ballot boxes were smashed and polling materials were also damaged.

Armed men also broke into the polling station at Malik Nadir Shah School in Landi Kot Bazaar, smashed ballot boxes, damaged election materials, and took the election staff hostage. Due to the disorder, polling has been suspended in 20 polling stations. Angry mob stormed polling station in Mehmoodkhal area of Tehsil Banda Daud Shah, smashed ballot boxes and set all the votes on fire. Also in Darra Adam Khel, the polling process was stopped at various polling stations due to clashes.

Polling was also suspended in a polling station of Jamrud after two candidates of general councillor clashed. Police fired aerial shots to disperse the crowd.

## Ten hurt as bus overturns

FAISALABAD: Ten people including a bus driver were injured in a bus accident, in the area of Dijkot police station on Sunday morning. Rescue-1122 spokesman said the accident took place on Samundri Road near Darbar Dalowal where a moving bus overturned after its driver lost control over the steering wheel. — APP

## Firefighter Kashif Anar Abbasi remembered

KHAYAM ABBASI

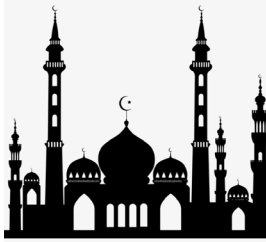


MURREE: Thirteen years have passed since the martyrdom of Kashif Anar Abbasi, a firefighter of Punjab Emergency Service, Rescue-1122.

Thirteen years ago, on December 20, 2008, the worst fire in the famous shopping center Gakhar Plaza in Rawalpindi took place. Kashif Anar Abbasi Shaheed was performing his services as a firefighter in Rescue 1122. During the fire, he entered the plaza to rescue the people trapped in, but unfortunately, the plaza suddenly collapsed and Kashif Anar Abbasi along with his 13 other firefighters came under the rubble of the plaza. In recognition of his services, the Government of Pakistan also awarded him “TamGha-e-Shujaat”. He is the first martyr of Punjab

Emergency Service, Rescue 1122 who laid down his life for humanity. Kashif Abbasi Anar Abbasi served in many tragic incidents as a highly professional firefighter during his career. On the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the Kashif Anar Abbasi, his brother Raheel Anar Abbasi said that we are proud of his great martyrdom and this mission of service to humanity will be continued. He further said that these great martyrs are certainly our pride and their services will always be remembered.

## SERVICES



## Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	05:38 am
Zohr.....	12:05 pm
Asr.....	03:25 pm
Maghrib.....	05:02 pm
Isha.....	06:32 pm



## Hotels &amp; Restaurants

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



## Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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## Emergency

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Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....	1122 & 16
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Motorway Police.....	9270601-20
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Rawalpindi.....	9270601-20



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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



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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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## Women MPs foresee positive outcomes of OIC moot

The women members of the National Assembly showed their optimism that hosting such an important gathering of OIC after over 40 years was an honour for country

## STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The women parliamentarians on Sunday expressed the confidence over the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) saying the ongoing 17th extraordinary session of the Council of Foreign Ministers would yield positive results and ensure proper humanitarian and relief assistance to the people of landlocked neighbouring country.

After attending the inaugural session of the moot attended by the Foreign Ministers of members, delegates, international observers and media, the women members of the National Assembly showed their optimism that hosting such an important gathering of OIC after over 40 years was an honour for the country. "The statements and stance given at the special session showed that there would be a road map by evening for averting serious looming humanitarian

crisis in Afghanistan," said Parliamentary Secretary for Law and Justice Barrister Maleeka Bokhari while talking to media. She said the way Pakistan was taking steps for people of Afghanistan sent a message to the Afghan brethren that Pakistani nation stood by them in this hour of need. Bokhari said it was collective responsibility of the all to rebuild war affected country. Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Kan-

wal Shauzab said that after attending the inaugural session she felt that there has been a consensus among the Muslim Ummah over carrying out immediate relief activities in Afghanistan. She reiterated Prime Minister's call to the world of delinking the current regime in Afghanistan with its population which was facing extreme hunger, harsh cold weather and economic crisis. Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul said that Prime Minister Imran Khan was the true

leader of Muslim Ummah as he has been presenting the case of Afghan people in befitting way. Currently, Pakistan is the only regional country which has been providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan, she added. She said unstable Afghanistan would have serious impact not only on the region but on the entire world. Parliamentary Secretary for Commerce Alya Hamza Malik said, "Today, every Pakistani is feeling proud of Prime Minister Imran

Khan who has perfectly highlighted the problems of Afghan people at the special conference." She said the world should respond to Prime Minister Imran Khan's call for unfreezing bank accounts of Afghan government at the earliest. Alya Malik said Prime Minister Imran Khan was the leader of the entire Muslim Ummah as he did not only raised issues of Afghanistan's people rather also mentioned Kashmir and Palestine issues.

## IESCO issues power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Sunday issued a power suspension programme for Monday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 09:00 am to 02:00 pm Jail Park, Makkah Chowk, MES, Bostan Road, Sector-4, Jhangi, EME Complex, P&T Winnipeg, Dhok Awan, Zaraj Housing Scheme, New Rawat, Bhara, Kahu, T&T, Athal, Angoori, Treat, Golf City, Sheghan, Adiala Jail, Shahpur, Khasala, Chawa Syedan Shah, New Rawat, Mansoor Shaheed, Nara, Abrar Shaheed, Kambili Sadiq, Fazal Ahmad Shaheed, New Chawa, Ghazni Khan, Thackeray, RTM, KTM, Coral, F-6/2, Sohtran, Club-1, CDA Flats, Chara, F-10/4, G-10/1, NPCC-II, I-10 / 1, G-11/4, F-11 Tower, T&T, Sunny Bank, Cecil, Ghadiyal, Upper Topa, Tret, Tamasa-mabad, City, Jinnah Road, Dhok Hasso, Khayaban Sir Syed, Abu Bakar, Kataria, Faizabad, Nora Road, People's Colony, Misryal Road, NRC, Amir Hamza Colony, Bajniyal, Azizabad, Pind Hoon, Bank Road-1, Tipu Road, Rehmatabad-1, Swan Garden-II, Murree Brewery, Khadim Hussain Road, Shahpur, Sarai Kharboza, Kala Khan, Hazro, D Hook Fateh, Fawara Chowk, Mansar, Shahnaka, Vesa, Soni, Beato, Mort, Rata Feeders, From 08:00 a.m. to 05:00 pm Bathar Feeder, From 09:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Commercial Center, Farooq Azam, Fourth Road, E-Block, Shaheed M. Deen, Abu Bakr, Abdul Rehman, Beatoot, Kasran, Chhaji Mar Feeders and surrounding areas. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Jordan in a meeting with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. - DNA

## Rights of Minorities in Islam: Lesson learning from history

NUSHWA SHARIF AND AROOJ IQBAL

THE heads of true Muslims in general and that of Pakistanis in particular always bow down in disgrace and shame whenever some odd happens at the hands of religious bigots and orthodox. The recent lynching tragedy of Sialkot led to the dismay and serious concerns over misrepresented Shariah on the rights of minorities in Pakistan. The moral principles, as defined in Islam and as duly to be enjoyed by the legal citizens of Pakistan, are often wrongly conceptualized and manipulated. Under such situation, perception dominates the truth and thus causes grave repercussions on the cultural fabric of society. Being an Islamic state, the Constitution of Pakistan ensures safety, security and protection of all faiths and religions in order to minimize the consistent discrimination. In reality, Islam, as a religion of peace, condemns acts of violence and extremist behavior on the part of its followers. Islamic history is the witness of this fact as many Islamic states demonstrated peace and harmony in their governance system.

The city state of Madinah belonged to a diverse population in terms of religion, caste, creed and culture. It was a miracle that the generations of "period of ignorance" learnt to live in peace. Moreover, during the Conquest of Makkah at the time of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.W), in the 8th year after Migration, it was announced as 'Yaumul Marhamah' (Day of Mercy) for the non-believers. Such was the exemplary gesture of the Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.W) towards those who physically and mentally tortured him. Yet centuries later, an act of brutal violence, witnessed by many, became a debatable issue. Furthermore, in the Caliphate Period, rulers like Hazrat Umer Farooq (RA) and Hazrat Usman (RA) established peace and protection for religious minorities as citizens of Islamic empire. Every individual's needs were met and honored irrespective of the question of faith. While the Abbasid Caliphate progressed as the golden time period of Islam, the concept of a pluralistic society was observed to be coexisting, as the right of freedom to practice and propagate religion was secured. In this regard, trials of justice were also held by the judicial systems. The manifestation of peace, safety and protection as citizens of Paki-

stan should be implemented to all religious groups, beyond bigotry, taking in the model of Islamic empire as a whole itself. History leaves an important lesson for all of us to learn that it was always Islam that saved us from any odds of life; not Muslims who have ever saved Islam. Islam being complete code of life is the real saviour of humanity in all complexities of individual's life and that of the civil society. So, it has inherent characteristics of making peace, progress and prosperity. The problem lies in some of the half-hearted and hard-hearted followers who misinterpret the love and peace narratives of Islam just for their petty benefits. The Muslims who are snatching the rights of minorities are going against the true spirit of Islam and the Constitution of Pakistan. We must keep this aspect in mind that whenever the fundamental rights of minorities are subjugated, it is not the Islam that is problematic rather it is the orthodoxy of bigots that deteriorate the image of religion. Such orthodoxy should always be condemned at mass level for the sake of dignity of humanity.

The writers are Graduating from Air University, Islamabad, Pakistan.

## NTDC accelerates work on grid stations

ISLAMABAD: The National Transmission and Despatch Company Limited (NTDC) is expanding its infrastructure by constructing transmission lines and grid stations to meet the growing demand of electricity across the country expeditiously. In order to check the progress of the 500 kV substation Faisalabad West and 220 kV Lalian grid station, the Managing Director NTDC Engr. Manzoor Ahmad visited both sites of grid stations on Sunday, said a press release.

During the visit MD NTDC was apprised that overall 80 percent construction work of the 500 kV Faisalabad West Grid Station and around 60 percent work on 220 kV Lalian Grid Station near Chinioot has been completed so far. The MD NTDC inspected and had detailed coordination meeting with NTDC team and Contractors of both the projects and directed them to speed up the pace of work through close collaboration to meet the stringent timelines. Engr. Manzoor Ahmad said that 500 kV grid station

Faisalabad West is being constructed with the cost of Rs. 9379 million spread over 90 acres of land. Two transformers of 750 MVA and 3 transformers of 250MVA will be installed at the Grid Station. Construction work on 40 km associated 220 kV transmission line is also underway. It is pertinent to note that two 500kV transmission lines for said grid station have already been completed and energized. However, 220 kV grid station Lalian is being constructed with a cost of Rs 360.77 million. The MD NTDC directed to complete 220 kV Lalian Grid Station before coming summers. The projects will strengthen transmission network of both NTDC and FESCO and will help to address the issues of overloading, low voltage and forced load shedding in FESCO region. The completion of the project will facilitate and help to tackle the increasing demand of electricity of domestic, industrial, commercial, and agricultural consumers of FESCO. - APP

## Health Card in Rwp from Jan 22: CEO Health

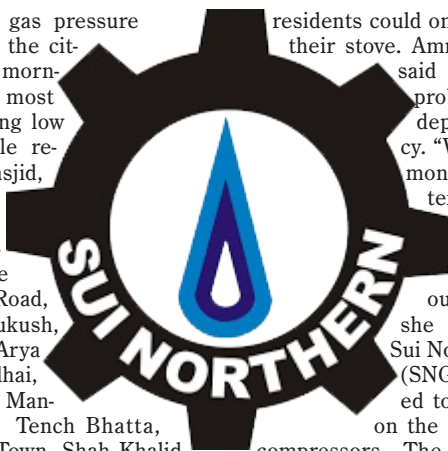
RAWALPINDI: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) District Health Authority Dr Faiza Kanwal has said that the Sehat Insaf card Programme was a revolutionary step of the present government to provide better healthcare to people. She talked to APP and informed that health cards would be started in the Rawalpindi division from January 22. The CEO said that up to Rs 1 million treatments would be provided to the cardholder. Faiza said the card would be given to the family head and added that it would be provided per the National Data Base Registration Authority's record. The health officer said that the five-day anti-polio campaign, which began in the entire district, including cantonment boards areas on December 13, has been extended for one day to reach thousands of children who remained unattended or their parents refused to administer polio drops during the campaign. She informed that around 25 thousand children below five years of age had missed the immunization while 99 per cent target of the drive had been achieved. - APP

## Low gas pressure irks residents

Pressure was so low in some other localities that residents could only see a tiny flame in their stove

RAWALPINDI: Low gas pressure continued to bother the citizens, especially in morning hours where most vicinities were getting low gas pressure. People residing in Jamia Masjid, Waris Khan, Akal Garh, Dhoke Dalal, Karimpura, Committee Chowk, Dhoke Khaba, Umer Road, Dhoke Elahi Bukush, Nadeem Colony, Arya Mohallah, Pirwadhai, Adiala Road, Bakra Mandi, Dhoke Syedan, Tench Bhatta, Sadiqabad, Muslim Town, Shah Khalid Colony, Pandora and Shah Khalid Colony and others were facing difficulties due to low gas pressure. The residents of these areas said that the pressure of the gas being supplied was shallow. The pressure was so low in some other localities that the

residents could only see a tiny flame in their stove. Anna Bibi, a housewife, said people were facing problems because of the department's inefficiency. "We pay gas bills every month, but in every winter we have to face difficulties. We cannot prepare breakfast, lunch and dinner for our family members," she added. Meanwhile, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines (SNGPL) finally had decided to launch a crackdown on the consumers using gas compressors. The SNGPL spokesman informed APP that teams had been constituted to launch a crackdown against those depriving their neighbours of gas by gas compressors. He said there was no gas shortage; however, there was a dire need to stop unlawful practices. - APP



## State Bank of Pakistan

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Department	Positions
Digital Innovation & Settlements	API Architect
	Database Administrator
	Software Engineer

For details about the eligibility criteria including qualification, experience and job description of positions, please visit <http://www.sbp.org.pk/careers>.

### Application Procedure

Interested candidates meeting the above mentioned eligibility criteria may submit their applications online on <https://www.sbp.org.pk/careers/status.asp>. The system generated application form may be shared through surface mail addressed to Joint Director, Resource Management, HRD, State Bank of Pakistan, 10th Floor, SBP Main Building, I.I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi. Last date of application submission is January 3, 2022. Applications not on prescribed format will be disregarded. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. Females & Transgender persons are encouraged to apply. Misinformation and any attempt to influence the selection process will be considered a definite disqualification for current as well as for all future recruitments in the Bank, even if the candidate is otherwise qualified.

PID K 1698/21

## Briefs

## PAL organizes online seminar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) on Sunday organized an online seminar on 75 years of translation from international literature into Pakistani languages. Eminent scholar Dr. Khalid Iqbal Yasir presided over the seminar. While Salman Basit, Dr. Safer Awan, Javed Iqtidar Javed and Arshad Waheed were the chief guests at the seminar. The seminar was started with the welcome remarks of Chairman PAL Dr. Yousaf Khushk. He said that the seminar was organized in connection with Diamond Jubilee celebration of Pakistan Independence, said a press release issued here. Dr. Yousaf Khushk said that translation help readers of Urdu literature to understand the prevailing trends of world literature. Eminent scholars including Dr. Safdar Rashid, Syed Kashif Raza, Munir Fayaz, Dr. Fakhra Nowreen and Dr. Lubna Farakh presented their copies on the topic. Dr. Khalid Iqbal lauded PAL for organizing a seminar on such an important topic. He said that translation from the international literature help our students and researchers to understand the foreign literature. The speakers highlighted various aspects of the international literature into Pakistani languages. They said that this was vital since there is no denying the fact that translation studies, along with the discipline of comparative literature, have immense potential to promote multiculturalism, help in creating inter-cultural understanding and minimizing risks of conflict and clash of civilizations. — APP

## Fashion Bee Exhibition concludes

ISLAMABAD: An exhibition launched by clothing brand "Fashion Bee" concluded here on Sunday. The brand showcased its first collection titled "Meraki", purely handmade formals, semi-formals and casuals by focusing all the socio-economic classes so that everyone can afford the brand. The brand entered the fashion world with a very positive and different approach, to train the unskilled people, and provide a platform to women so that they can earn their livelihood. A large number of people encouraged the newly launched brand and congratulated them, including parliamentarian members, TV, artists, NGO'S, INGO'S, diplomats, students, teachers and media participated. Junaid Elahi - President Fashion Bee shared the vision of the brand. He said "Fashion Bee aims to put all its profit to charity through which the artisan sector will be empowered." It is pertinent to mention here that Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on CDA affairs Ali Nawaz Awan graced the inaugural event being held on Friday. He was a chief guest on the occasion. He inaugurated the event. President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce, (ICC) Shakeel Munir, Chaudhary Ansar, Advisor to Governor of Punjab was also present on the occasion. — APP

## NBF launches 'Mobile Book Club'

ISLAMABAD: National Book Foundation (NBF) has launched 'Mobile Book Club' for the deserving students from various villages and districts of the country aiming to educate those students could afford the expenses for learning. According to NBF, the Mobile Book Club has visited and provided required books and syllabus to deserving students who want to learn with their best abilities. National Book Foundation's flagship educational program, believes reading for pleasure has a direct and substantial impact on young people's success in school and careers. BookUp connects middle- and high-school students with local authors and runs free reading groups designed to improve participants' social, emotional, and literacy. APP



RAWALPINDI: Foreign Minister of Indonesia in a meeting with Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa. — DNA

# ICCI calls for promoting entrepreneurship in youth

Shakeel Munir along with Dr. Islam, Vice President, Iqra University Islamabad visited various stalls put up by the students in the Gala and appreciated their efforts. He gave the students many useful tips for becoming successful entrepreneur

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has called upon the government to make more conducive policies for promoting entrepreneurship in youth that will enhance their self-employment and pave way for sustainable economic growth of the country. He said that the government has launched KamyabJawan Program, which was a laudable initiative as it would create many new opportunities for youth in business and other fields. He stressed that the commercial banks should also come up with low cost business loan schemes for youth to facilitate them in launching business start-ups. He said this while speaking as Chief Guest at

a two days Entrepreneurship Gala 2021 organized by the Iqra University, Islamabad. Shakeel Munir along with Dr. Islam, Vice President, Iqra University Islamabad visited various stalls put up by the students in the Gala and appreciated their efforts. He gave the students many useful tips for becoming successful entrepreneur. He said that by becoming entrepreneurs, they would not only achieve a prosperous career for themselves, they would create jobs to others and make useful contribution towards the economic development of the country. He lauded the efforts of Iqra University for providing quality education to students in various disciplines.

Shakeel Munir proposed visits of university researchers to industries to understand the need of industries and to give them solutions for energy conservation, energy efficiency, products development and process improvement to make efficient systems. He said that students should give more focus to artificial intelligence techniques because in the world, countries using artificial intelligence techniques are making rapid advancement in many fields. The basic objective of the Entrepreneurship Gala was to raise awareness among the students and individuals about self-employment, business opportunities and how to be an entrepreneur to create jobs for

others instead of job seeker. The students came up with multiple unique business ideas for presentation in the event. Dr. Muhammad Islam, Vice President, Iqra University Islamabad said that university students are encouraged to develop innovative business ideas by holding business plan competitions. He said that with the guidance of businessmen these ideas can be further refined to convert these into workable commercial business ideas. He said that university is regularly holding various programs to engage youth in productive activities. Dr. Muhammad Islam said that Iqra University and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry would organize an exhibition to showcase different projects of students in fashion design and textile.

# Citizens stand up against Margalla Avenue

The participants of Devcom-Pakistan webinar urged CDA to immediately stop construction of Margalla Avenue, not to violate rule of law, and suggested immediate stakeholder consultation to avoid any direct confrontation

DNA

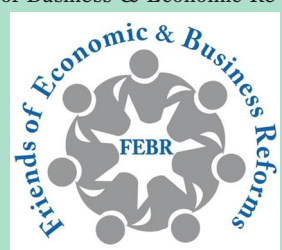
ISLAMABAD: Speaking at a webinar on Saturday, the civil society leadership and environmentalists strongly condemned the Capital Development Authority (CDA) for continuing construction work on the Margalla Avenue without any approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). They urged prime minister to take immediate notice of the CDA's rude action of illegally entering 3 km deep into the Margalla Hills National Park for the construction of Margalla Avenue paying no heed to the Environmental Protection Order (EPO), issued by the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) for violating the Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP) boundary. The webinar was organised by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) on the subject "Margalla Avenue: CDA's illegal encroachment into Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP)" on Saturday. Introducing the subject, Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said the Margalla Avenue was launched in 2012 by Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, then prime minister

of Pakistan. The well-hyped Avenue became controversial since the day it was launched because of its environmental consequences. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has already reserved its verdict two months back on the citizens' petition. Six more public interest petitions have been clubbed with the first one. CDA has continued its construction work at the Avenue till today despite the case in the court of law, and the Pak-EPA has also issued an EPO. This is strange. CDA is paying no heed to the concerns of the stakeholders, and continuing violation of the rule of law. Special Assistant to Prime Minister Malik Amin Aslam in a message termed the matter "sub justice" and avoided any comment. However, he assured to take up the matter with higher authorities. Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) chairperson Rina Saeed Khan said that she was only concerned with the illegal encroachment of CDA into the Margalla Hills National Park. "We were repeatedly given assurances that the Margalla Avenue will not pass through the MHNP that is one of the 15 protected areas the Prime Minister Imran Khan had very proudly

declared. This is contempt and violation of the Prime Minister's vision. We shall denotify MHNP if other government organisations cannot care about the sanctity of a National Park." She said CDA should have halted the construction work until the verdict was announced. This is unethical that CDA kicked off construction without the approval of EIA, and paying no heed to the Environmental Protection Order of the Pak-EPA. We should abolish all these legal forums if the government authorities have to bypass them. Hamid Sarfraz, a senior development consultant and the resident of sector D-12, said the Margalla Avenue will be a disaster for the residents of sector D-12 and other nearby residential sectors. Pollution of all sorts will storm in the residential sectors around it making the service roads vulnerable to traffic jams, accidents and environmental degradation. Several residents of Sector D-12 warned CDA of protests in front of National Press Club and dharna in the D-chowk and to block the roads if the construction of Margalla Avenue is not halted. On the other hand, the environmentalists were threatened with protests if intrusion into the National Park continued.

# FEBR for relaxing key policy rate

ISLAMABAD: The Friends of Business & Economic Reforms (FEBR) on Sunday said tight monetary policy and high markup rate in low growth environment always create bad debts in the private sector, squeezing fiscal space for the development. Friends of Business & Economic Reforms President Kashif Anwar, demanding the central bank to relax key policy rate, said the current high interest rate will depress the domestic demand and retard the economic progress. He said the current monetary policy will also stifle capital formation both in the public and the private sectors. He said despite nominal growth, inflationary pressures are again building up in the economy while steep depreciation of the rupee is pushing up prices of imported industrial inputs, which will further cripple industrial activities. Kashif Anwar, the LCCI former vice president, said that it is high time that government should revise interest rate to turn Pakistan into a production economy. He said his future lies in strengthening the production sectors, but that would require the government to make a decision and cut the cost of credit as there is no justification to keep interest rates that high particularly when this policy is unlikely to produce the desired results in the wake of cost-pushed inflation. He said that tight monetary policy has not produced desired results for the economy in past as the inflation rate on which the current policy is based, is once again surging despite increasing key policy rate. He said that the tight monetary policy is casting multiple negative effects on the economy as it has kept interest rate very high causing sharp fall in the value of rupee, squeezing credit for private sector and reducing domestic savings, investment, production and exports. He said it is right time that SBP should revisit its monetary policy to mitigate its harmful impact on the business and economy. — DNA



# World acknowledges Pak stance on Afghan crisis

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Information Senator Faisal Javed Khan on Sunday said that Pakistan has made successful diplomacy to make the global community realise that there was an urgent need to carry out relief activities to avert looming humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. After attending the ongoing 17th extraordinary session of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers while talking to media, he said, "The world has come to acknowledge its stance and the hosting of OIC special moot after 41 years by Pakistan is evident to it." He added that Pakistan's efforts to highlight humanitarian situation in Afghanistan deserved appreciation which was tremendously carried out by the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. — APP

# PNCA announces to continue classes

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) Sunday announced to continue 'Drawing and Painting' classes under a talented and learned instructor Faiza Shah aiming to highlight the inner talent of young generation. Talking to APP, Instructor Faiza Shah said, "In our country their is much potential and talent in forthcoming generation so it is dire need to display the artistic talent of youth". She said the classes would be held two days in a week Wednesday-Thursday at PNCA, get the opportunity to reveal artistic creativity. She said the main aim was to develop a disciplined practice that would both drive creative endeavors and help to locate oneself as an artist in the contemporary world. Adding she said professional issues were addressed throughout the curriculum, and include instruction in writing, studio management, portfolio development, galleries and exhibitions, and public presentation. "Our faculty of professional artists is dedicated to support youth to acquire and hone their artistic skills through rigorous practice, she said." — APP

# Theatre Workshops series begins

ISLAMABAD: The 3rd Theatre Workshops series of Theater Wallay started on Sunday under the supervision by Safer, a renowned instructor at 'The Farm Banigala' aiming to promote the hidden talent of young generation. Safer has over 20 years of theatre experience and he has attended various training courses conducted by various Fulbright scholars in past seven years. Among his theatre teachers were Musadiq Sanwal, David Studwell, Kathleen Mulligan, and his Improv guru Jim Robinson, a Theatre Wallay official informed. — APP

# Saving Dreams



effects and benefits the mankind. Richard MacDonald once said, "Charity work is very important to me and gives me an opportunity to give back to my community." With such inspiration we students of Fazaiya Education System School (FESS) joined hands together to contribute towards this noble cause under the team name "Save Dreams". This virtuous mission could not have been accomplished without the unrelenting support of the faculty members of FESS namely Mr. Mohsin Mubarak (Principal FESS), Miss Kanwal Jaffery (Senior Section Head), Miss Afshan (Class Teacher O-3), Sir Sheraz (Coordinator O Levels) and Miss

Fahmeeda Khatoon (Subject Teacher Urdu). The preliminary struggle started with the collection of funds contributed by students of O-3 and FSC. A brochure was circulated amongst the senior classes and I was surprised to see how the future leaders of Pakistan; our youth, generously contributed from their pocket money to work towards this noble cause.

Our first visit was to Master Ayub's school in F-6/3, Islamabad on Monday, 13th December 2021, where we students of O-3 donated stationary items along with stuffed toys & clothes from our everyday use. The activity was a huge success owing to the supervision of Miss Kanwal Jaffery, Sir Umar Chaudhary and Miss Maleeha. Master Ayub by profession is a fire fighter, who teaches free of cost in the evening in a park in the posh F-6 sector of Islamabad to the underprivileged. Currently almost 200 students are enrolled in his open air school. He has no car or house and half of his salary goes to school expenses yet he has a beautiful dream which is to educate every child in Pakistan. Hats off to Master Ayub who is pursuing his dream with full zeal and enthusiasm. Then on Tuesday, 14th December, 2021 our second visit was to SR Homes in PWD Housing Society, Rawalpindi with

students of FSC college section. Shelter by SR Homes is an orphanage providing shelter to around 100 children who have lost their parents and family. The basic purpose of this orphanage is to groom a child to improve cognitive skills, social-emotional skills, and increase technical skills within the field of early childhood to youth development & healthy peer relationship. There we contributed Rs37,000 in cash which was collected solely out of the pocket money of FESS students, distributed chocolates amongst the children and played different games with them. This second visit was conducted under the guidance of Mr. Mohsin Mubarak, Miss Kanwal Jaffery, Miss Shaista and Sir Zeshan.

My take away from both these visits is that in today's busy world, we truly do rise by lifting others. We should try to serve humanity as much as possible, we should serve as an eye to the blind, an ear to the deaf, a voice to the dumb and a source of strength to those living with disabilities. We must realize that we can change the world for the better only if we wish to do so and take the initiative ourselves instead of waiting for others to do it for us. We students of FESS made a pledge to make the world a better place to live; by Saving Dreams.

## Rupee sinks lower

**N**OW that every thing that could possibly halt the slide of the rupee has been tried and found wanting, the state bank is finally expected to stop its spin and put all facts in the open. From blaming previous administrations to the post-Covid demand surge to assurances that all will be well soon; the people have been led to believe just about everything. The last ray of hope was provided by the Saudi decision to lend us some more money, but since neither that nor even the staff level agreement with the IMF has been able to put a floor under the rupee, it seems central bank's excuses, just like the people's patience, have run out.

People, especially businesses, would also like to know about the immediate and medium-term future. The rupee is collapsing just when imports are rising and the current account is imploding, which means more dollars will be needed with time to finance record imports. And since that the epic rupee collapse is making that more and more difficult with each passing week, what are producers who rely on imports for their own exports, and therefore the government's revenue, supposed to do? So far looking to the state bank has been not just a waste of time, but also a very big financial folly. For, each time businesses relied on its assurances they ended up getting their fingers burnt.

It's very unfortunate that the central bank is behaving in such a manner just when everybody is lobbying for its sovereignty. For a heavily indebted country whose finances are always at the mercy of foreign lenders, giving complete freedom to the central bank and handing it over to somebody who has been leased from just those lenders, is already fraught with risks. It's also very strange that the government hasn't noticed just how much the state bank's silence has made the whole situation worse. The people deserve clarity, and it is the central bank's duty to provide it. And if it can't do its basic job, perhaps it needs some fine-tuning itself.

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## The Iran deadlock

**I**T is not surprising that Iran's response to any of the Western powers on a nuclear deal is less than friendly. The seventh round of talks in Vienna to restore Iran's 2015 nuclear deal has ended and the negotiating world powers are not close to an agreement.

Why should the global community have seen this coming? Firstly, there is the evident fact that Iran's government has seen a major change. There has been the arrival of a new government in Iran, which is markedly different; the new President Ebrahim Raisi is reported to be more conservative and hardline than the previous Rouhani government. The Raisi foreign policy was always expected to be firmer and more unforgiving.

Secondly, world powers must also be cognisant of the fact that what is happening on the diplomatic stage with other countries affects any potential transactions in the region. Escalations of the European Union and the US with Russia or China are bound to have an impact on Iran's approach towards reconciliation over nuclear matters.

The result is the current scenario. Talks have come to a stale point, with both sides frustrated. The Iranian side, aggravated by US' initial betrayal and the developments occurring in the region, wants significant changes to the agreement and lifting of all sanctions.

The UK, France and Germany, also representing the US, have adopted a more rigid position, asking Tehran to return to the original deal. Iran has granted repaired cameras at nuclear facilities, but the European powers expect that the programme is at its most advanced stage.

What is missing most is an inherent lack of trust between the parties. If the EU wants Iran to back down this, it should consider the carrot approach, rather than the stick, which has been shown to fail. The EU must also bring the US back to the fold and look to ease some sanctions to allow for more trust by Iran, and rather the whole region, to be built.

## Azerbaijan — a tourist hub

Nabya Shahid



There are multiple reasons to visit this place. I recently visited Baku and was greatly touched by its grandeur and rich cultural and historical heritage

**T**RAVEL and tourism continue to be one of the most critical sectors for economic development and for sustaining employment globally. Tourism and economic development of a country are deeply related to one another. No country can progress if its travel and tourism industry is not progressing. Azerbaijan has proved to be one of the progressive countries. Azerbaijan tourism has been increased immensely during past few years. Tourism will always be promising engine for economic development. During my recent trip to Azerbaijan, I asked the Ambassador of Pakistan to Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee the main reason behind increased tourism in Azerbaijan during recent years. He abruptly replied, tourism of any country mainly depends on its perception regarding safety and security in the eyes of the outer world. Azerbaijan has improved its tourism keeping in view the same two factors. The number of tourists in Azerbaijan is much greater than the total population of this country. Azerbaijan's main priority happens to be the safety and security of their tourists. The tourists are certain that no unfortunate incident would take place with them in Azerbaijan. Mr. Ambassador said if a person loses his phone and comes back looking for it the next day, he would find his phone lying on the same place. He appreciated Azerbaijani Police efforts in making the country a secured place to live and visit. What makes Azerbaijan a tourism destination? When we talk about tourism, Baku, the Capital of Azerbaijan is the first place that strikes our mind. There are multiple reasons to visit this place. I recently visited Baku and was greatly touched by its grandeur and rich cultural and historical heritage. My memories of Azerbaijan are windy, beautiful and magical. Baku has a lot to lure tour-

ists both from within and without the country however I would only discuss only a few of the main tourist attractions.

### 1) Maiden Tower

It is the 12th century landmark that is located in the Old City in Shirvanshahs' palace. This Tower is listed in United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNESCO. It was Azerbaijan's victory Day when I Visited Maiden Tower. After liberating illegal territories from Armenia 8th Nov Marks the victory Day for Azerbaijan.

### 2) Heydar Aliyev Centre

It is located in Baku, which was planned by Iraqi British Designer named Zaha Hadid. The sharp points and bends make this unique. The avenue was named after HeydarAliyev as he is the National Leader of Azerbaijan

### 3) Azerbaijan Carpet Museum

Azerbaijan Carpet Museum is certainly considered one among the biggest carpet museums with inside the entire world. Visiting this place, you'll be to witness a huge variety of weaving patterns and substances from diverse ages. The museum is like home to a huge variety of pottery and steel works that date back to the 14th century in addition to from the Bronze Age.

### 4) The Caspian Sea

Caspian Sea happens to be one of largest inland waterway located at the intersection of Europe and Asia. Caspian Sea covers 386,400 square kilometers area. There are multiple hotels and buildings that enjoy most iconic sea view throughout the day. It stretches for about 12,000 KM from North to south. The Residents of Azerbaijan takes it as ocean because of its salty water.

### 5) Baku Seaside Park

Baku Seaside Park is a place you would never want to miss in Azerbaijan. It is also known as National Park, which was built in 1909. It is basically a pavement that is setup alongside the seafront of Baku. National Park is considered as most relaxing place for residents as well as tourists visiting Azerbaijan.

### 6) Nizami Street

I used to call Nizami Street "Eye Candy". It is a whole street of shopping and delicious food. Whatever your heart desires, you find it on Nizami Street. The main shopping area starts at Fountain square, and it's a hotspot of clothes, shoes and jewelry. While shopping is considered to be the principle activity on Nizami Street, its Architecture is also one of the huge attractions Draw.

### 7) Ismailiyya Palace

This is one of the most visited historical places in Baku that's also serves as academy of sciences. It is located in the central uptown part of capital city of Azerbaijan-Baku. The construction of this building started in 1908 and was completed in 1913, after the construction of this palace, conferences, meetings and congresses have held within this building's white stone Assembly Hall.

### What FOOD TO Eat in Azerbaijan

It's been almost a month I have consumed Azeri food, but its taste is still fresh in my mouth and memory. I can still smell the enriched dishes and quote full ingredients of any Azeri dish. Azerbaijan food is known for their abundant use of seasonal vegetable and greens such as eggplant,

tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, radishes and cabbage with a side of meat like chicken, beef or lamb. Spices and herbs are difference makers. Mint coriander, dill, leek, tarragon, thyme, green onion and parsley are majorly used in Azeri food.

### 1) Qutab

Qutab is to Azerbaijan what Pizza is to Italians. It is thinly rolled dough which is filled with meat, herbs, cheese, onions and chest nuts. Its specialty lies in the way it's cooked. It is cooked on a sadj - which is a flat pan made of iron. It has to be rolled evenly before putting in so the falling doesn't fall off.

### 2) Lavangi

I couldn't get my hand off Lavangi. Lavangi is Azeri's Favourite Snack. Which is a stuffed chicken or fish (whatever you prefer) with walnuts, onions and plumpaste. Lavanga is made in Tandoor, the flame of which cooks it from all sides and makes it tender.

### 3) Dushbara

I had Dushbara on way back from Karabagh, they are like Russian Dumplings which are very tiny in size and stays at the bottom of bowl. The size of dushbara makes this dish unique as they say a good cook is capable of fitting at least 12 dushbara in spoon. These mini dumpling are then boiled in water and served with mint or vinegar infused with Garlic

### 4) Kebab

If you have ever exited Azerbaijan without trying their kebab you should go back immediately for those kebabs. They have Kebabs in a lot of variety. Some are lamb or beef kebab, others with chicken and Fish kebab.

### 4) Pakhlava

Pakhlava, also called Baklava, originates in the Middle East. The multi-layered sweet pastry stuffed with nuts and flooded with syrup makes a scrumptious treat. Locals eat Pakhlava during Novruz, the Iranian New Year in March, to celebrate the coming of spring.

### 5) Azerbaijan jam

Visit an Azeri home and you'll immediately have a cup of tea in front of you and see large jars of jam on the table. Local women create the jam from various fruits, walnuts and occasionally rose petals.

### 6) Sherbet

A favourite drink in Azerbaijan is sherbet, made from boiled water, lemon and sugar. Either try the milk or fruit sherbet, which comes with ice, making a refreshing drink.

### 7) Black tea

Black tea deserves a special mention as tea plays an integral part of Azerbaijan's culture and traditions. Locals drink it with most meals, following an ancient ritual passed down from one generation to the next.

### Why, Azerbaijan?

Mostly, people do not have mind on Azerbaijan while planning their vacations, however Azerbaijan has restored and reconstructed itself a lot and has a lot to offer now. Azerbaijan is a must-visit place for people who want to take long walk through history and seaside and do not want a lot of people around. Azerbaijan is not a crowded country; it gives you your space to breathe pure wind and relax your mind.

## Transgender; A lesson from the Past

Munaza Kazmi

Sex work and begging have been outlawed in Pakistan, while dance rituals are seen by religious authorities as un-Islamic. Hence, you can imagine how difficult it would be to survive. Needless to say, here are a few transgenders with formal qualifications, who are often used for showcasing by local NGOs, to project diversity to international donor agencies while in reality, they still face discrimination

**T**HE word "transgender" - or trans - is an umbrella term for people whose gender identity is different from the sex assigned to them at birth. Although the word "transgender" and the modern definition of it only came into use in the late 20th century, however people who would fit under this definition have existed in every culture throughout recorded history. Around the world Transgenders are the most deprived community. The God's creation to whom we consider as lowly and second rate, without realizing. However, in theory, Pakistan has progressive laws that protect trans rights and had recognized transgender to be the third gender in 2009, which is a milestone in South Asia. Historical references to the gender-diverse community go back thousands of years in South Asia, though Pakistan is one of only 12 countries in the world that recognizes transgender identity on national ID cards. Moreover, Pakistani apex court ordered that transgender must be counted separately in the census of 2017, and separate column was made for the said purpose.

These people come from all walks of life. They are parents, siblings, and kids. They are your coworkers, your neighbors, and perhaps your friends. They are 7-year-old children and 70-year-old grandparents. They are a diverse community, representing all racial and ethnic backgrounds, as well as all faith traditions.

According to a recent study, total transgender population of Pakistan is 10,418. Out of which 8.3% are living in KP, 0.25% are

living in FATA, 64.39% are living in Punjab, 24.25% are living in Sindh, 1.04% are living in Balochistan, and 1.27% in the federal capital territory.

However, these unfortunate people are often disowned by their families and live together in communities, usually led by a Guru, into a life of misery. Exclusion from education means that 42% of the community is illiterate, and employment is heavily focused on three specific jobs. According to 2016 study, 51% of trans people's overall income comes from dancing, 15% from sex work and 12% from begging.

Sex work and begging have been outlawed in Pakistan, while dance rituals are seen by religious authorities as un-Islamic. Hence, you can imagine how difficult it would be to survive. Needless to say, here are a few transgenders with formal qualifications, who are often used for showcasing by local NGOs, to project diversity to international donor agencies while in reality, they still face discrimination. My readers would now be thinking that issuing of some regulatory act from the United Nations or NGO of some Gora would do the magic. However, let me introduce you to our glorious past.

The Dutch merchant Francisco Pelsaert, during his visit to the Mughal court in the 17th century, made a surprising discovery, that of the prestige and power enjoyed by the third gender, or eunuchs in the imperial household. "They can get whatever they desire - fine horses to ride, servants to attend them outside, and female slaves inside the house, clothes as fine and smart as those of their master himself," he is noted to have written in his travelogue. The elevated stature of eunuchs during the Mughal era has been documented for years by foreign travelers and historians. "Even the stigmatized community of hijras in India today seem to carry something of the special powers, the baraka, of the eunuchs of earlier times, and they invoke Mughal eunuchs as their ancestors," writes historian Ruby Lal in her article 'Harem and eunuchs: Liminality and networks of Mughal authority'.

Later, with the decline of the Mughal Empire and the advent of British Raj, their influence waned. In 1871, the colonial power introduced the Criminal Tribes Act (CTC). It required registration and control of eunuchs. Colonial law deprived eunuchs of their primary source of income and any kind of rights. It pushed them further into poverty and social exclusion. According to English understanding, there were only two sexes. Homosexuals were criminalized too. If anyone can learn anything from the brief history I referred. We are a promising nation, we had the magnificent of empires, our faith, our laws and our education outshined the world, only we have been misled by the west.

On my recent visit to Azad Kashmir, I saw a beautiful such example, an eunuch was having a Chicken Tikka stall in the market; I really wanted to click a photo of him but I never wanted him to think him as an alien, hence I watched him in pleasure and thought what if these fellows of us can openly work and have education in our colleges and universities, they could not only earn a living for them but can revive the glorious history. They can share the burden of the economy by becoming a solid pillar.



## Saudi Arabia imitating UAE's economic ideas

Maheen Cheema

This country since long has an oil-based economy with almost 16% of the total petroleum reserves of the world and hence is the largest exporter of oil as well. 90% of the export earnings comes from oil export and makes up about 87% of the country's budget revenue

**S**AUDI Arabia in recent times is moving towards tourism and technology-based economy to attract not just Muslims but also the non-Muslims from all around the world to their country to explore and to invest. With the Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia is striving hard to find new ways to contribute to the future of their economic sector somewhat similar to what

UAE have done. This country since long has an oil-based economy with almost 16% of the total petroleum reserves of the world and hence is the largest exporter of oil as well. 90% of the export earnings comes from oil export and makes up about 87% of the country's budget revenue. Other than this as it houses the two holy Muslim places, it generates revenue from this sector as well as millions of Muslims visit Saudi Arabia each year for either Haj or Umrah. In 2019, an estimated number of 2.5 million Muslims visited Saudi Arabia for just Haj alone.

With concerns in mind, Saudi Arabia is trying to replicate what UAE did years ago. UAE, especially Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Sharjah, with time have also shifted towards from petroleum-based economy to other alternate areas for revenue generation. Most prominent have been the initiatives taken to boost tourism and have created attraction for business by national and international companies.

From malls to luxury hotels to man-made islands, UAE has taken every step to bring in international visitors each year in thousands of numbers because this country provides a lifestyle especially to the elite class. It is not just the rich that are attracted to this country, they also offer opportunities to the labour class of the developing countries to come and work there with a handsome amount of salary. Dubai in particular is working extremely hard to attract more and more tourists and private companies to their city.

Basically, the reason behind UAE's growing attention towards tourism and business economy is mainly because of the fact that they have come to realize that oil would not remain forever for them to export to earn. So, to survive it is extremely necessary that they find alternate sources to contribute to their economy because the day oil reserves dry out their importance in the international arena would come to an end and their economy would plunge down finding hard to survive then.

Also, even if this resource has not dried out, the fluctuation of prices of petroleum in international market always have an impact directly on oil-based economies and especially when the Arab region is unstable for years, a little incident impacts the oil prices at international level occasionally. So, these constant ups and downs in the market cannot be afforded by a state every now and then.

This same realization is coming in Saudi Arabia as well now because they now know that for the survival of their country in future, they need to look for other areas to attract revenue or else the country may plunge into darkness.

The steps Saudi Arabia is taking currently seems that they are becoming the next UAE in few years to come with foreign visitors flocking in to see what this country has to offer, and more and more private companies would develop their businesses here to pool in more revenue.

## Briefs

## OIC calls for unified action on Afghanistan

FROM PAGE 01  
the banking system was now urgent to save the lives of the Afghan people as well as enable humanitarian organizations to respond. He said the UN stands firmly with the OIC in its efforts to contribute to the humanitarian endeavor. Chairman Islamic Development Bank Muhammad Sulaiman Al-Jasser said that immediate humanitarian relief to Afghanistan is essential to build a foundation for economic recovery and development. He said there was a need for medium to long-term engagement to promote self-reliance and development beyond immediate humanitarian relief through reconstruction activities. The Chairman Islamic Development Bank also emphasized the need for the development of agriculture sector in Afghanistan to ensure food security and poverty reduction. Foreign Minister of Jordan Ayman Safadi emphasized the need for rebuilding and reconstructing efforts for peace and stability in Afghanistan. He said choice was clear as all the Muslim world should together protect Afghan people as half of the population was under threat. He said it was a time to take the right decision and achieve the shared goals. Minister for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Niger Youssouf Elmouctar commended the Government and the people of Pakistan for hosting the session despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Pakistan proposes...

FROM PAGE 01  
Afghanistan could face the largest humanitarian crisis in the world and the United Nations also warned of a similar situation. He said Pakistan had demonstrated its resolve to tackle the humanitarian crisis and as a special gesture, Pakistan decided the transportation of 50,000 metric tons of wheat and medicine from India to Afghanistan through land route. Qureshi said the OIC always stood firmly by the people of Afghanistan as well as Kashmir and Palestine suffering under illegal occupation. He told the gathering that the developments in August 2020, may have altered the political landscape in Afghanistan but they have not made the compelling needs of the Afghan people any less pressing or urgent. He said the WFP had warned that Afghanistan could become the largest humanitarian crisis in the world. The UN Emergency Relief Coordinator described the Afghanistan situation as in 'free fall'.

## Malaysian Saudi, FMs call on PM

FROM PAGE 01  
Pakistan remained committed to facilitate humanitarian organizations working from Pakistan for their humanitarian support to Afghanistan. Reaffirming Pakistan's abiding commitment to the continued well-being of the people of Afghanistan, the Prime Minister highlighted that Pakistan has already committed to immediate relief of in-kind humanitarian assistance worth Rs. 5 billion, which comprises of food commodities including 50,000 MT of wheat, emergency medical supplies, winter shelters and other supplies. On Pakistan-Saudi Arabia bilateral relations, the Prime Minister underscored the special significance of the Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relationship, which is based on close fraternal ties, historic links, and support at the gross-roots level. Recalling his visit to Saudi Arabia in October 2021, the Prime Minister highlighted the assiduous follow-up on the decisions taken and stressed the need for exploring new avenues of cooperation to further deepen bilateral relations in diverse fields. Meanwhile, Malaysian Foreign Minister, His Excellency Dato Sri Saifuddin Abdullah, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan today.

## Yow &amp; Wing become Asian Squash champion

Senior VP, Pakistan Squash Federation Air Marshal Aamir Masood, graced the closing ceremony as chief guest and distributed trophies and medals to the players

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Top seeded player Ng Eain Yow from Malaysia and Tong Tsz Wing from Hong Kong clinches the 21st Asian Squash individual championship titles in Men & Women here at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad on Sunday. In men's final Malaysian player Ng Eain Yow triumphed over Hong Kong's Yip Tsz Fung after an impressive performance with figures of 11-6, 13-11, 11-9 in 40 minutes duration match. In the women's final, Hong Kong's Tong Tsz Wing who was fourth seed defeated top-Malaysia's Rachel Mae Arnold 3-0. Tong Tsz Wing who earlier outclassed the top seeded Liu Tsz Ling showed the wonderful skills and abil-



ity against second seeded Rachel Mae Arnold to win the championship crown with a game score of 11-8, 13-11, 11-5 in 34 minutes. Senior Vice President, Pakistan Squash Federation Air Marshal Aamir Masood, graced the closing ceremony as chief guest and distributed trophies and medals to the players. Squash legend Jansher Khan, QamarZaman, CEO Combox Sports and other dignitaries also witnessed the closing ceremony. The Men's event had a draw of 32 players whereas the Women's event had 16 players' draw. Apart from Pakistan, a group of international players, officials and referees from Hong Kong, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Qatar, Singapore & Sri Lanka participated.

## Eriksen leaves Inter 'by mutual consent'

ROME: Christian Eriksen has terminated his contract with Inter Milan by mutual consent six months after suffering a heart incident playing for Denmark at the European Championships. The 29-year-old has been fitted with a pacemaker. That means he is not allowed to play in Italian football, but other championships do not have the same rules. "Internazionale Milano can confirm that an agreement has been reached to terminate Christian Eriksen's contract by mutual consent," the Italian club said. "Although Inter and Christian are now parting ways, the bond shall never be broken. The good times, the goals, the victories, those Scudetto celebrations with fans outside San Siro - all this will remain forever in Nerazzurri history." Eriksen will now be free to consider his options with other potential clubs, and has recently been in training with his boyhood club Odense. According to the Danish daily B.T, Eriksen mainly focused on physical exercises, but also trained with a ball, although this is not currently with a view to playing for them. "Christian Eriksen is using the pitch for his rehabilitation" but "he is not training with our team", Odense's communications officer Rasmus Nejsgaard told AFP. The former Tottenham man suffered a cardiac arrest in Denmark's opening game at Euro 2020 against Finland in Copenhagen on June 12 and had to be resuscitated on the pitch. Denmark then rode a wave of emotion at the tournament, reaching the semi-finals. The playmaker spent several days in hospital and had a pacemaker implanted to regulate his heartbeat, which would rule him out of even going to a gym in Italy. Eriksen's departure from Inter comes just days after Argentina striker Sergio Aguero announced the end of his professional career at the age of 33 following heart problems. The former Manchester City striker signed a two-year deal with Barcelona but had made just five appearances, scoring one goal against Real Madrid, before being taken to hospital with "chest pains" after a match at home to Alaves in October. Financially, Inter Milan, who are deep in the red, will make some savings by parting company with their biggest earner, although Eriksen's salary, estimated at 7.5 million euros by the Italian press, was covered for a year under a FIFA insurance system. - DNA

## New unverified footage of Peng Shuai posted online

WEB DESK

BEIJING: Fresh unverified footage of Peng Shuai was posted online by a state-affiliated journalist on Sunday as international concern persists for the Chinese tennis star after she publicly accused a former vice-premier of forcing her to have sex. Qingqing Chen, a reporter for the state-owned Global Times, tweeted a video of Peng appearing to speak with Chinese basketball icon Yao Ming. Chen said the video was sent to her by a "friend" and that it was taken at an event to promote cross-country skiing in Shanghai. The seven-second clip shows the tennis player smiling and listening as Yao speaks indistinctly. Chen also posted a photo of Peng posing with Yao and two other Chinese sports figures - Olympic sailing champion Xu Lijia and retired table tennis player Wang Liqin. The foursome were standing next to a banner for the "FIS Cross-Country Skiing China City Tour" with Shanghai's Yangpubridge in the background.

The Shanghai stop of the cross-country ski tour took place on Saturday, according to the state-run CGTN news site. Twitter is blocked in China and only people with a VPN-type workaround can access it. However, many Chinese diplomats and official state media have accounts to defend China's point of view. Peng, a former Wimbledon and French Open doubles champion, took to Chinese social media in early November to allege that former vice-premier Zhang Gaoli - who is in his 70s - forced her into sex during an on-off relationship spanning several years. Her message was quickly scrubbed from the Chinese web, but not before screenshots were posted on Twitter, sparking a worldwide outcry. The Women's Tennis Association has called for Peng's allegations to be investigated fully and transparently. The sporting body announced earlier this month that it was suspending all tournaments in China, including Hong Kong, over concerns about Peng's safety. State media have



previously published other images of Peng at a Beijing tennis tournament as well as a screenshot of an email allegedly written by the player saying "everything is fine". Peng also participated in late November in

a 30-minute video call with Thomas Bach, head of the International Olympic Committee. But the WTA and fellow tennis players have continued to call for more transparency from Beijing over Peng's whereabouts.

## New Zealander beats Briton on points in Manchester

MANCHESTER: New Zealand heavyweight Joseph Parker secured a brilliant points win over Britain's Derek Chisora in a thrilling fight at the AO Arena in Manchester. Parker, who gained a controversial points victory in their first bout in May, made a great start, with Chisora having to take a count in round four. Chisora was knocked down by a brutal uppercut in the seventh but showed good character and bravery to continue. The Briton took another count in the eighth, but made it to the final bell. However, with three knockdowns, Parker knew he had won the fight and got the decision by 115-110, 115-111 and 114-112 margins. For 29-year-old former WBO champion Parker, this was a vital victory as he looks to get back to world title level. But for Chisora, 37, it is hard to see where he goes now, with this being the 12th defeat of a 44-fight career, although he showed incredible spirit, heart and determination to get through to the end of the contest. "Derek always comes for war, he was



one tough guy and never stopped coming forward until the end," said Parker. "We practised and practised that uppercut. What a Christmas present. "I felt a lot stronger. It was important to start strong and not be negative from the beginning. You can see there are improvements to be made. "Derek Chisora is a credit to the sport of boxing. The crowd went mental

when he walked out. They just want to support him." Asked if he would like to see Chisora retire from boxing, Parker replied: "Personally I'd like to see him walk away. "He has given boxing everything he has. The atmosphere is amazing when he fights. I'd love to see him walk away but that's his decision." - Agencies

## Shane Warne lashes out at Pak umpire Aleem Dar

LAHORE: Former Australian spin great, Shane Warne lashed out at Pakistani umpire Aleem Dar, who is a member of the Elite Panel of International Cricket Council's Umpires, saying that Dar was a "bad" umpire. Warne shared a video clip of an old Ashes series, where England's Stuart Broad edged the ball to Michael Clarke, who takes the catch at slip. However, the Pakistan umpire misjudged it and didn't give Broad out as the ball touched Australia's wicketkeeper Brad Haddin's gloves, who was just behind the wicket in a close gap with the bat, leaving Aleem Dar confused. "Also shows you, how bad an umpire Aleem Dar was and how many decisions he got wrong," tweeted Warne. Warne also poked fun at Stuart Broad, knowing that he got caught out, Broad did not walk off the field and didn't say anything to the umpire. - APP



## Pak Navy wins 35th National Rowing C'ship

The Closing Ceremony of National Rowing Championship under auspices of Pakistan Navy was held at Rawal Lake. Teams from Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Army, WAPDA, Punjab, Islamabad Club and Pakistan Police participated in the championship

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy wins 35th National rowing championship after 9 years. The Closing Ceremony of National Rowing Championship under auspices of Pakistan Navy was held at Rawal Lake. Teams from Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Army, WAPDA, Punjab, Islamabad Club and Pakistan Police participated in the championship. The matches were conducted in the category of open single, open double, open four, light single, light double, light four and pair. Pakistan Navy Rowing team successfully competed in all the events by winning 7 Gold medals in the men's category. Pak Army remained runner up with 7 silver medals. Pak Army lead the women category with 06 gold and 01 silver while WAPDA remained runner up with 01 gold and 2 silver and 04 bronze medals.



## Joint Declaration of OIC...

FROM PAGE 01

The resolution reaffirmed the importance of combating terrorism in Afghanistan and ensuring that the territory of Afghanistan is not used as a platform or safe haven by any terrorist group or organization; It called upon Afghanistan to take concrete steps against all terrorist organizations in particular Al-Qaeda, Daesh and its affiliates, ETIM, and TTP. The forum reaffirmed that peace, security and stability in Afghanistan would also contribute to the safe and dignified return of all Afghan refugees. It urged the international community to remain cautious against the possibility of incitement and the role of spoilers, both inside and outside the country, to derail efforts aimed at peace and stability in Afghanistan. It called upon the Afghan authorities to continue to work towards greater inclusiveness and including by developing a roadmap to strengthen participation of all Afghans including women and girls to participate in all aspects of the Afghan society. The Extraordinary session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers also unanimously adopted Islamabad declaration condemning the illegal colonial measures undertaken by Israel to colonize the Palestinian territory. Declaring the Israeli measures illegal, null and void, the declaration read that the OIC does not recognize any changes affecting the pre-1967 borders particularly with regard to Al-Quds Al Sharif. It called upon the international community including the UNSC to hold the Israeli colonial occupation accountable for its violations and take all necessary measures including imposing sanctions against Israel to stop these violations. The declaration also condemned the repeated attacks by Israeli occupation authorities on the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and its continuous attempts to change the historical and legal status quo there using flimsy religious pretexts.

## Pakistan at forefront...

FROM PAGE 01

OIC meeting was taking place in Pakistan, the Minister of State on Information said. This meeting would send a message to the world that Pakistan would continue its efforts for a sustainable and stable Afghanistan. The minister said that a large portion of Afghanistan's population suffered from hunger and poverty. He said today's meeting was of great importance as people of Afghanistan could not be left alone in such a grim situation. Now voices were being raised from within the United States regarding Afghanistan situation, he said. The people of Afghanistan need help on humanitarian grounds and the world should come forward at this critical time.

## World should..

FROM PAGE 01

The situation in Afghanistan was deteriorating where women and children were most affected, he added. Pakistan, he said had already given Rs 5 billion aid to Afghanistan, but Pakistan could not be left alone in support of Afghanistan as no economy in the world can bear such a burden. If the situation further worsened in Afghanistan, a great human tragedy could ensue, he said. "We do not want people to migrate from Afghanistan," Fawad said adding this issue could create difficult situation for the world including Pakistan, Iran, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. He said the US had frozen \$ 9 billion of Afghanistan, if this money was not returned the crisis will escalate.

## PM calls...

FROM PAGE 01

He pointed out that Pakistan is already hosting millions of Afghan refugees and it cannot deal with more influx of refugees. Imran Khan said the threat of terrorism from ISIL can only be tackled effectively through a stable government in Afghanistan. He said Pakistan has faced terror attacks from the terrorist outfit. He said this organization will continue to pose a serious threat if the Afghan government does not have the capability to fight it.

## Briefs

## UK reports record number of corona cases

## NEWS DESK

LONDON: Fueled by the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, Britain registered a record number of daily corona-virus cases for the second day in a row.

A total of 88,376 new cases were reported, up from 78,610 cases 24 hours earlier, bringing the total number of corona-virus cases in the country to 11,097,851, according to official figures released Thursday.

Another 1,691 Omicron cases have been found in Britain, the biggest daily increase since the COVID-19 variant was detected in the country, taking the total Omicron cases found in the country to 11,708, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) confirmed Wednesday. The country also reported a further 146 corona-virus-related deaths. The total number of corona-virus-related deaths in Britain now stands at 146,937, with 7,579 COVID-19 patients still in hospital. The latest data came as Susan Hopkins, the UKHSA's chief medical adviser, said every person infected with the Omicron COVID variant is believed to be passing it on to between three and five others on average.

Hopkins told MPs on the Commons health committee that for Omicron, the R value in Britain is between three and five, and the variant is spreading rapidly, doubling in size every two days. The current R value of the Delta epidemic in Britain is estimated to be between 1.1 and 1.2. — APP

## Greece journalists denounce press freedom backslide

ATHENS: A reporter's murder, the prime minister publicly scolding a foreign journalist, and alleged state surveillance. It's been a bad year for media rights in Greece.

The southern European country fell five spots in the 2021 World Press Freedom Index compiled by media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF), and now ranks 70th out of 180 countries, behind Poland and Mongolia. George Pleios, head of media studies at the National University of Athens, says the deterioration over the past year has been alarming. "Freedom of the press has become a concern," he told AFP.

Pleios said a raft of press freedom violations in recent years have included journalists being detained or intimidated, and police beating photographers during protests. But in April, a prominent crime reporter, 52-year-old Giorgos Karavivas, was gunned down outside his home in Athens. The government ordered an investigation, but no arrests have been made. Over the past year, the government has ignored requests for information on key stories and pressured journalists over unfavourable reports, while parliament in November passed a new law to punish misinformation with up to five years in jail.

## Kenya's tourist arrivals up 40 per cent

NAIROBI: Kenya's tourist arrivals increased by 40.8 percent to 663,036 in the first ten months to October compared to 470,971 arrivals in the same period in 2020, government data has shown. The KTB in a statement issued in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi on Friday said that the United States market recorded the highest arrivals into Kenya with 108,072 visitors contributing 16.3 percent of the total arrivals, Uganda was second with 59,979 (9.0 percent), and Tanzania third with 58,946 (8.9 percent). It said the UK market was in the fourth position followed by India and China. KTB said the tourism sector has stepped up the vaccination of its workers. According to KTB, domestic travel growth is expected to outpace global tourism as a whole and is expected to rise exponentially in 2022. — Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi welcomes Foreign Minister of Somalia. Ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan is also seen in the picture. — DNA

## Somali FM calls on Shah Mahmood Qureshi

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met his counterpart from Somalia, H.E. Mr. Abdisaid Mouse Ali, on the margins of the 17th Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers being held in Islamabad today.

The two Ministers recalled their historic, fraternal and trust based ties, anchored deeply in common faith and values. They exchanged views on bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest.

The excellent cooperation, shared perceptions and traditional support for each other at multilateral fora were highlighted during the interaction. Both sides expressed satisfaction on the current status of their bilateral relationship and shared the common desire and keenness for enhanced engagement at all levels.

Foreign Minister Qureshi appreciated the presence of over 2000 Somali students in different educational institutions in Pakistan as their preferred destination under Pakistan's Technical Assistance Program and reassured continued training opportunities for diplomatic, defense, banking, health and IT professionals.

## Iran: Over 6 mln recover from COVID

TEHRAN: As many as 1,968 people have been infected with the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the past 24 hours in Iran, reads the statement of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education of Iran, Trend reports.

In addition, 50 people have died from the coronavirus over the past day. At the same time, the condition of 2,876 people remains critical.

So far, more than 40.7 million tests have been conducted in Iran for the diagnosis of coronavirus.

In total, over 113 million doses of vaccines have been used in Iran so far. Over 59.1 million doses have been used on the first stage, 50.3 million doses - on the second stage, and 3.77 million - on the third stage.

Iran continues to monitor the coronavirus situation in the country. According to recent reports from Iranian officials, over 6.17 million people have been infected, and 131,083 people have already died. Meanwhile, over 6 million people have reportedly recovered from the disease. The country continues to apply strict measures to contain further spread of the virus.

Reportedly, the disease was brought to Iran by a businessman from Iran's Qom city, who went on a business trip to China, despite official warnings. The man died later from the disease. The Islamic Republic announced its first infections and deaths from the coronavirus on Feb. 19. — APP

## Germany tightens travel crubs for UK

## WEB DESK

BERLIN: Germany is tightening travel restrictions for people coming from Britain in response to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant there. The country's national disease control center, the Robert Koch Institute, added Britain to its list of "virus variant areas" late Saturday.

This means anyone traveling from the UK to Germany must enter a mandatory quarantine for 14 days, regardless of vaccination status. The new restrictions, which will go into effect at midnight Sunday, come as the UK reports a record high number of new coronavirus infections. On Saturday, the country saw 90,418 new cases.

The UK joins eight African countries, including South Africa, on Germany's list of "virus variant areas." The Robert Koch Institute's announcement comes in the wake of tightened restrictions for other countries across Europe as the continent faces a fourth wave of infections. Starting Sunday, France and Denmark are considered "high risk areas," meaning those who are not vaccinated or recovered from the virus must quarantine for 10 days.

## NATO will not let Russia dictate its military posture: Germany

Russia is also demanding a legally binding guarantee that NATO will give up any military activity in Eastern Europe and Ukraine and an effective Russian veto on future NATO membership for Ukraine - which the West has already ruled out

## NEWS DESK

RUKLA: NATO will discuss Russia's security proposals but it will not let Moscow dictate the alliance's military posture, German Defence Minister Christine Lambrecht said on Sunday on a visit to German troops based in Lithuania to deter a Russian attack.

On Friday, Moscow set out a list of demands for the West that includes withdrawing NATO battalions from Poland and Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, once part of the Soviet Union.

Russia is also demanding a legally binding guarantee that NATO will give up any military activity in Eastern Europe and Ukraine and an effective Russian veto on future NATO membership for Ukraine - which the West has already ruled out.

"We need to solve the current tensions on the diplomatic level but just as well by putting up a credible deterrence," Lambrecht told reporters in Rukla on her first visit to German troops abroad.

The combat units, deployed three years after Moscow's annexation of the Ukrainian peninsula Crimea in 2014, are meant to stall an assault and buy time for additional NATO

troops to arrive at the frontline. "We will discuss Russia's proposals...But it cannot be that Russia dictates to NATO partners their posture, and that is something that we will make very clear in the talks (next week at the NATO council)," she added.

The West has threatened harsh economic sanctions on Russia should Moscow escalate its military build-up on Ukraine's border. Moscow says it is only responding to threats to its security from Kyiv's increasingly close relations with NATO.

Speaking alongside Lambrecht on Sunday, Lithuania's Defence Minister Arvydas Anusauskas accused Russia of trying to drive a wedge into the alliance, and said NATO must not allow Moscow to divide Europe into spheres of influence.

"We need to support Ukraine with all means, which includes the delivery of lethal weapons," Anusauskas added, without giving details on what kind of weapons he meant.

Lambrecht declined to comment on a report by Spiegel on Saturday that NATO's top general Tod Wolters had suggested the alliance should establish a similar military presence as in Poland and the Baltic states in Bulgaria and Romania.

## NATO mulls deploying troops to Bulgaria, Romania

PARIS: NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe Gen. Tod Wolters has suggested the alliance should deploy troops in Bulgaria and Romania after Russia's military buildup near the Ukrainian border, German newspaper Der Spiegel reported on Saturday. Der Spiegel said the plans would in effect extend the alliance's "Enhanced Forward Presence" mission under which it has already deployed troops to the Baltic countries and eastern Poland.

The magazine said it had "information" that Wolters had "called for a reinforcement of troops on the eastern border" of NATO during a confidential videoconference with military leaders of "partner nations," adding that the proposal would in effect "expand NATO's presence [to Romania and Bulgaria]."

NATO has declined to comment on the report in Der Spiegel. More than 100,000 Russian troops have been deployed to Russian regions in the north, east and south of Ukraine, a mil-

itary buildup that has increased tensions between Russia, Ukraine and NATO. Ukrainian officials have appealed to the alliance for military assistance to possibly defend themselves against a Russian military incursion.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said on Friday that the alliance would "constantly assess the need to further adjust our posture, our presence, also in the southeast of the region, because we need to be sure that we can always protect and defend allies against any threat."

Bulgaria and Romania have also called for the expansion of NATO's presence. Amid the tensions, a pair of nuclear-capable Russian long-range bombers patrolled the skies over Belarus on Saturday in a mission intended to cement defense ties between the two allies. The Russian Defense Ministry said two Tu-22M3 flew a four-hour mission to practice "performing joint tasks with the Belarusian air force and air defense." — News Desk

## Thousands protest in Sudan

KHARTOUM: Thousands of Sudanese rallied in the capital Khartoum on Sunday to mark the third anniversary of a popular uprising that swept long-serving President Omar al-Bashir from power.

Demonstrators waved banners condemning a recent political deal between Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and the military.

"No negotiations", "No partnership" and "No to military rule" were among banners waved by protesters in the Sudanese capital, according to an Anadolu Agency reporter on the ground. There were no reports of clashes.

On December 19, 2018, protests erupted across Sudan against the deterioration of the country's economic conditions, forcing the military to remove Bashir from power in April 2019. On Oct. 25, the military dismissed Hamdok's transitional government and declared a state of emergency, amid accusations and differences between politicians and the military. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan attended Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers on Afghanistan. — DNA

## Azerbaijan hands over 10 Armenian prisoners of war

## DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan has freed 10 more Armenian soldiers captured last month during fighting between the Caucasus arch-foes.

"Azerbaijan, with mediation of the European Union, handed over 10 soldiers of Armenian origin" who had been captured on November 16, the Azerbaijani committee in charge of prisoners of war said in a statement. Baku said on Sunday that the move was a result of a meeting between Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and European Council chief Charles Michel in Brussels on September 14.

"Warmly welcome Baku's release of 10 Armenian de-

tainees in follow up to discussions with @azpresident and @NikolPashinyan," Michel wrote in a tweet on Sunday.

"An important humanitarian gesture demonstrating the mutual will to strengthen confidence as discussed in Brussels. EU facilitated transfer to Yerevan." Azerbaijan had already handed over 10 prisoners to Yerevan on December 4, following Russia-mediated talks, in the first concrete sign of a decrease in tensions since last month's deadly flare-up. Those were the worst clashes along the shared border since a 44-day conflict in Karabakh - a region that lies within Azerbaijan but was under the occupation of Armenia - last year, which ended with a Russia-brokered cease-fire on November 10, 2020.

## US air wars in Middle East 'deeply flawed': Report

## NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: Newly obtained Pentagon documents reveal that the US military's aerial campaigns in the Middle East have been marked by "deeply flawed intelligence and claimed the lives of thousands of civilians, including many children, without accountability. According to a report - the first of a two-part series - published by the New York Times on Saturday, a trove of confidential documents covering more than 1,300 reports of civilian casualties undercut Washington's claims of aerial raids with "all-seeing" drones, precision strikes and smart bombs. The Times said US forces carried out more than 50,000 airstrikes in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria over a five-year period.

In compiling its report, the daily newspaper said its reporters had "visited more than 100 casualty sites and interviewed scores of surviving residents and current and former American officials."

While several of the cases mentioned by the Times have been previously reported, it said its investigation showed that the number of civilian deaths had been "drastically undercounted." Among three cases cited was a July 19, 2016 bombing of purported strongholds of the Daesh terrorist group in northern Syria. Initial reports alleged that 85 militants were killed in the strikes. The fatalities were, instead, 120 farmers and other villagers. Another example was a November 2015 attack in the central Iraqi city of Ramadi, located about 110 kilometers (68 miles) west of the capital, Baghdad, after a man was seen dragging "an unknown heavy object." The "object," a review found, was a child, who died in the aerial assault.

The report added that poor or inadequate surveillance footage often contributed to deadly targeting failures. Before launching air raids, the US military should navigate elaborate protocols to estimate and minimize civilian deaths.

"In the report of the investigation, tar-

geters and weapons experts describe the ultimately disastrous calculations taken to win approval for the strike," the paper said.

For instance, when a crowd of people rushing to the scene of a bomb attack could possibly be mistaken as militants, not would-be rescuers. Sometimes, the Times said, "Men on motorcycles moving 'in formation,' displaying the 'signature' of an imminent attack, were just men on motorcycles." The paper added that the promises of transparency and accountability regularly were not fulfilled.

"Not a single record provided includes a finding of wrongdoing or disciplinary action," the paper reported. Trying to justify the civilian deaths, Captain Bill Urban, spokesman for the terrorist US Central Command (CENTCOM), told the Times that "even with the best technology in the world, mistakes do happen, whether based on incomplete information or misinterpretation of the information available. And we try to learn from those mistakes."

## Briefs

### WB approves \$195m for Pak energy sector

DNA

WASHINGTON: The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors on Saturday approved \$195 million in financing to support Pakistan in improving electricity distribution and implementing energy sector reforms to increase service quality for consumers.

According to a statement issued by the international financial institution, the Electricity Distribution Efficiency Improvement Project (EDEIP) will help distribution companies improve operations to manage the electricity supply more efficiently and increase the reliability of the electrical grid.

"It focuses on cost-saving interventions to increase revenue collection and reduce losses, and on modernising operations by employing technology and information systems," it said. Moreover, the project will also invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, particularly grid stations and transmission lines, which are critical to distribution and utility services. Speaking on the occasion, World Bank Country Director for Pakistan Najib Benhassine said: "The long-term financial viability of the power sector depends on improving the efficiency of electricity distribution companies that deliver electricity to consumers." "These efforts will improve the operational and financial performance of select distribution companies to improve their bankability and ultimately generate more private sector participation," he said.

### UN concerned over Rohingya school closures

DHAKA: The decision by Bangladesh to close schools for Rohingya refugees risks leaving a generation of children "practically uneducated", a United Nations human rights envoy warned Sunday.

Authorities this week ordered the closure of "unauthorised" education centres in border camps hosting around 850,000 members of the stateless Muslim minority, who fled there from violent persecution in neighbouring Myanmar.

The order came during a visit by UN special rapporteur Tom Andrews, who said the privately run schools played a critical role in educating Rohingya children.

"I am deeply concerned to have learned of a new policy, promulgated while I was here, that would close all private schools in the camps," he told reporters in the capital Dhaka. "We cannot allow an entire generation of Rohingya to go practically uneducated," he added. Bangladesh's foreign ministry has said the order will not impact around 3,000 learning centres for children in camps supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). - APP



ISLAMABAD: Dignitaries from Muslim countries in a group photo with Prime Minister Imran Khan at OIC Extraordinary session. - DNA

# Outrage as man beaten to death at Golden Temple

Footage showed the man jumping over the rail and into the temple's central enclosure, where the holy book Guru Granth Sahib is kept, and picking up a sacred diamond-encrusted sword

NEWS DESK

AMRITSAR: A man has been beaten to death at one of Sikhism's holiest shrines in India after he allegedly attempted to commit a sacrilegious act by trespassing into an inner shrine, according to local media reports. Police said the incident took place at about 17:45 local time (11:45 GMT) and was captured on camera as evening prayers at the Golden Temple in Amritsar were being broadcast on television.

Footage showed the man jumping over the rail and into the temple's central enclosure, where the holy book Guru Granth Sahib is kept, and picking up a sacred diamond-encrusted sword.

Deputy commissioner of Amritsar police Parminder Singh Bhandal said he was apprehended by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) staff members deployed in the shrine complex and led to the main administration's office.

"While the employees were taking him to the office, some of the other devotees present in the shrine beat him up so much that he died upon reaching the office," Bhandal said, according to the Hindustan Times. Protests broke out outside the SGPC head office after the broadcast as people demanded that the man be handed to them.

His identity remains unknown but he is believed to be in his early 20s, according to

a police review of security camera footage. A post-mortem examination was set to take place on Sunday.

The desecration of Sikh temples is a highly emotive issue among the Sikh community. The incident comes ahead of legislative elections in Punjab state next year. Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi has been accused by political opponents of not doing enough to safeguard holy sites in the region.

Balwinder Bhunder, a politician for opposition party Akali Dal, condemned Saturday's incident as a deliberate attempt "to weaken Punjab which is the sword arm of India". "Some people have made it a political game over the last five years," he said in

an interview with the NDTV broadcaster. Similar incidents have been recurrent at places of worship.

A man was apprehended on Wednesday for allegedly throwing a small Sikh holy book, the Gutka Sahib, into a pool surrounding the Golden Temple, according to the Hindustan Times.

SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhali told the news outlet that the incidents "seem a conspiracy hatched to provoke sentiments of the Sikhs and vitiate atmosphere of Punjab".

"The police and the government should expose the forces behind such incidents and stringent punishment must be given to the culprits," the SGPC chief said.

### PM Imran still suffering from Sharifs' phobia

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Referring to Prime Minister Imran Khan's interview to a news channel yesterday (Saturday) in which he had blamed the Bhutto and Sharif families for the ills afflicting the country, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) spokesperson Mariyum Aurangzeb claimed on Sunday that this man (PM Imran) had not come out of Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif's phobia as yet.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, she said it was a pity that the man (Imran Khan) who did not have the capability to become even a police inspector was now the country's prime minister.

Mariyum said the soaring electricity prices, delayed completion of bus rapid transit (BRT) project in Peshawar and 'drugs corruption scandal' had laid bare the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government's tall claims of good governance and transparency.

She alleged that expensive electricity was being produced from the furnace oil to 'benefit' the mafia associated with the business.

### Mercury drops in minus range in Islamabad

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: A spell of cold and dry weather continued in Islamabad as the mercury dropped to -1°C Celsius on Sunday, Pakistan Meteorological Department said in its weather report.

The capital city is expected to remain under the intense cold wave on Monday (tomorrow) with a misty morning. While predicting no rain in next three days the Met Office said that the minimum temperature in Rawalpindi and Islamabad was recorded at zero degree Celsius in previous two days, dropped to -1°C Celsius, which is lowest during the current season.

Northern Balochistan and most of the northern areas and central parts of the country experienced very cold weather with fog and smog in plains of Punjab.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi exchanging views with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan. - DNA

### Russia to 'fight' for space dominion

MOSCOW: Russia, after a decade-long hiatus, is relaunching an ambitious bid for supremacy over the world's budding space tourism industry, jostling with zealous billionaires, the United States, and rising China.

Russia flaunted its comeback this month dispatching two cosmic adventurers - Japanese billionaire Yusaku Maezawa and his assistant - to the International Space Station (ISS) in its first launch of tourists in 12 years.

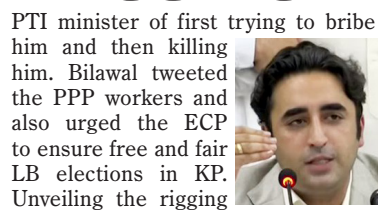
Buoyed by the success, firebrand space chief Dmitry Rogozin talked up Russia's next steps to supremacy: a special module at the ISS for Russia's visitors, spacewalks outside the station, and - down the line - trips around the moon.

"We will not give this niche to the Americans. We are ready to fight for it," he told reporters at a press conference as Maezawa was blasting towards the ISS on a 12-day mission. Yet Russia's path to industry dominance is dotted with new obstacles that have emerged since it was last in the game a decade ago. - Agencies

### Bilawal tweets KP workers to report rigging in ECP

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Sunday advised workers to report the violations of ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in the Local Body elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) directly. Bilawal Bhutto, in a series of tweets on Sunday, said that the PTI has sunk to new depths in its attempts to rig local body elections. In DI Khan ANP candidate was assassinated a day before polling, members of his family accused



PTI minister of first trying to bribe him and then killing him. Bilawal tweeted the PPP workers and also urged the ECP to ensure free and fair LB elections in KP. Unveiling the rigging attempts from ruling PTI in elections in his fresh tweets, the PPP chairman said PTI people have been caught red-handed stamping ballot papers before starting polling. Bilawal said ANP candidate in Dera Ismail Khan was assassinated a day before polling and the members of his family accused the PTI minister of first

trying to bribe him then killing him. Meanwhile, in Peshawar PTI supporters were caught red handed stamping ballot papers the night before polling. All day there have been reports of PTI ransacking polling stations attacking polling staff including women, he added. Bilwal said that this is what a desperately unpopular government looks like and they are resorting to violence and rigging to try and undermine the people's choice. PPP Chairman further said that he appeals to the people of Pakhtunkhwa to not be deterred by PTI tactics. He asked PPP workers to report violations to party election cell or directly to ECP.

### UAE ends cinema censorship, starts 21+ rating

WEB NEWS

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates announced Sunday it will no longer censor cinematic releases, introducing a 21 and above age rating for films it classifies for mature audiences. The UAE, which is made up of seven emirates, is considered one of the more liberal countries in the Gulf region, where movies with adult content are routinely cut or edited. The wealthy federation has

been continuously amending its laws in recent years, presenting itself as a modernizing force in a largely conservative region. The country's Media Regulatory Office said on Twitter that it had introduced a 21+ age category to its motion picture content rating system. "According to this classification, the international version of movies will be shown in cinemas, with an emphasis on the strict following of age classification standards for audience entry," it added.

### Germany proudly supports Pak green initiatives

ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador to Pakistan Bernhard Schlagheck has said that the climate change is more pressing challenge of the world that cannot be ignored or neglected anymore.

In a tweet on social media account, the envoy said that Federal Republic of Germany feel privileged to take lead in supporting of such countries and their initiatives where maximum focus on the issue of climate change. Ambassador Schlagheck said that being the representative of the Germany I feel honored and privileged to have witnessed signing of a grant agreement of Euro 13.5m for remarkable #TenBillionTreeTsunamiProgramme.

He said that all funds regarding the projects being provided by the @BMZ\_Bund via @KIW\_Islamabad's afforestation efforts across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said "Proud to be supporting this important green initiative." Talking to APP, Bernhard Schlagheck said recently Pakistan and Germany have signed a financing agreement for Billion Tree Afforestation Support Project (Phase-1).

He said that under the agreement, Germany will provide a grant of Euro13.5 million to Pakistan for the project through the KfW Development Bank. German envoy hoped that the BTASP will result a clean and green environment through reduction in carbon emissions and also bring about socio-economic benefits to local communities.

He said such efforts for climate change would result in bringing sustainable and lasting positive impact in the lives of the deserving communities in the country and help mitigate the risks of climate change.

According to a KfW press release, the Billion Tree Afforestation Support Project (BTASP) grant agreement was signed by Secretary Economic Affairs Division, Asad Hayat Din and Country Director KfW (German Development Bank) Sebastian Jacobi. With the funds provided by the German Government, KfW Development Bank will support the efforts of Government of Pakistan to reduce the impacts of climate change by planting 10 Billion Trees, introducing best practices on native and invasive plant species, training on firefighting techniques and provision of equipment, and women / youth engagement and empowerment. - APP

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