

#### PM Imran expresses condolences

during those dark days.

#### DNA



Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a Nobel Laureate and close confidant of Nelson Mandela. On his twitter handle, the prime minister posted, "My deepest condolences on the passing of Archbish op Desmond Tutu, Nobel Laureate, close confidant of Nelson Mandela, an icon of anti-apartheid struggle & champion of human rights. His critical role in liberation & national reconciliation are an inspiration for future generations." Nobel Peace Laureate, Emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu, died in Cape Town. He was 90.

# ter on Accountability

Shahzad Akbar on Sunday said that Sharif family premeditated attack on judiciary to hamper and influence proceedings. Shahzad Akbar, in a tweet, said that it has also been revealed that Nawaz Sharif had Rana Shamim sign the shady affidavit in his presence in office.

He further said that the big question now is who gave the questionable affidavit to the journalist as Rana Shamim said that it was in a safe. Earlier, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry said that Rana Shamim got his affidavit against Saqib Nisar notarized in Nawaz Sharif's office. Fawad Chaudhry, in a tweet. said that new revelations have once again proved Sharif family is a Sicilian mafia and how this mafia is capable of blackmailing of institutions of country including judiciary.

the Chairman PPP in his message on the 14th martyrdom anniversary of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto further said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was an ideal world leader who showed great courage in her mission to achieve democracy in Pakistan. Her struggle to make the country a true welfare state in the light of the thoughts and vision of our founding ancestors is historical. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the assassination of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto in Rawalpindi was not just the murder of a dream to save the people from poverty, unemployment and injustice, but a conspiracy to kill the entire nation. He pointed out that this heinous conspiracy was foiled by former President Asif Ali Zardari with the slogan "Pakistan Khappay".

**Continued on Page 06** 

'Iran,

Hezbollah

aid Yemen

rebel strikes'

RIYADH: The Saudi-led coalition on

#### NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad on Sunday said that he was poised to issue a visa and a ticket to PML-N Supremo Nawaz Sharif for his return to the country. He said that Nawaz Sharif had not consulted any doctor and he was healthy. He expressed these views while addressing a press conference here at a local hotel.

The Interior minister said that PML-N supremo merely issued statements against the insti- President Pakistan tutions. He said that these statements would Muslim League not make any difference and Prime Minister Nawaz (PML-N) Rana here. Sheikh

### **PML-N** says govt **puzzled** before Nawaz'arrival

**BUREAU REPORT** FAISALABAD: Punjab



#### Iran for good ties with neighbors

DNA

**TEHRAN:** Iranian President



the expansion of economic relations with neighboring countries and has been successful to do so, it is natural that ill-wishers would be after disrupting such relations. President Raisi made the remarks during a cabinet session on Sunday. He said that the country's non-oil exports have grown by 40% in comparison to figures from the preceding year.

Insīde.

Inquiry against DPO Gujrat ordered - Page 02

IPS study group to work on Islamic welfare based policy - Page 03

PM following thoughts and teachings of Quaid-e-Azam – Page 04

Pakistan and contemporary Taliban government - Page 05

Aqeel Khan, Ushna clinch Serena Tennis C'ship titles – Page 06

End Israeli settler 'terrorism' or expect new 'intifada – Page 07

NAB has no affiliation with any political party: Chairman - Page 08 **IIOJK:** Extrajudicial killings condemned

"No amount of oppression and use of force can break the will of the valiant Kashmiri," says FO

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday strongly condemned the extrajudicial killings of six more Kashmiris in the last three

days by Indian forces in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In a statement, Foreign Office spokesperson Asim Iftikhar condemned the extrajudicial killings of six more Kashmiri youth by Indian occupation forces in the last three days in continuing fake encounters and so-called cordon-and-search-operations.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Referring to a news report,

Federal Minister for Information and

Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry said on

Sunday that now it had emerged that Rana

Shamim, former chief judge of Gilgit-Balti-

stan (GB), had signed his 'affidavit' in the

presence of former prime minister and

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)

In a tweet, he said now it had been estab-

lished as to why the former prime minis-

ter and his family were called the Sicilian

mafia by the Supreme Court (SC) in its

remarks during the Panama leaks hearing

against him. Meanwhile, Minister of State

for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh

Habib said that now it was a settled fact that

Continued on Page 06

supremo Nawaz Sharif in London.

A 19-year-old student was martyred today by Indian occupation forces with impunity in India-occupied Kashmir, he said, adding that at least 18 Kashmiris have been martyred by Indian occupation forces in December so far. The Indian occupied forces have intensified arbitrary detentions, night raids, coercion, harassment and humiliation of Kashmiris, and the extrajudicial killings in staged encounters and

**Continued on Page 06** 



#### SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has announced to convene a meet ing of National Security Council (NSC) today (Monday) to discuss the current situation owing to Afghanistan and national security of the country.

According to the sources, PM will be briefed about NSC's latest progress. The meeting will be attended by the senior ministers and military leadership of Pakistan. Meanwhile, Minister of Interior Sheikh Rashid, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry and National Security Adviser Moeed Yousaf will also be present in the session. Earlier in December, Fawad Chaudhry Hussain had said that the opposition's decision to boycott the meeting of Parliamentary

**Continued on Page 06** 

Sunday accused Iran and Hezbollah of helping Yemen's Huthi rebels to launch missiles and drones at the kingdom, where two people were killed. Since the coalition intervened almost seven years ago to support Yemen's government, Saudi Arabia has regularly accused Iran of supplying the Huthis with sophisticated weapons and Hezbollah of training the insurgents.

Tehran denies the charges. Lebanon's Iran-backed Shiite militant movement Hezbollah has previously denied sending fighters or weapons to Yemen. The latest Saudi accusation came as the coalition intensified

an aerial bombing campaign against the Iran-backed Huthis. Coalition spokesman Turki al-Malki told a news conference the Huthis were "militarising" Sanaa airport and using it as a "main centre for launching ballistic missiles and drones" towards the kingdom. Malki showed reporters a video clip which he said depicted "the headquarters of Iranian and Hezbollah experts at the airport" where, he alleged, "Hezbollah is training the Huthis to booby-trap and use drones". - APP

Taliban bans transport for women without male, hijab

The guidance also called on all vehicle owners to offer rides only to those women wearing hijabs

**CENTRELINE REPORT** 

KABUL: Afghan Taliban said Sunday that women seeking to travel long distances should not be offered transport unless they are accompanied by a close male relative. The guidance, issued by the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, also called on all vehicle owners to offer rides only to those women wearing hijabs.

"Women travelling for more than 45 miles (72 kilometres) should not be offered a ride if they are not accompanied by a close family member," ministry spokesman Sadeq Akif Muhajir told AFP on Sunday, specifying that it must be a close male relative. The guidance, circulated on social media networks, comes weeks after the ministry asked

**Continued on Page 06** 

Taliban dissolves Afghan election commissions

#### **News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: The Taliban dissolved Afghanistan's two election commissions as well as the state ministries for peace and parliamentarian affairs, an official said Sunday. Bilal Karimi, deputy spokesman for Afghanistan's Taliban-run government, said the country's Independent Election Commission and Electoral Complaint Commission have been dissolved. He called them "unnecessary institutes for the current situation in Afghanistan." He said if there is a need for the commissions in the future, the Taliban government can revive them. The international community is waiting before extending formal recognition to Afghanistan's new rulers. They are wary the Taliban could impose a similarly harsh regime as when they were in power 20 years ago - despite their assurances to the contrary. Both elections commissions were mandated to administer and supervise all types of elections in the country, including presidential, parliamentary and provincial council elections. Karimi said the Taliban also dissolved the Ministry for Peace and the Ministry of Parliamentarian Affairs. He said they were unnecessary ministries in the government's current structure.

Rasheed alleged that the highest cases of slammed government Sharif, adding that Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali prime minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif. Zardari were the most corrupt persons of this Rana Sanaullah's perspective came in recountry. He said that PTI did not secure less votes in the local bodies elections.

He said, 'I will be on a seven-day visit to Sindh sues of the people. Replying to a question on bringing country to rock bottom. federal government for launching the Green line bus service for Karachiites.

corruption in the world were against Shahbaz on getting puzzled before arrival of former

sponse to Minister of Interior Sheikh Rashid's opinion on Nawaz's return to the country. He added that the government will have to leave and would listen to the problems of the peo- as it failed to fulfill what it had promised and ple.' He further said that he had decided to sit it has nothing else to talk in press conferenca day in every organization to resolve the is- es other than blaming PML-N's leadership for

inflation, he said that the seeds for the same Rana Sanaullah went on to add that govwere sowed by the previous governments. Re- ernment is still unable to prove any corplying to another question on MQM's former ruption allegation against Nawaz Sharif chief, he said that talks with him could not be and once he become prime minister again, held. Later, he also congratulated the PTI-led PM Imran Khan and Interior Minister



# NATIONAL

#### Islamabad **POST** Monday, December 27, 2021

# Inquiry against DPO Gujrat ordered

The complaints registered with the Prime Minister's Citizen portal said that the said official Umer Salamat was involved in helping the land grabbers; patronizing the accused involved in heinous crimes

#### STAFF REPORT

KHARIAN: The higher authorities have ordered inquiry against the DPO Gujrat Umer Salamat after a number of public complaints and incidents of murder, robbery and lawlessness in the areas falling in the jurisdiction of the said DPO.

According to details, multiple complaints were registered with the Citizen's Portal seeking an immediate action against the said DPO. The complaints registered with the

Prime Minister's Citizen portal said that the said official Umer Salamat was involved in helping the land grabbers; patronizing the accused involved in heinous crimes.

The complaint also contained information of Umer's bullying of the innocent people. He used to threaten such people with dire consequences in case they reported his malpractices to the higher authorities.

Few days ago a person lost his life due to the negligence of this said officer. According to reports some hooligans launched an armed assault

on the New Metro City located in Sarai-Alamgir. As a result of brawl there one person lost his life. The incident could have been avoided if the said DPO had moved in time upon getting news of the fight.

The complaint further said that the officer is incompetent and is often seen patronizing housing societies for his personal vested interests. While if the poor people reached him for justice he simply whisked them away. The people had demanded of the relevant authorities to take punitive action against the office.



ISLAMABAD: Chairperson of the Parveen Shakir Trust Parveen Qadir Agha along with the members of the trust and officers of the Pakistan Customs offering Fateha for the departed soul of the poetess on her 27th death anniversary, Sunday. Parveen Shakir had died in a road accident on Dec 26, 1994 in Islamabad. - DNA

Parveen Shakir remembered on death anniversary

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson and the members of the Parveen Shakir Trust (PST), writers, poets and intellectuals of the twin cities visited the H-8 graveyard on Sunday to remember the poetess on her 27th death anniversary (died on Dec 26, 1994). This is an annual ritual that the men and the women of letters perform remembering the young and the beloved poetess who left for her eternal abode at a young age of 42 in a road accident in Islamabad.

Chairperson of the PST and a long-time friend and colleague of Parveen Shakir, Parveen Qadir Agha led the small group, former colleagues and retired officers of the Customs and the Income Tax Group, poets and writers both young and the old, representatives of the Customs Group and of course fans of her poetry. Parveen Agha laid the flo-

ral wreath on the grave of Parveen Shakir and offered Fateha for the salvation of

# Suspect in Sawati murder planned to fly abroad

#### DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rizwan Habib, a suspect in the murder of a Pakistani-origin United States (US) woman Wajiha Swati, planned to fly abroad soon after committing the murder. The startling revelations emerged after police interrogated the suspect during his physical remand granted by a court. Rizwan Habib, who confessed to murdering his former wife Wajiha Swati, revealed before the investigators that he planned to fly abroad and even acquired a passport for the purpose.

"I planned to get asylum and later nationality in Poland," he said. Detailing the murder, the former husband of Wajiha Swati said that he killed her using a sharp-pointed object and later carried the body in a vehicle to Hangu.

"My father told me that murdering her will cost Rs50,000," the suspect said as police plan to seek an extension in his physical remand in the next hearing. A Pakistani-origin US woman who has been missing for more than two months has been killed, the hus-

band has confessed before the police in a major breakthrough in the case on Saturday. According to police, Wajiha Swati's husband has confessed before police during interrogation that he had killed her. A police team has been sent to Hangu for recovering the remains of the deceased woman after the husband identified the place of her burial. "The suspect murdered her for her bank balance and properties," they said adding that a newly formed investigation team has made the breakthrough in the case. The suspect is in police custody after a court granted his physical remand recently.

According to details, Wajiha Swati was allegedly abducted on October 16 and a case was registered at the Morgah Police Station on a complaint of her eldest son. The FIR nominated Rizwan Habib as the main accused

A police officer said that Waiiha Swati went missing on October 16 and her cell phone number was going off since then. The reports quoting the family of the woman claimed that Habib and Wajiha have divorced, however, the former claimed otherwise.

#### recovery govt arrears **BUREAU REPORT**

DC for

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad has directed to expedite the campaign for recovery of government arrears across the district and said that concerted efforts should be made to achieve the targets, there should be no slowness or negligence in this regard. He stated this while presiding over a meeting in which the overall performance of the revenue department including revenue recovery matters was reviewed.

The Deputy Commissioner, while reviewing the progress of recovery of government arrears in different sectors, emphasized on achieving the remaining targets in terms of stamp duty, registration fee, capital value tax & water rate and said that regular performance review and targets in case of non-completion, the concerned officer will be held accountable. He also directed to complete the relevant files by finding the missing documents in the revenue record. He asked the Assistant Commissioners to assign targets to the Revenue Officers and monitor them thoroughly, the performance should be very clear. The Deputy Commissioner said that a coordinated and effective strategy is being formulated to meet the targets set by the Punjab Govt. During the meeting, the Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Fazal e Rabi Cheema informed about the details of working on government arrears, missing documents and other revenue matters. Assistant Commissioner of tehsils were also present in the meeting

### Quaid's principles should be our guiding principles: DC

#### ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: On the Eve of Quaid day, Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad paid rich tribute to the father of nation and spoke on Quaid's determination and passion through which he inculcated hope in the people to create Pakistan. He said that Quaid message of Unity, Faith and Discipline should be our guiding principles in countering our problems.

He said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a promising figure whose visionary leadership led to the success of the independence movement and the emergence of a free independent Pakistan. Referring to the great deeds and golden principles of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in the freedom struggle, the Deputy Commissioner said that the best way to pay homage to him is to follow his principles for the development and prosperity of the country and the nation.

He said that in order to become a great nation, we should learn lessons from the life of Quaid-e-Azam. Deputy Commissioner informed that District Administration has arranged various program on the Quaid Day while the banners, steamers pertaining to the sayings of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had also been displayed at the prominent roads and intersections.



A cake was also cut in connection with 146th birth anniversary of Quaid -i- Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah at AC City office. AC City Sahibzada Muhammad Yousaf and Director Information Muhammad Awais Abid were chief guest. Students delivered speeches on the life of Muhammad Ali Jinnah and prayer was also offered for Quaid. AC Sammundri Faisal Sultan also cut cake at THQ Hospital. They paid rich tribute to the father of nation.

Meanwhile, on the eve of Christmas, Deputv Commissioner Ali Shahzad wished happy christmas to christian community. In his message, Deputy Commissioner said that the civilized nation celebrated their Joys and other festivals jointly which strengthened the national relationship and sentiments of patriotism. He said that Christian community was playing their role equally for the development and progress of Pakistan and we would maintain peace and brotherhood as a united nation. He informed that the district administration had made strict security arrangements on the Christmas day and for the recreation of Christian special arrangements had been made in parks and

Deputy Commissioner informed that District Administration had established 8 Christmas bazars in the district for three days where all necessary items were provided on cheap rates.

#### Dr. Jaffar Hassan awarded

The long Service Award had been awarded to the legend gold medallist Dr. Jaffar Hassan Mubarik. The Senior Deputy Managing Director EFU General Qamber Hammed given the award to the legend. Senior Deputy Managing Director appreciated the remarkable services of Dr.Jaffar Hassan Mubarik for serving humanities and hoped that he would continue to serve the depressed public. Social Worker Dr. Jaffar Hassan Mubarik thanked the EFU Senior Deputy Managing Director for honoring him with long service award and said that he would continue to serve the humanity.

#### Australia reaffirms plan to visit Pakistan

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Cricket Australia chief executive Nick Hockley on Sunday said the situation is difficult because of Omicron, but will still visit Pakistan as scheduled. Cricket Australia chief executive Nick Hockley said in a statement on the tour of Pakistan that the Australian team had recently gone to Pakistan to take stock of the situation. Nick Hockley added that the situation is difficult because of Omicron but is determined to visit Pakistan, as long as the situation is safe Australia is determined to visit Pakistan. It is to be noted that the Australian team will visit Pakistan in March next year after 24 years.

Australia will also tour India and Sri Lanka next year after not playing a Test overseas since the 2019 Ashes finale at The Oval.



### Regional economic co-op must to alleviate poverty

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Esala Ruwan Weerakoon Sunday stressed the urgent need of strengthening regional cooperation among member states to usher an era of prosperity, progress, development and alleviate the object poverty in the region.

Speaking at a reception hosted in his honour, he called upon the SAARC council of ministers to meet to address the procedural issues due to which SAARC and its apex allied bodies are greatly suffering and also take necessary measures to accelerate the economic and commercial growth among member states

He said he will discuss the matter with the

current chair Nepal to resolve the issue on priority, said a press release issued here.

He emphasized the need for greater cooperation to foster greater regional economic integration in South Asia and all impediments hindering smooth flow of economic growth be done away with forthwith with mutual consensus among member states.

Welcoming SAARC Secretary General on his four day maiden visit to Pakistan since assuming office in March 2020 veteran trade leader founder chairman Pak US Business Council and former President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik on behalf of Pakistani business community stressed the need for resolving the matter of recognition of apex and allied bodies to achieve the very objectives of SAARC which was conceived in 1985.

the soul. On this occasion, rich tributes were paid to the 'interpreter' of women's feelings for her contributions to Urdu literature.

#### Political elite ruthlessly plundered the country

ISLAMABAD: Addressing a function on the occasion of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah Day, PML-Q central leader Khawaja Rameez Hassan said that Pakistan was established by dreaming of a prosperous state. Unfortunately, inexperienced politicians and

bureaucrats put personal interests first. Hojjatoleslam He said, the country has become economically weaker day by day due to frivolous policies and measures and today the skyrocketing ingious leaders. flation and unemployment rates have made the lives stan Mohammad Ali Hosof the people miserable. Exseini and Iranian Culture ternal debt has crossed all limits and there is a risk of Counselor Ehsan Khazaei received Hojjatoleslam Habankruptcy. mid Shahriari and Member In these circumstances, of Iranian Assembly of Ex-

there's an urgently needs for an economic and strategic team to take over the reins of the country. – DNA

# arrives in Pakistan

Senior Iranian cleric

Secretary General of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of ISLAMABAD: Iran's Secre-Thought is scheduled to attary General of the World tend various events during Forum for Proximity of Ishis stay in the Pakistani caplamic Schools of Thought ital, including a conference Hamid on the unity of the Islamic Shahriari arrived in Islam-Ummah, a meeting with the chairman of the Pakistan abad on Sunday morning Islamic Ideology Council, to meet with Pakistani relisome religious officials, and Ambassador of the Islamic senior Islamic scholars. Republic of Iran to Paki-Later Hojjatoleslam Shahri-

ari will travel to Lahore and

Karachi to meet and consult with Pakistani religious leaders. The Islamic Unity Confer-

ence will be held on Monday by the National Solidarity Council of Pakistan under the chairmanship of Sahibzadah Abul Khair Zubair, Liaqat Baloch, the secretary general of the Council, with the presence of Hojjatoleslam Shahriari Hojjatul, Nazir Salami and Pakistani personalities in Islamabad.



**ISLAMABAD** Qamar News Agency 03105460372

**RAWALPINDI** Asim News Agency 03435802610

> **KARACHI** Nazir Siyal 03337554016

**PESHAWAR** Zarbagh News Agency 03005412069

> FAISALABAD **Ishfaq Mughal** 03007689850

**JEHLUM** Iqrash News Agency 03005412069

**KHARIAN** Ijaz News Agency 03068863870

SARA-I-ALMAGIR 0300 5428178

# World must open aid to Afghanistan

Devcom-Pakistan webinar suggests immediate measures to unfreeze Afghanistan assets, engagement of non-state actors for free flow of humanitarian aid, inclusive government, and action support to strengthen the economy in Afghanistan

#### **DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Speaking at a regional webinar on Saturday, the panel of experts from different countries criticised the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers conference on Afghanistan for not coming up with a proactive action agenda to help people in crisis. However, they mentioned that the 17th extraordinary session of the OIC has driven the global focus to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. The UN Security Council has adopted the aid resolution after the OIC session.

They urged the western media to take up the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan as a trending story to kick off immediate supply of food, medicines, and winter shelter kits for common people. They urged the US government to immediately unfreeze Afghanistan's financial assets to ease the situation.

Keeping in view the urgency of the issue, Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) and DTN jointly organised the webinar on Saturday on the subject "Afghanistan post-OIC conference in Islamabad". The panel of experts included former ISI chief Lt. General (Retd) Muhammad Asad Durrani, Pakistan's former ambassador to China Naghmana Hashmi, India's former ambassador to Afghanistan Rakesh Sood, Iran's former ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Masha Allah Shakri, Afghanistan's former senior deputy minister for strategy and policy coordination Abdullah Khenjani, Centre for China and Globalisation Research Fellow Zooh Ahmed Khan, and Dr. Somaye Morovati, Head of South Asia and Afghanistan at Tehran International Studies and Research Institute (TISRI).

Lt General Asad Durrani said the OIC has proved to be good for nothing once again. No immediate action plan and pledges for humanitarian aid to Afghanistan were seen. However, the conference has diverted the global attention to the war-torn country assets of which are frozen by the US. We shall not wait for the banking channels to open. Let the non-state actors act upon as early as possible through a well-defined and monitored process to support the humanitarian aid. We knew ten years back that it would happen after the withdrawal of the US and NATO troops from Afghanistan. But intentionally never thought of any post-withdrawal plans. He said Pakistan would be the big-

gest loser if it could not play its due role in Afghanistan at the time of crisis. This is unfortunate that Muslim world is yet to come up with any joint action plan to combat the humanitarian crisis beyond the political differences with Taliban.

Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi appreciated Pakistan's role in organising the OIC foreign ministers conference that could attract the world focus to Afghanistan. Pakistan has always been active on the Afghanistan issue, supporting it more silently and with pro-Afghanistan diplomacy. She said China has good relations with Afghanistan whatever the government was there in Kabul. Never interfered in the internal politics, and kept on infrastructure development and economic interventions. China is expected to come forward to more infrastructural development and support to the education and health sectors.

DNA

perts Molavi Nazir Ahmad Salami at Islamabad Inter-

national Airport.

Ambassador Rakesh Sood commenting on the 'OIC Trust Fund for Afghanistan' said the conference did not share any mechanism that how this fund would work, and where the money would come from. The world was expecting any concrete plans from the OIC countries. China is gaining more influence and space in Afghanistan with their meagre investment plans, their aid will be much minimal.



#### **SERVICES**



# **IPS study group to work on** Islamic welfare based policy

The extensive one-year study will conclude with concrete policy recommendations and draft legislation for the federal, provincial, and local levels

#### Namaz Timings

-
Fajr 05:41 am
Zohr 12:08 pm
Asr 03:28 pm
Maghrib 05:06 pm
Isha 06:35 pm



#### **Hotels** & Restaurants

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



#### Airlines Turkish Airlines......8494949



#### Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15 Bomb Disposal.....15 Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16 Emergency Ambulance..1122 & Rescue Services.4451122 Motorway Police....9266044 Motorway Police..9270601-20 Women Police Stations Islamabad......9222596 Rawalpindi......9270601-20



Enquiry

Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) - in collaboration with the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) - will help develop an effective Islamic social finance model for sustainable social protection that can realize the dream of an Islamic welfare state in Pakistan. The extensive one-year study will conclude with concrete

DNA

policy recommendations and draft legislation for the federal, provincial, and local levels. The inaugural meeting of the project titled 'Islamic Social Finance for Social Protection' was co-chaired by Dr Ikram-ul-Haq Yaseen, secretary, Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) and Dr Muhammad Tahir Mansoori, former vice president, In-

**Four more** 



ternational Islamic Univer-Prominent participants of sity, Islamabad. the session included Omar The session was addressed, Mustafa as main speakers, by Khalid tary-general, Accounting and Rahman, IPS' chairman, Dr Auditing Organization for Is-H. Hendri Tanjung, advisor lamic Financial Institutions to the Indonesian president (AAOIFI), Bahrain, Syed Abu on Waqf, Dr Salman Ahmed Ahmad Akif, member, Prime Shaikh, the project's princi-Minister's Inspection Commission and former federal pal investigator and assistant professor, SZABIST, Karasecretary, Dr Abdul Saboor, chi, and Mustafa Khan, techdean, PMAS Arid Agriculnical advisor, GIZ (Deutsche ture University, Rawalpindi, Azeem Pirani, CEO, Pak-Qa-Gesellschaft für Internationtar Takaful, Dr Nazir Ahmed ale Zusammenarbeit)

Ansari,

Ved, Akhuwat Foundation, Qanit Khalilullah, chartered secreaccountant and economic analyst, Mufti Ghulam Majid, senior research officer, CII, Dr Anwar Shah, associate professor, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad, Ghazala Ghalib, PhD scholar and lecturer, IIUI, Numair Hasan Madni, Alkhidmat Foundation, and officials from Zakat and Usher departments of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab

Dr Hendri, who addressed the meeting online from Indonesia, apprised the participants about the unique measures the Government of Indonesia has undertaken to ensure that the charity funds gathered from its people were utilized to benefit the poor and needy countrymen. Dr Ikram advised the project team to keep the trust element in mind while devising a social protection model for an Islamic welfare state. He also un-

in the prevalent conditions. eligibility in the current socio-economic situation

derscored the importance of carrying out ijtihad in the disbursement of Zakat and Ushr The discussion, in addition, also discussed the role of mosques in the collection of Zakat & Ushr within a locality, the potential use of technology in collection and disbursement of charitable money, and the need to redefine Zakat recipient's



ISLAMABAD: A light show was organized by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at Parliament House to commemorate Quaid Day. Information Secretary Shahera Shahid speaking on the occasion. - APP

# Jinnah comes to life for a peaceful Pakistan

Transgender found dead

#### **CDA** to use drones for forests and wildlife

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The administration of Capital Development Authority is taking all possible steps for the protection of wildlife and forests in Islamabad. In this regard, the management of the Capital Development Authority has decided to use of latest technology in addition to improving the efficiency of the workforce. In this regard, it has been decided that drones will be used for Model Forestry Park Malpur. Tenders for purchase of drones have been published in newspapers.

The use of drones will enable detection of encroachments in the forest area which will help in taking timely action against the encroachers. Similarly, these drones will also help in determining the types of wildlife found in the forests of Islamabad while also helping in determining the migratory wildlife. In addition, the technology could be used for other measures, including preventing illegal logging.

Other problems, including forest fires, could also be identified and addreseed in time properly. The use of drones will also help in decision making process regarding forests and forest life. On this occasion, the CDA administration said that forests are the beauty of Islamabad and every effort will be made to maintain it.

#### Annual training workshop held at PAC

RAWALPINDI: In connection with the celebrations of Quaid-e-Azam Day, International Writers Forum Pakistan and Punjab Arts Council jointly organized an annual training workshop and distribution of certificates and shields

Edhi Ambulance	115
PIAFlightInfo	114
PIACargo	9280979
Railway Inquiry	117
Railway Exchange92	70831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5	555489
CAA	9281092



#### Hospitals

СМН	
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital.	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	
Shifa Internatio	onal.4603666



#### **Departments**

-	
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
ТМА	5770886
Cantonment Bo	ard 9270151-3



#### Complaints

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

#### Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation......9209224 Potohar Town......9209224 RawalTown.....5773343

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....0331-5022125

DNA ISLAMABAD: On 26th December, as Pakistan celebrates the birthday of its

ji Foundation. - APP

founder, the federal capital ur, Swat, Karachi, Lahore of the country witnessed the and Faisalabad. This year, the hologram tour is taking holographic projections of Quaid e Azam Muhammad place in the twin cities. The campaign titled "AIK -Ali Jinnah in a public event. Better Together" intends to A life size hologram of Jinnah was displayed at Fatima promote and instill Quaid's Jinnah Park in the evening message of peace, tolerance, interfaith harmony where Quaid addressed the citizens of his country. The and unity among the people event was organized in col-

of Pakistan. It is to remind laboration with Hive Pakithe nation of the principles stan and Mobilink Microfiover which he fought for us; empowering the wom-

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police

(IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Ahsan Younus

introduced new standard operating proce-

dures (SOPs) for effective policing in

the federal capital. The SOPs are

related to complaint manage-

ment, registration of FIR,

schedule of inquiries and in-

vestigations, investigation of

offences, arrest of accused,

police station management

and front desk management.

Addressing at a ceremony, here

at police lines headquarters, the

other day IGP Younus said under the

SOPs the police station staff would ensure

FIR registration in time. The front desk staff

was bound to register the case of missing

IGP introduces new SOPs

for effective policing

nance Bank Limited. In 2018, Pakistan witnessed en of Pakistan, making this

its first hologram screening country a place where every social cohesion.

of the most celebrated figfaith could have a respectaure of the nation, Muhamble place, and to work hard to prosper Pakistan. mad Ali Jinnah and since then it has reached out to

Peace Rickshaws are also a thousands of people in Kaspart of the campaign; two peace rickshaws bearing the messages of Quaid e Azam have been launched to engage with public to promote positive messages around the city as well as for the people to recall the messages put forward by Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The hologram content of the projections has been collected by various speeches of Jinnah where he spoke about interfaith harmony. women empowerment, and

persons in minimum time, In case of delay

the concerned officials would be responsible.

Similarly, police counters would be set up at

the Polyclinic and PIMS Hospital to fa-

cilitate the personnel. He said the

Moharar strength would be di-

vided into seven sections with

weekly off for each personnel.

There would be at least three

Jawans in the patrolling vehi-

cle as well as on each picket

during snap checking. All of-

ficers on duty must ensure wear

bulletproof jackets and helmets.

The DIG (operations), SSPs, SDPOs,

Zonal SPs and SHOs would remain present

in the respective areas from 12pm to 5am

morning to supervise the teams. - DNA

Since Pakistanis have an immense emotional affiliation with the leader of the nation, our purpose is to engage with different strata of the society that include youth ranging from 16-25 years of age. Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL), the largest digital bank of Pakistan, was a supporting partner with Hive Pakistan for the said event. "We congratulate Hive Pakistan for successfully executing this innovative project", Syed Aizaz Zaidi, Chief Risk Officer at MMBL said on the occasion.

#### **SNGPL** initiates action against gas compressor RAWALPINDI: General

Manager Rawalpindi Region, SNGPL, Mukhtar Shah said special teams have been constituted to launch a crackdown against those who are depriving their neighbours of the gas facility by using the compressors. The SNGPL during a crackdown has caught 213 gas sucking compressors and machines and disconnected 110 gas supply connections from different areas of the city and cantonment board localities, he added. - APP

### **Dr Faisal Sultan lauds HSA efforts to** mitigate sufferings of ailing humanity

Dr Faisal Sultan and Dr Nausheen Hamid also inaugurated the ORIC, the student affairs office, one-year diploma on Public Health Nutrition and Life Style Medicine and the graduation program on Mid Wifery

ISLAMABAD: Special As-Dr Faisal Sultan and Dr sistant to Prime Minister Nausheen Hamid also inon National Health Servicaugurated the Office of es Regulations and Coor-Research Innovation and dination Dr. Faisal Sultan Commercialization (ORIC), on Wednesday lauded the the student affairs office, efforts of Health Services one-year diploma on Public Health Nutrition and Life Academy (HSA) in mitigating suffering of the ailing Style Medicine and the humanity. During his visit graduation program on Mid to the HSA along with Par-Wifery. He also shed light on liamentary Secretary on the importance of basic and National Health Services applied research, the value Regulations and Coordinaof innovation and commertion Dr Nausheen Hamid, cialization during his discushe also appreciated HSA sion with the Director ORIC, Vice Chancellor for making Prof. Dr. Mubashir Hanif. tireless efforts for better-World Health Organization (WHO) Representative-Soment of the academy.

malia, Dr. Mamunur Rahman Malik was also present during the inauguration of the said offices and diploma/degree programs.

Meanwhile the WHO Somalia Mission, which is currently on a visit to Pakistan from December 17-24, comprising Dr Mamunur Rahman Malik, Dr Mashrur Mirza, Emergency Programme Dr Shajib Hossain (Planning Officer) visited Health Services Academy (HSA). The HSA representation was led by the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan accompanied by the Registrar,

Director ORIC and other faculty members. Welcome remarks were given by Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan after the arrival of the

mission at HSA. The Vice Chancellor also explored the possibilities of collaboration on short and long-term training and capacity building of Somali students on public health and emergency preparedness and he also gave a brief on different courses offered at the HSA like Family Practice Approach including AMR; Primary Health Care; Health Economics. - APP

#### under mysterious circumstances

The police said that they have shifted the body of the transgender to the hospital for medico-legal formalities and registered a murder case against unknown men

RAWALPINDI: A transgender has been found dead under mysterious circumstances near Chakri Interchange in Rawalpindi as police launched an investigation to probe it. According to police, the body was found strangulated by a dupatta [long robe] besides being shot. "A 30-bore pistol was also found from near the body," they said. The police said that they have shifted the body of the transgender to the hospital for medico-legal formalities and registered a murder case against unknown men. Attacks against transgenders have been reported frequently in the country and recently a transgender person was shot dead after a musical concert in Mardan, KP.

As per details, the firing incident was reported after a musical concert in Mardan's area of Jhanday. As a result, a transgender person who was invited to the concert lost his life. The First Information Report (FIR) of the incident has been registered, said the police and added that raids are being conducted to arrest the culprits. In 2006, the killing of a transgender named Alishah took the country by storm. The victim was targeted with several bullets in Peshawar and the hospital administration refused to provide medical treatment to the person which lead to his death. - DNA

here on Sunday.

The General Secretary International Writers Forum Pakistan, Aqdas Hashmi performed duty of the anchorperson. After the inauguration, a concert was held in which the famous ghazal and Sufi singer Aqdas Hashmi impressed the audience with his artistic voice.

The event was attended by literary and social personalities from all over Pakistan, including fiction writers, columnists, novelists, scholars, and other literary journalism and research characters.

In the second part of the programme, prominent country speakers spoke. The renowned poet and writer Naveed Malik expressed his literary views, literary and social personality Tajdar Hashmi spoke about children's rights and informed the audience about the National Commission for Children's Rights. Naeem Nazir, a well-known calligrapher, presented his research on calligraphy and fiction to the participants. - APP

#### **CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Works Division-III**

#### **TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed tenders are invited on percentage basis for the following work form the contractors having valid registration in Pakistan Engineering Council in appropriate category and having the codes mentioned against the work.

S.#	Name of Work	NIT Cost	Earnest Money	Date & Time for Receipt of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender	Tender Fee	PEC Code
1	Procurement of UAV Drones for Model Forestry Park, Mulpur (Phase-I)	Rs.6,887,003/-	Rs.206,610/-	13-01-2022 at 11:30AM	13-01-2022 at 12:00 Noon	Rs.2000/-	ME-06

The tender form complete can be download from CDA website; however, contractor is responsible for followings: a) Contractor must pay tender fee of Rs.2000/- before opening of tender in shape of deposit at call non-refundable or cash payment in office of Dy. Director Works Division-III, CDA.

- Contractor must sign and seal all pages of tender documents at lower right corner of each page. Tender name should clearly be mentioned on the envelope with the information that the documents inside are downloaded or purchased directly from the office of DD Works-III, CDA Before opening of tender contractor must provide the valid attested copy of enlistment in PEC in the above
- mentioned codes.

e) Tender pages must be properly stapled in sequence. Tender forms can also be purchased on cash payment (non-re c) Fonder pages must be purplerly support, and an equation of the page of t

- 2022 12:00 during working hours 2022 12:00 during working hours Application for issuance of tender documents shall accompany name, address(s), signature of contractor, and valid enlistment of Firm in PEC in the above referred code. Tender will be issued those firms who have valid PEC registered certificate having appropriate category ME-06.
- In case of the total bid amount is less than 10% of NIT cost, the bidder shall submit call deposit as measure of security equal to the total model is the stant toy of 141 cost, the older stant submit can deposit is measure of secting equal to the difference between NT cost and total quoted amount less 10% of NT cost. The performance security of the successful bidder shall be released after completion of project, otherwise the tender will be rejected at the time of
- Director, Works Division-III, CDA from local schedule bank of Islamabad must accompany with the application, without call deposit no application for issuance of tender will be entertained. Cash/cheque will not be accepted.
- Tender shall be issued to only those firms who had experience of similar works.
- The bid security of all bidders would be deposited in CDA Bank account and same may be returned after acceptance of
- The bid security of all bidders would be deposited in CDA Bank account and same may be returned after acceptance of contract with the successful bidder.
  If any contractor wants to participate in tender opening process through its representative, then he should issue authority letter on the letter head of the firm depicting complete valid address & contact number along with attested copy of CNIC.
  Tender for the work mentioned above will be received and opened in the office of Director E&M Development, CDA located at Room No. 49, Ground Floor Old Naval Head Quarter Building, G-6 Markaz, Islamabad on same date and time
- CDA may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to acceptance of a bid or proposal. The CDA shall upon at request communicate to any supplier or contractor who submitted a bid or proposal. The CDA shall upon at request communicate to any supplier or contractor who submitted a bid or proposal, the ground for its rejection of all bids or proposals, but shall not be bound to justify those grounds.
- Advertisement can also be seen at CDA website <u>ww.cda.gov.pk</u> and PPRA website <u>www.ppra.org.pk</u> while submitting the tender, o 13. The contractor will provide following additional do tender will be
- Power of Attorney attested through respective court b.
- Partnership Deed d. Non-Relationship Certificate Programme of Work Income Tax Registration Certificate Professional Tax Certificate
- Registration Certificate
- Non Judicial Stamp Paper worth Rs.10/-Ikhlaq Hussain

Deputy Director (E&M) Works Division-III, CDA Ph.: 051-9209886

PID (I) No.<u>4267/21</u>

# **TWIN CITIES**



# Balochistan deprivation to end

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Khan Suri has vowed to end deprivations of people of Balochistan. Talking to media in Quet-

ta on Sunday, the Deputy Speaker said federal government has started mega development projects in neglected districts of Balochistan to improve living standard of people.

He said a network of roads has been laid in the province to improve communication. The Deputy Speaker said that health card facility will be provided soon to the people of Balochistan to enable them get better health facilities.

Speaking about political matters, Qasim Khan Suri said PTI will be reorganized in Balochistan.

He announced that for this purpose he will visit every district of the province. He made it clear that the government will complete it tenure.

#### VICS center to be set up near Faizabad

RAWALPINDI: A state of the art Vehicle Inspection and Certification Station (VICS) Center will be set up near Faizabad or on IJP Road for inspection of Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) as the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Muhammad Ali has directed the authorities concerned to select a suitable place in these areas

According to a district administration spokesman, DC had also directed the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) to allow Chingchi Richshaws to ply only on designated routes which should be issued to them to avoid traffic congestion on city roads.

He ordered the officers of RTA and City Traffic Police to launch a crackdown against PSVs running with out route permits and fitness certificates and take strict action in accordance with the law against the rules violators. The spokesman informed that the VICS center Rawat was out of city area so the administration was going to set up another VICS center near Faizaabad or on IJP road to facilitate the citizens. The authorities had also been instructed that the PSVs being run without fitness certificates and route permits should be imposed heavy fines and also impounded from one week to one month period in respec tive police stations A modern vehicle inspection, certification station installed at Rawat near Radio Pakistan building was issuing fitness certificates to commercial vehicles in passenger and freight sector, he added. He informed that the Punjab government had made mandatory for commercial vehicles in passenger and freight sector to pass fitness test of an OPUS Inspection, a Swedish firm which had started its operation here. - APP

# Briefs Balochistan deprivation to end BADChistan to end BADChistan to end BADChistan to end BADChistan to end BADChistan

Protection of the rights of minorities in Pakistan is the responsibility of all of us. Our people have not allowed the minority community in the country to feel insecure or discriminated against at any stage and their rights have been protected in all circumstances

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Central Leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and Group Chairman Dr. Muhammad Amjad has said that Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan is following the thoughts and teachings of the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, to make Pakistan greater and greater, adding that the role of the minorities in the freedom movement and in the process of national development and public welfare is unforgettable, we share equally their happiness.

Dr. Amjad expressed these views while addressing the birth anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan and Christmas celebrations held at the Convention Center in Islamabad. He said that under the enthusiastic leadership of the Imran Khan, PTI government is securing the bright future of country. In the formation of the state, the Christian community, including all minorities, lit their own candles in the struggle of the founder of Pakistan, which has enlightened the whole of Pakistan.

Dr. Muhammad Amjad said that the struggle for the establishment of an independent and sovereign state which was brought to fruition by the founder of Pakistan would have a huge responsibility on all



sections of the country as well as every member of the society for its integrity and survival. He said that they should play their positive role in moving Pakistan on the path of development and prosperity. Chairman Islamabad Group Dr.

Muhammad Amjad said that December 25 is also the birthday of the Founder of Pakistan and this day is also a historic day of renewal from Pakistan and also a celebration of Christmas

On this occasion, we congratulate the entire Christian community. He said that protection of the rights of minorities in Pakistan is the responsibility of all of us.

Our people have not allowed the minority community in the country to feel insecure or discriminated against at any stage and their rights have been protected in all circumstances. Constitution and law must prevail.

Dr. Muhammad Amjad said that the captain (Imran Khan) of

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah is working hard with his entire team to make Pakistan strong, stable and prosperous internally. PTI leader Dr. Muhammad Amjad said that in order to make Pakistan greater and greater, the entire nation must unite and play its

ready in process of designing

To a question about skill-

based education, the VC said

that it was basic mandate of

the varsity since its establish-

ment to provide skill-based

The university had devised

special courses in computer,

education to the people.

courses in this regard.

AIOU, JICA join hands to exploit CPEC potential

role to the fullest.

ISLAMABAD: The Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are joining hands to launch a project for provision of skill-based training to the people in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) that are being set up along the CPEC route.

tractor repairing, poultry and "Initially, under the project farming to provide technical training will be started in training to the people and Rashakai and Gilgit-Baltistan help them earn respectable Industrial Zones while later livelihood. He said even the

#### 47 gamblers booked over dog fighting

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested gamblers including 47 dog fighters in a violations of dog-fighting and recovered stake money Rs 25,400, 40 mobile phones from their possessions

Police have also confiscated 5 vehicles, a motorcycle and 04 dogs from their possession and registered separate cases against them under the gambling act and started investigation.

Those arrested were identified as Naeem, Mohammad Pervez, Talib Hussain, Abdul Majeed, Amjad Mahmood, Mohammad Yaqub, Mamun Khurshid, Waqar Ahmad, Imran Riaz, Raza Asif, Sajid Mahmood, Mobin Azmat, Mohammad Imran, Mohammad Nadeem, Bilal, Haq Nawaz, Hakim Khan, Mohammad. Javed, Mohammad Kamran, Shoaib, Waqas Ahmed, Asad, Chavez, Ghulam Mustafa, Mohammad Bilal, Javed Khan, Mohammad Tauqeer, Bilal Hussain, Axir Akhtar, Mohammad Shabir, Shahid Ali, Nadeem Akhtar, Mubashir Iqbal, Rashid, Haroon, Sajjad, Ehsanul Haq, Roshan Ali, Muzaffar, Asad Hayat, Bahamand, Muhammad Siddique, Ajmal, Alam-gir, Akhtar, Manzoor Hussain. Nadeem.

City Police Officer CPO Sajid Kayani appreciated the performance of police team adding that gambling is the root of other evils, action against gamblers will be continued. – APP

#### 'Assorted Tales' attracting people

ISLAMABAD: A solo exhibition of senior artist Atif Khan titled 'Assorted Tales' was attracting a large number of people at Satrang Gallery aiming to highlight the talent of skillful artist.

Atif is a printmaker and teaches at the Department of Fine Arts at prestigious National College of Arts, Lahore. According to Satrang Gallery Atif Khan expands the time zone of his works using mythical and historical references which beautifully bring together the past, present, and future. Atif Khan exhibited at the very first exhibition



RAWALPINDI: President Pakistan Green Task Force and Chairman Qamar Jahan Foundation Dr. Jamal Nasir, Chairman Jinnah Iqbal South Asian Plus Forum along with others are inaugurating Quaid-e-Azam Free Medical Camp. - DNA

# Hundred years old Mosque discovered in Capital

ISLAMABAD: Archeologists have discovered a historical 200 years old Mosque near 'Kanwal (Lotus) Lake recently. Environment Wing of Capital Development Authority (CDA) recently found ruins of the old abandoned Mosque while carrying out development work at the Lotus Lake.

The Banyan tree located in the Mosque's courtyard is also believed to be 500 years old. This site can be

declared an archeological site after a review of surveys conducted by the relevant authorities.

During the development work of Kanwal Park and Lake at Mohra Rajgan Pind in Islamabad, the structure of a 200-year-old Jamia Masjid has been discovered near Shakarparian. The architecture of the mosque shows that it was 200 years old.

The banyan tree is 500 years old. Lo-



cals used to offer five-time prayers and Friday pravers in this ancient Mosque. The villages were evacuated at that time the residents of the area moved to Rawalpindi and surrounding areas of Islamabad with compensation for their houses and lands.

During the construction of Kanwal Lake and the park was cleared and the bushes etc. were removed then the structure of an old Mosque was found there, the architecture of which suggests that it was a very old Mosque. The tree is thought to be 500 years old. Capital Development Authority ( CDA) Chairman Amer Ali Ahmed said that the authority would restore this historical Mosque, adding that instructions have already been issued to take steps for the restoration of this Mosque, which is a precious heritage.

He said that the construction of the lake is in the final stage and a new facility for tourists will be available soon. It is worth mentioning here that in the past there was a natural lotus lake in this area which was hidden during the construction of the cultural complex between 2004-05. - APP

### **PIDE's reform agenda for economic revival**

Towards a Stable Democracy, they suggested the adoption of a proportional representation electoral system. For the political parties to be eligible to contest elections, the parties must have elections within the party

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: To absorb a high level of debt and youth bulge in Pakistan, PIDE's Reform Agenda suggests sustained growth at a rate of 7-9% per annum for 3 decades

Challenge is to significantly raise investment rate & productivity which are major drivers of growth that are relatively low & declining. The greater the role of the government in the economy, the lesser is the space available for the entrepreneurs to function. The Investment Climate in Pakistan is very pragmatic, needs various corrective measures like decreasing the government's footprint in the economy.

This was stated by Renowned Economist and VC PIDE, Dr. Nadeem ul Haque and Leading Researcher and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Dr. Durre Nayab while meeting a group of senior journalists and writers here in Islamabad.

Referring to the detailed study report titled "Reform Agenda for Accelerated and Sustained Growth" prepared by the PIDE Reform Agenda Commission comprising renowned economists and technocrats, they said that our research lays down the reform agenda, pursuing which would put the country on a high and sustained growth trajectory.

It focuses upon reforming almost every area that directly or indirectly influences economic growth. This includes beginning with, reforming the functioning of the state itself.

Towards a Stable Democracy, they suggested the adoption of a proportional representation electoral system. For the political parties to be eligible to contest elections, the parties must have elections within the party. A certain, minimal percentage of the provincial population must be inducted as party members.

The legislators should not have any say in the approval and execution of development projects. Only a small proportion, maybe 5%, of the legislators may hold executive positions, the rest should be legislators only. There should be a maximum term limit (maybe two terms) for the Prime Minister and all the legislators.

Additionally, the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) Funds should be decentralized, federal and provincial governments should focus only on policy formulation, monitoring, and evaluation. The task of regulation may be left to independent regulatory agencies staffed with professionals. Service delivery requires closeness to stakeholders, and therefore, services are best delivered by local governments.

The decentralization of power on the grassroots level and making people authoritative is very crucial to promote democracy and build the state's

capacity for governance. And for that PIDE in its Reform agenda suggests making local governments operational, direct election of mayors, clearly defining the role of all three tiers of local government, PIDE officials added.

Dr. Haque further said that PIDE's comprehensive study recognizes investment and entrepreneurial activity cannot happen in markets without the government's enabling and facilitative role. There is a need to emphasize reorienting the role of the government to function as an 'enabler' in the economy

Dr. Nayab added that cities are believed to be the engine of economic growth. The cities that encourage economic activity are dense, highrise, mixed-use, and inclusive. These cities provide work, home, markets, school, hospital, and leisure for all close to each other. By clustering economic activities, these cities generate knowledge spillovers, on the one hand, and reduce transaction costs on the other. This is an environment conducive to innovation, which is crucial for economic growth. "The current regulatory framework does not allow the emergence of such cities. The PIDE's reform agenda recommends rethinking the regulatory environment surrounding city zoning, construction regulations, car use, public spaces, among other things, to unleash such cities that facilitate economic activity to their fullest" she added.

its scope will be extended to all other SEZs," AIOU Vice Chancellor, Dr Ziaul Qayyum told APP in an exclusive interview. Under the said project, the VC said, the varsity has designed specific course for the local people to get them trained keeping in view the requirements of the industrial zones so that they could easily find relevant jobs and get benefit from the multi-billion CPEC project.

He expressed the hope that this would be a sustainable model to engage local people, adding the university was al-

university arranged courses in tailoring and embroidery with private partnership to train girls in Gitgat Baltistan region. To a question the AIOU VC told APP that the university was providing education to all irrespective of their age, gender or social status. He said, there no age bar on acquiring education from AIOU, adding free education was being provided to transgender community, jail inmates and children of martyrs while concession was also being provided to orphans and

poor students. - APP

at Satrang Gallery, ten years back in January 2012 and now presenting his new works in a fantastic solo exhibition after a decade. Using his own life and surroundings as references, and embellishing through history and visual symbols, his artworks create glimpses of alternative realms with elements of the familiar.

Atif's work invites viewer to join the artist within his artworks as he traverses the surrounding landscape, and engages in various activities deep within these "Assorted Tales." – APP



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For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman Mobile: 0300 8553342

### Smog epidemic

AHORE has topped the list of the world's most polluted cities once again as bouts of smoke have settled into the atmosphere of the city, the respiratory health of the population has declined and schools have threatened to close down temporarily. The toxic smog has become a calamity in light of which, the Punjab Relief Commissioner, Babar Hayat Tarar, proposed a ban on vehicles without a fitness certificate. Problems of enforcement, adherence and coordination between different sectors still remain unresolved.

The Vehicle Inspection and Certificate System (VICS) has assumed responsibility of implementing the ban on polluting vehicles, issuing fitness certificates as well as the verification process. Those found guilty would be held accountable through high fines that are aimed at discouraging the use of carbon-emitting vehicles that have contributed to the worsening Air Quality Index (AQI) greatly. This was an initiative that was needed and has the potential to make a difference, provided that enforcement is strict.

Already, the Punjab Government's Environment Protection Department implemented a ban on the open burning of rice stubbles, hazardous materials and solid waste yet, we still see raging fires every mile or so in city centres. No action is taken against those who are actively releasing toxic gasses into the air, contributing to the 981 AQI reading in Lahore recently—the highest in the last four years. The average AQI in other parts of the city is a deadly 700. These are not normal circumstances and with such toxic air, people are ideally required to wear oxygen masks.

For too long, the government has been introducing policies right at the point when the situation reaches a point of no return. There is a serious lack of implementation due to a lack of coordination between the transport, agriculture and environment sectors. Accountability and change though promised, is not being achieved. With Lahore literally blinded by smoke, our people's lives are at serious risk.

# Islamabad POST

#### Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC CertifiedVol: 02 Issue: 196Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.comPhone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



#### **Duty-Free zones**

URING the meeting of the Senate's subcommittee on aviation, pertinent issues that plague the industry were discussed and potential solutions were proposed. Delays, issuing and renewal of licenses along with the import of spare parts for aircrafts were pointed out to be the primary concerns for which all branches of the government—including the opposition must come together to tackle.

The Regular Public Transport (RPT) operators at airports highlighted the extensive delays that occur because of the tedious process of getting new licenses for domestic and international flights. The suggestion to grant the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) jurisdiction of issuing domestic licenses, and the Ministry of Aviation international licenses, is worth considering because it would divide the process into two manageable streams.

This will ensure that one source is not overwhelmed by the sheer amount of work, thereby preventing unnecessary delays. When it comes to license renewal, the same authorities must ensure that the life of one license should not exceed 45 to 60 days purely for the safety of all those involved.

Another proposal was given by former Prime Minister, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, that called for each airport to become a duty-free zone so that the imported aircraft components can be stored at cheaper rates and without any hassle. These are very competent suggestions that are void of any potential conflicts arriving out of party differences. If implemented, they will greatly aid countless travel companies because the simpler the process, the smoother it runs. The Senate must ensure that they are given due weightage during the deliberations and the next meeting.

# 1971 — The untold stories

#### Dr M Ali Hamza



A prominent Arab historian IbnKhaldun once said "Throughout history many nations have suffered a physical defeat, but that has never marked the end of a nation. But when a nation has become the victim of a psychological defeat, then that marks the end of a nation" VOLUTION in human species has made plenty of changes in its physiological as well as psychological makeup. Bias-es are now one of the permanent features in human nature, and historical biases are undeniable part in the nature of human social contracts. Biased sources can yield biased history, and it happens when historical reconstruction is ensured in accordance with someone's preferences, when rationality has no room to be entertained. Therefore, presenting an account of past events by maintaining the rationalityis no less than a rocket science. Especially the happenings in pre-ICT era are difficult to decode. Historical events are generally re-fabricated by certain powerful groups of people who had their vested agendas. History related

history manipulation and its distortion. Indeed the responsibility to provide room for forgery and falsification to one's adversaries lies with the authorities of the then West-Pakistan. But how long we can use it as an excuse and let counterpart infusing self-fabricated facts of the history. One sided history can never claim to be trustworthy. It takes two to make a clap, and

there is sheer possibility that one hand might not exerted the force that could end up in applaud with extreme sound of destruction. It is obligatory for the scholars to get the record straight, and distinguish between myths and realities. A recent launch of a documentary filmproduced by ErumBinteShahid, withSenetorJaved-Jabbar as the executive producer is an appre-

Jabbar as the executive producer is an appreciable effort to bring-up the other side of the story: the untold stories of 1971. The documentary gathered the views of international and national intellectuals who elaborately but rationally countered the false information disseminated by India and shared less known facts about 1971. One of the ways to distort history is to deny that certain events happened the way that history tells us they didn't. To avoid denialism, first part of the film based on accepting certain mistakes made by the then decision makers. Admitting your mistakes is indeed not a sign of weakness rather of maturity and granting permission to screen this film evidently speaks of the grown maturity of decision makers. Second part of the filmpulls the mythsto pieces. It was told to the world in last 50 years that 3 million Bengalis been slaughtered during operation searchlight. Dr. Junaid Ahmed; the author of a book "Creation of Bangladesh: Myths Exploded" challenges that how come during an operation of 262 days this could be possible. He explains that a simple arithmetic can solve the riddle, because to do so every day 11, 450 people be murdered, buried and evidences been washed out, and at night the same soldiers go rapping. Sheer fiddling of numbers is obvious. Though there was political unrest and civil discontent, but how could anyone deny the fact that weaponizingMuktiBahni and invasion of East-Pakistan by Indian Army caused the separation and creation of Bangladesh. It would portray an absolute

ignorance of sensible brains to excuse the attack on a sovereign nation, and history witnessed that United Nation stay mute on entering of Indian Army into the then East-Pakistan.

There are more than 32 separatist movements going on in India. Who does not know the Naxal-Moists, Khalistan, United Liberation Front of Asom, Karbi Separatism, Kamtapur Liberation Organization and many more? Is Indian not aware of its Chicken's Neck; The Siliguri Corridor. How would it feel if China engages its army in a direct manner? What UN response would be? It is obvious, that solidarity of a sovereign nation must not be challenged in our new social contract, but why India was an exception to this rule?

The documentary is the first of its kind, sharing facts and information not revealed before. It reveals how history had been manipulated against Pakistan, purposefully creating strains between Bangladesh and Pakistan, to ensure continued regional unrest. It was necessary to balance the accounts, and content of the documentary did well in doing so. Whosoever your opinion is inclined to, the film is a must watch. Let past be the past, and now it is time re-think, re-design and re-build our diplomatic relations with Bangladesh. We need to mop away the dust of incorrect narrative.

### Christmas arrives in Saudi Arabia

#### James M. Dorsey

The kingdom punishes homosexuality by death. Mr. Al-Sheikh, a descendant of Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab, the founder of Wahhabism, described homosexuality as among the "most heinous and ugliest crimes." He asserted that "human rights... find first and foremost position in God's law and warned that "the whole world is afflicted with outrageous boldness, false claims. and despicable perversion, which is intended to strip man of his humanity!"

servative interpretations of Islamic law. The loosening further aims to bolster economic reforms and efforts to diversify the economy and create jobs.

To be sure, Saudi Arabia has been signaling for several years that it is travelling down a road of greater religious tolerance and social liberalisation. Meetings between Saudi leaders and Evangelical and Jewish leaders and support for interfaith dialogue served the purpose. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has turned the Muslim World League, once a major vehicle for the global propagation of Wahhabism, the ultra-conservative interpretation of Islam that dominated Saudi Arabia for its first 85 years, into the propagator of his vaguely defined concept of moderate Islam.

Mr. Bin Salman has also lifted the ban on women's driving, liberalised gender segregation, created greater job and leisure opportunities for women, and generated a Western-style entertainment industry. But, like the UAE and Qatar, he has stopped short of fully abolishing male guardianship. Saudi shops started catering several years ago to Valentine's Day, long a no-go in the kingdom, by selling red roses, and in October Halloween costumes appeared for the first time in shop windows. However, increasingly, same-sex relationships are emerging as a red line in Gulf social liberalization. The kingdom's top cleric, Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al-Sheikh, came out swinging this week in a fatwa or religious opinion that denounced same-sex relationships. He appeared to be responding to a United Nations General Assembly resolution adopted earlier this month that called for recognition of "women in all their diversity", including "gender identity" and "sexual orientation. In what amounted to rare public, albeit implicit, clerical criticism of Mr. Bin Salman's liberalisations, Mr. Al-Sheikh also appeared to be reacting to a major electronic dance festival, the Middle Beast Soundstorm, held near Riyadh in recent days and reportedly attended by 732,000 people.

need to mop away the dust of incorrect narrauve. If not now than when?

A prominent Arab historian IbnKhaldun once said "Throughout history many nations have suffered a physical defeat, but that has never marked the end of a nation. But when a nation has become the victim of a psychological defeat, then that marks the end of a nation." Though Fall of Dhaka raises the emotion of sorrow but it should raise the emotion of embarrassment. When your 3 division having 34,000 feet on ground are fighting against 8 divisions of Indian army having 100, 000 plus soldiers, and 175, 000 MuktiBahni trained and weaponized by India. When there is a distance of thousands of miles between two portions of the same nation and between those thousands of miles reside and enemy that never accepted your existence, then surviving that long deserves an appreciation. So let's not be a victim of a psychological defeat, and do not forget the untold stories of 1971.

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# Pakistan and contemporary Taliban government

#### Dr. M Akram Zaheer



Therefore, the crux of the peace process was the refusal by Taliban to negotiate directly with the government in Kabul because they called a puppet of a foreign power. Thus, Pakistan's efforts to weaken the legitimacy of the government in Kabul played a role in the favor of Taliban

S the Taliban took over the control of Kabul, scholars asked how Taliban achieved this success. One of the many reasons is that the Taliban were never alone. They are always supported by Pakistan's constant governments, its armed forces, and its military intelligence. Taliban leaders have long been based on Pakistan, even when Islamabad has acquired American aid and weaponry systems to help the Taliban in Afghanistan. Now, it seems that the Taliban have taken full power in Afghanistan and Islamabad's diplomatic

end objectives and its narrative has reached its policy. And it should be noted that Pakistani politicians and officials have not directly defended the Taliban. They always pointed out that Pakistani government has supported peaceful resolution in Afghanistan, and the peace should be "Afghan property and Afghan leadership". These were great vocal words and statements over which all other stakeholders agreed. Pakistani officials also pointed out that they would agree that Afghan themselves should work together. In addition, after the fall of Kabul, the National Security Committee of Pakistan issued a declaration to confirm the status of non-interference in Afghan cases. Therefore, wonderful neutrality seemed to be coated with gold.

Once a statement issued by Prime Minister's Advisor on National Security Moeed Yousaf, the Afghan people have welcomed the Taliban instead of opposing them. The statement was more sincere than dangerous about the Taliban. Yusuf also questioned to Ashraf Ghani's rule in the same interview. Two days later, as Pakistan's minister for Climate Change Zartaj Gul went ahead and cheered about fall of Kabul as soon as Taliban entered in Kabul. Although Zartaj Gul deleted his tweet in less than an hour, the next day Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan announced that "they have now broken the chains of slavery in Afghanistan".

Considering these two approaches together allows us to examine the Taliban and Pakistan connection and assess what Islamabad is laying the groundwork for the future. If Pakistani politicians were unconvinced of Ghani's rule, then they are openly happy with the fall of his government, and if they have defeated with weak military force, then Pakistan have no right to claim neutrality in terms of mandates. Pakistani statements are contradiction of the promise that they would accept any decision from the Afghan people. Ashraf Ghani's position was indeed perilous and has been questioned by many but his electoral success has been contested.

Therefore, the crux of the peace process was the refusal by Taliban to negotiate directly with the government in Kabul because they called a puppet of a foreign power. Thus, Pakistan's efforts to weaken the legitimacy of the government in Kabul played a role in the favor of Taliban. In other words: Pakistan has certainly supported the process of "Afghan leadership", but only if it was led by Talban. Islamabad has been demandingof a peaceful solution, even though the war seems to be coming to an end, is also a smart move. After pretending not to support the Taliban for so long, the Pakistani government as a whole wisely chose not to just say, "They are our people, we are happy to see them win, and we are theirs and will support them.

What happened in Kabul on August 15 was apparently more one-sided than a peace deal, Pakistanmay reveal it later. For this, it was necessary for the Taliban not only to attack the capital and physically overthrow the government and sit in Ashraf Ghani Palace for final talks or something like that. Since the Taliban encircled the capital of Afghanistan, it was probably nothing more than Ghani's resignation and acceptance of stepping down. But Pakistan's statement will be enough that a peaceful transfer of power has initiated.

In addition, some military commanders and tribal leaders did stand down and negotiated to surrender, Taliban may offer them a position in the government. This allowed Pakistan to announce about the future government that Pakistan wanted new Afghan government to be representing all stakeholders. The process of adjusting few defectors in the new administration, Pakistan may accept as a government of national unity or alliance.Finally, Islamabad more likely to legitimize the Taliban regime in Kabul and to establish diplomatic relations with it (as in the past). But Pakistan will also claim that the government was formed through peaceful negotiations and that it represents more than the Taliban. This, in turn, may be Pakistan's line of defense against international aftershocks such as diplomatic criticism or the possibility of being sanctioned from multilateral financial institutions to support a radical and extremist organization

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ONG banned, Christmas has finally, at least tacitly, arrived in Saudi Arabia; just don't use the name in marketing or be ostentatious about your tree. Coffee shops serving beverages in red cups with snowflakes on them are ok. So is the sale of soap bars named 'Tis the Season and Vanilla Bean Noel.

Christmas trees that sell at up to US\$3,000 a piece are slightly more complicated. The religious police no longer harass shopkeepers for selling items that reference a non-Muslim holiday. But shopkeepers remain uncertain about trees and sometimes still keep them in a backroom. Religious references and carols remain beyond the pale. The loosening of the rules of the game in a country that still bans non-Muslim worship in public and the building of non-Muslim houses of worship is part of an effort to ensure that the kingdom does not lag in the competition with the United Arab Emirates and Qatar to project itself as an enlightened, modern country that can attract foreign investment and vie for foreign talent and tourists. The loosening is also part of an effort to position the kingdom as a beacon of Muslim moderation in competition with the UAE, Qatar, and Indonesia.

While Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-majority country and democracy, is struggling with creeping conservatism, and Qatar is seeking to ensure football fans that it will welcome diversity of any kind during next year's World Cup, the UAE has sprinted ahead by leaps and bounds.

In the last year, the UAE, where public references to Christmas and carols are not an issue and non-Muslim houses of worship exist alongside mosques, far-reaching legal reforms have been enacted that legalized alcohol and non-married cohabitation and this week ended censorship of cinematic releases. The caveat, like elsewhere in most of the Muslim world, is that the reforms are anchored in secular, not in Islamic law and jurisprudence. Nahdlatul Ulama, the world's largest Muslim civil society organization, that is at the forefront of the projection of Indonesian moderation has started a process of reform of Muslim jurisprudence but has so far shied away from hot button issues that top the agenda of its Middle Eastern rivals. Saudi loosening of norms also serves to distinguish the kingdom from other competitors for religious soft power and leadership of the Muslim world like Turkey and Iran that are governed by Islamists who either are inspired by or more strictly apply conSome reports suggested that some attendees had been publicly intoxicated and had displayed behaviour that raised suspicions that they were queers.

The kingdom punishes homosexuality by death. Mr. Al-Sheikh, a descendant of Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab, the founder of Wahhabism, described homosexuality as among the "most heinous and ugliest crimes." He asserted that "human rights... find first and foremost position in God's law and warned that "the whole world is afflicted with outrageous boldness, false claims, and despicable perversion, which is intended to strip man of his humanity!"

Mr. Al-Sheikh appeared to be drawing a red line for social reform on an issue that was likely to enjoy public support. A recent public opinion poll concluded that 67 per cent of the people applauded the kingdom's rejection of the UN resolution while 33 per cent said they did not have an opinion.

Scholar Matthew Hedges, who was arrested in the Emirates and sentenced to life in prison on charges of espionage while researching a just published book, noted that countering 'immoral' sexual conduct is one way Emirati authorities appeal to the public's cultural sensitivities to justify the construction of a surveillance state.

Mr. Al-Sheikh's fatwa contrasts starkly with efforts by Qatari officials to downplay criticism of the Gulf state's anti-same sex laws and reassure LGBTQ fans that they would be welcome during next year's World Cup and would even be allowed to fly the rainbow flag at games. LGBTQ Qataris insist that the same tolerance is not extended to them. For Saudis, Mr. Al-Sheikh's fatwa contains a cautionary note. Saudi Arabia may have enacted significant social liberalisations but beyond red lines they rest on a fragile fundament as long as they are not anchored in changes of religious doctrine and jurisprudence. "While the changes (in Saudi Arabia) are potentially far-reaching, their ultimate direction is uncertain. Most...remain quite reversible. And while state structures and officials have accepted and even applauded the moves, some social resentment and resistance is still possibleand unintended consequences might still materialize," warned scholars Yasmine Farouk and Nathan J. Brown.

# WORLD / SPORTS

### Briefs

### **PTI condemns** Sharifs' ties with Shamim

#### FROM PAGE 01

Shamim was an of-fice-bearer of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Lawyers' Wing. In a tweet, he said that even his son had admitted that; and that too in a television programme.

"And another startling revelation is that the muchtalked about affidavit which the former judge said he had signed was in the presence of Nawaz Sharif in London so that the institution of judiciary could be defamed by level ling the allegation that the courts were pressured to deny bails to Nawaz and his daughter, PML-Vice President Maryam Nawaz," he said, and added, "That was precisely why the former prime minister had been called a 'godfather'.'

He concluded his tweet with a famous Urdu adage, Rassi Jal gae, magar bal nahi gya' (meaning that despite being a convict and in self-imposed exile, Nawaz Sharif is still utilizing all means possible to sneak into power again).

English daily has pub lished a story today (Sunday) according to which Rana Shamim had signed the affidavit in the office of Nawaz Sharif in London According to the report, Rana Shamim took the oath and signed an affidavit in the office of none other than Mian Nawaz Sharif, trying to incriminate former Chief Justice of Pakistan Mian Saqib Nisar and honourable sitting judges of Islamabad High Court.

#### Taliban bans transport for women...

FROM PAGE 01 Afghanistan's television channels to stop showing dramas and soap operas featuring women actors. The ministry had also called on women TV journalists to wear hijabs while presenting. Muhajir said that the hijab would also be required for women seeking transport. The ministry's directive also asked people to stop playing music in their vehicles. Since taking power in August, the Taliban have imposed various restrictions on women and girls, despite pledging a softer rule compared with their first stint in power in the 1990s. In several provinces, local Taliban authorities have been persuaded to reopen schools - but many girls still remain cut off from secondary education. Early this month, the Taliban issued a decree in the name of their supreme leader instructing the government to enforce women's rights. Activists hope that the Taliban's battle to gain international recognition and get aid flowing back into one of the poorest countries in the world will lead to them make ing concessions to women. Respect for women's rights has repeatedly been cited by key global donors as a condition for restoring aid. Women's rights were severely curtailed during the Taliban's previous stint in power. They were then forced to wear the all-covering burqa, only allowed to leave home with a male chaperone and banned from work and education.

**IIOJK: Ex-**

trajudicial

killings...

FROM PAGE 01

consent and presence of

their families, is yet another

abhorrent manifestation of

the callous behaviour and

moral bankruptcy of BJP-

"No amount of oppression

and use of force can break

the will of the valiant Kash-

miri people who are reso-

lutely standing up against

India's state-terrorism in

IoK," he warned India. Asim

Iftikhar said that Kashmiris

were struggling for their

inalienable right to self-de-

termination as enshrined

in the relevant UN Security

Council resolutions.

RSS combine.'

cordon-and-search

# Aqeel Khan, Ushna clinch Serena Tennis C'ship titles

In Men's Singles final, Aqeel beat Shoaib 6-2, 7-5 and won the 6th Serena Hotels National Ranking Tennis Tournament while In boys 18&U Singles final, Hasheesh Kumar beat Abdullah Adnan 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 to won the boys 18&U Single's category

#### AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's top tennis player and top seed Aqeel Khan won the Men's Singles title along with Ushna Suhail won another championship title in women's singles of the Serena Hotels National Ranking Tennis Championship here at the PTF Complex, Islamabad on Sunday.

In Men's Singles final, Aqeel Khan beat Muhammad Shoaib 6-2, 7-5 and won the 6th Serena Hotels National Ranking Tennis Tournament while In boys 18&U Singles final, Hasheesh Kumar beat Abdullah Adnan 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 to won the boys

18&U Singles category. In Women's Singles final which saw the audience one sided game as Ushna Suhail again beat Sarah Mahboob in straight sets. Ushna conceded just a single point in boths sets and won the final



print media. Iftikhar Rashid, while ad-Senior Manager -Marketing dressing the participants, congratulated the winners & Communication Serena Hussain Odwani and runners-up and also all

the players who participated in these events.

He thanked the coaches and parents. He also presented a brief resume of the achievements of Mr. Salim Saifullah Khan President-PTF, not only up-gradation of the PTF Infrastructure, but also the development of players by establishing NTC and coach-

es' education programs. He also appraised the participants that because of these efforts the ITF / ATF has appointed Mr. Salim Saifullah Khan a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennis Federation Asian (ATF) and also as Co-Chairman Finance Committee and Chair Officiating Comboob 6-0, 6-1.

mittee of the ATF. Following are the results: Men's Singles-Final: Aqeel Khan bt Muhammad Shoaib 6-2, 7-5

Boy's 18&U Singles-Final: Hasheesh Kumar bt Abdullah Adnan 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 Ladies Singles -Final: Ushna Suhail bt Sarah Mah-

Opening ceremony of 6th CNS open shooting c'ship held



as guest of honour.

Hotels

DNA

Shooting

2021 held at Pakistan Navy Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, Shooting Range. PNS BA-Tri-services. Airport Securi-HADUR, Karachi. Chief ty Force (ASF), Federal Ri-

of Sindh Police are participating in the competition. During the championship, 27 events will be contested in Pistol, Rifle and Shotgun categories. Event matches are being contested under the umbrella of National Rifle Association of Pakistan (NRAP) as per International Sports Shooting Federation latest rules and regulations. 07 events of Big Bore Pistol, 300M Big Bore Rifle, 50M and point 22 Open Sight categories are included in schedule of event as festival matches. 5 events for women and 4 for youth in Pistol and Rifle categories will also be part of the championship.

While addressing the ceremony, Chief Guest applaud-

#### Another EPL game postponed due to Covid-19

LONDON: Leeds United's home Premier League game against Aston Villa on Tuesday has been postponed due to positive Covid-19 cases and injuries in the Leeds squad. "Following a request from Leeds United, the Premier League Board met today and regrettably agreed to postpone the club's home fixture against Aston Villa, due to be played at 17:30 GMT on Tuesday 28 December," the league said in a statement on Sunday. "The postponement is a result of the ongoing Covid-19 cases and injuries at Leeds which saw their Boxing Day match against Liverpool called off. The Board accepted the postponement application as the club does not have the required number of players available for the match." Leeds's trip to Liverpool on Boxing Day was postponed for similar reasons, while positive cases in the Villa camp forced the league to postpone their home game against Burnley on December 18. Leeds said that while there were no new cases in the playing squad, the majority of those who returned positive tests ahead of the Liverpool game were still in isolation.Fourteen Premier League games have been called off this month due to Covid-19. but the league said its intention was to continue the fixture schedule where safely possible. The Premier League only grants a postponement if a club has fewer than 14 players - 13 outfield players and one goalkeeper - availa-

#### PM convenes National Security...

Islamabad **POST** 

Monday, December 27, 2021

FROM PAGE 01 Committee on National Security is regrettable. In a tweet, he said it is for the first time in seven decades that a government is going to present its security policy before the parliament.

The minister had said it was not a political issue, but a national security matter. He urged the opposition to review its decision and participate in the meeting. The reaction came after opposition parties announced to boycott the in-camera session of the parliamentary committee on national security to discuss the security situation in the region.

The opposition stated that it had not only participated in the important sessions and briefings on national issues but also presented their suggestions. The government is using the Parliament as rubber stamp which is unacceptable, the joint statement stated.

#### Benazir a beacon of a movement, says Bilawal

FROM PAGE 01

The PPP Chairman said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was a universal figure and a people's leader who promoted unity, harmony and progressive thinking in Pakistan and protected the political and economic rights of the people. As the Prime Minister, she introduced people-friendly policies in the country despite fierce opposition and obstacles. She took innumerable steps for the service of the public, and also highlighted the true image of Pakistan on an international level. The gift of missile technology for the defense of our motherland by the first elected Prime Minister of the Islamic world, is also unforgettable. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that for democracy, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto lost her father, two brothers and even her mother. But she never feared the dictators. She kept fighting for democracy till the last hour of her life and in the end, achieved martyrdom. Chairman PPP said that today is the day to make a pledge to eradicate terrorism and extremism from Pakistan, and to continue the struggle of strengthening democracy, supremacy of the Constitution and Parliament, and social equality. There can be no other way to pay homage to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, he added.



KARACHI: Opening Cer-Minister Sindh Mr. Murad emony of 6th Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) Open Championship

Ali Shah graced the occasion as Chief Guest. About 400 shooters from

fle Association (FRA), Higher Education Commission (HEC), Sindh Police and Special Security Unit (SSU)

ed Pakistan Navy's efforts and contributions in promoting healthy sports activities in the country.

ble, with the board examining requests on a case-by-case basis. Leeds are 16th in the league standings with 16 points from 18 games, six points adrift of 10th-placed Villa, who host Chelsea later on Sunday. - APP

#### Dozens of migrants found dead on Libyan coast

TRIPOLI: The bodies of 28 migrants have washed up on Libya's western coast after their boat sunk in the latest tragedy on the world's deadliest migration route. "Libyan Red Crescent teams recovered 28 bodies of dead migrants and found three survivors at two different sites on the beaches of Al-Alous." some 90 kilometres (55 miles) from Tripoli, a security official said on Sunday. "The bodies' advanced state of decomposition indicates that the shipwreck happened several days ago," he said, adding the toll could rise in the coming hours. Images published by Libyan media outlets showed corpses lined up along the shore then placed in body bags.

Libya, wracked by a decade of conflict and lawlessness, has become a key departure point for African and Asian migrants making desperate attempts to reach Europe. Migrants often endure horrific conditions in Libya before embarking northwards on overcrowded, often unseaworthy

vessels that frequently sink or get into trouble. The latest tragedy comes just days after 160 migrants died within a week in similar incidents, bringing the total number of lives lost this year to 1,500, according to the International Organization for Migration. The IOM says more than 30,000 migrants have been intercepted in the same period and returned to Libya. The European Union has cooperated closely with the Libyan Coast Guard to cut numbers of migrants arriving on European shores. On their return, many face further horrific abuses in detention centres. - APP

### Rahul master class puts India in charge of first Test NEW DELHI: Opener KL Rahul

showed superb application to score a seventh test century with an unbeaten 122 and steer India to a commanding 272 for three at the close of play on day one of the first Test against South Africa on Sunday. Vice-captain Rahul, who averaged 7.50 in four innings with a top score of 16 in South Africa three years ago, reached his ton off 218 balls as he toyed with a blunt home bowling attack on a slow wicket.

He will resume on the second morning with Ajinkya Rahane (40 not out), whose place in the side had been under scrutiny but played some wonderful shots to share an unbeaten fourth-wicket stand of 73.

Ragged South Africa looked like a side who have not played Test cricket since June, with a number of their players having had no red-ball cricket at any level in the last six months. They bowled too short on a wicket providing little assistance and did not



attack the stumps enough after India had won the toss and elected to bat in overcast conditions. The decision to select 21-year-old debutant left-arm seamer Marco Jansen (0-61) over the more experienced, and in-form, Duanne Olivier raised evebrows too. The home side had to wait until the second session to make a breakthrough as India opener Mayank Agarwal (60) was trapped lbw by Lun-

gi Ngidi (3-45) after a 117-run opening partnership with Rahul. Agarwal left the field vigorously shak-

ing his head after a review from South Africa suggested the delivery was striking the top of leg stump. After waiting 242 deliveries for their first wicket, the home side got with the next ball when Cheteshwar Pujara pushed forward to Ngidi and was caught off the glove and thigh-pad by Keegan Petersen at short leg. Pujara had only been out first ball

once before in his 92-test career run out by Ngidi at Centurion Park in 2018. Captain Virat Kohli (35) is now

without a Test century in 24 innings but looked in good touch before he chased a wide delivery from Ngidi and was caught by Wiaan Mulder at first slip.

The touring side are hoping to secure a first Test series win in South Africa with matches to follow in Johannesburg and Cape Town. - Agencies

#### **PML-N** says govt puzzled before...

#### FROM PAGE 01

Sheikh Rashid will find no place in administration of the country. Earlier today, Minister of Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said that Nawaz Sharif's return to Pakistan will not effect government.

Talking to media persons, Sheikh Rashid offered plane ticket from his own money to Nawaz Sharif and said that three members of the family are already in Pakistan and now PML-N supremo should also come back. He further said that Nawaz Sharif has nothing in UK other than making statements against institutions of the country. Nawaz Sharif is not sick as he has not received any treatment while staying in the UK, he added.

#### Shapovalov tests Covid positive

SYDNEY: World number 14 Denis Shapovalov has tested positive for COVID-19 after arriving in Sydney, Australia, he said Sunday, highlighting the virus threat to the Australian Open. The 22-year-old was among the first players to enter Australia ahead of the ATP Cup teams event from January 1, where he was supposed to be playing for Canada, and with the first Grand Slam of the year three weeks away.

He said on Twitter he was experiencing mild symptoms and isolating.

Shapovalov is the latest player who competed at an Abu Dhabi exhibition this month to get coronavirus. - APP

# **Hapless England's Ashes dreams in tatters**

Australian skipper Pat Cummins, back after missing the second Adelaide Test because he was in Covid isolation, and spin king Nathan Lyon both took 3-36 Crawley earned his first Test chance

#### MELBOURNE: England crashed to 185 all out on day one of the third Test on Sunday, leaving their Ashes dreams on the brink of ruin in the face of a relentless Australian attack. After heavy defeats in Brisbane opera tions continue unabated, and Adelaide, the visitors must win in Melhe added. The spokesperbourne to keep the five-Test series alive, son said, "Burial of the with Australia only needing a draw to relast remains of martyrs at tain the urn as holders. But those hopes took a near-fatal blow as Australia ripped unknown locations since through England's flimsy batting, with only April last year, without the

captain Joe Root (50) and Jonny Bairstow (35) showing resistance. Australian skipper Pat Cummins, back after

missing the second Adelaide Test because he was in Covid isolation, and spin king Nathan Lyon both took 3-36. Australia then added to England's pain by negotiating 16 overs to be 61 for one at stumps, trailing by only 124 with Marcus Harris not-out 20 despite taking a nasty blow to the finger, and nightwatchman Lyon vet to score.

But on another bad day for England they did bag the big wicket of David Warner, who raced to 38 off 42 balls before sending a thick edge off Jimmy Anderson to Zak Crawley at gully. After batting collapses and poor bowling in the first two Tests, Root read his players the riot act - seemingly to little affect. They have failed to score more than 297 in five innings so far.

Openers Haseeb Hameed (0) and Crawley (12) fell cheaply to Cummins after he won the toss and put England in to bat, with their hopes resting once more on Root in front of 57,100 fans at the MCG - less than expected due to Covid concerns.

He brought up his 53rd Test half-century in his 112th match, but once more failed to convert it into a maiden ton in Australia after a poor shot on 50 to Mitchell Starc. The visitors wielded the axe after their 275-run defeat in Adelaide with Crawley in for Rory

Burns and Bairstow replacing Ollie Pope at number six. Speedster Mark Wood was recalled after being rested in Adelaide, as was off-spinner Jack Leach, with Chris Woakes and Stuart Broad overlooked.

England captain Ray Illingworth, who died aged 89, Crawley confidently drove Cummins for three in his opening over. But Cummins struck three balls later with

nicking to wicketkeeper Alex Carey



Wearing black armbands to mourn former

Hameed's torrid tour continuing, out after

since March due to Burns' poor form, but he failed to grab it, finding an outside edge to a rising Cummins ball that Cameron Green superbly caught at gully. His dismissal for 12 left England at 13 for two with Dawid Malan and Root, the only two English batsmen to pass 50 this series, again on the back foot. A cautious Malan took 18 balls to get off the mark, but disaster struck just before lunch when he got an edge off Cummins on 14 that carried to Warner at slip. Root played positively to move past South

Africa's Graeme Smith (1,656 in 2008) and into third place for the most runs scored in a calendar year.

But just as he looked set he offered a lazy stroke that took a nick and was taken by Carey, with the England captain livid as he trudged off. After star all-rounder Ben Stokes departed for 25, succumbing to pressure from Green and playing a cut shot straight to Lyon at point, Jos Buttler lasted only 11 balls. He hit Lyon to debutant Scott Boland, the first Indigenous man to play Test cricket for Australia since Jason Gillespie. Boland then took the wicket of Wood, lbw for six, before Bairstow gloved Starc to Green and Australia mopped up the tail. - APP

# **Π7**

# **BUSINESS / WORLD**



#### **Pak-Belarus** discuss industrial cooperation

#### DNA

MINSK: Ambassador of Pakistan to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan held a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Industry of Belarus Alexandr Ogorodnikov.

According to a press statement Sunday, the meeting was also attended by the Deputy Head of the Economic Relations De-Mr. Anatoly partment Grynevich. The two sides discussed development of mutual industrial collaboration and noted the positive increase in trade figures during the current year.

They also reviewed the ongoing talks regarding establishing a joint venture for tractor manufacturing in Pakistan as well as the opportunity for holding agricultural machinery exhibitions in Pakistan accompanied with demonstrations of the agricultural implements.

The Ambassador briefed the Deputy Minister on the available investment opportunities and benefits in the special economic zones being established in Pakistan under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The parties agreed to continue consultations for mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

#### Australian state sees record cases

#### WEB DESK

SYDNEY: Australia's most populous state reported a record number of new COVID-19 cases on Sunday and a sharp jump in hospitalizations while thousands of people were isolating at home after contracting the virus or coming into contact with someone who has. A major laboratory in Sydney, which is located in New South Wales, said that 400 people who had been informed a day earlier they

# End Israeli settler 'terrorism' or expect new 'intifada'

Hamas praised residents of Burqa for resisting the Israeli incursion on Saturday, calling on Palestinians in the West Bank and in al-Quds to show support for the village

#### FOREIGN DESK

RAMALLAH: The Authority says the Israeli regime must be held to account for a surge in what it called terrorist attacks by settlers against defenseless Palestinians.

Meantime, Palestinian factions are calling for the formation of local protection committees across the West Bank.

On Saturday night, Israeli settlers and troops attacked the village of Burqa, injuring nearly 250 people during fierce clashes with Palestinians. Soldiers targeted them with live bullets, rubber-coated rounds, stun grenades and teargas.

The village has been a flashpoint of clashes in recent days. It sits near the site of a former settlement. The Israeli military destroyed that settlement in 2005. But now the settlers say they want to return.

Hamas praised residents of Burga for resisting the Israeli incursion on Saturday, calling on Palestinians in the West Bank and in al-Quds to show support for the village.

The confrontations "by our heroes... are just an initial message, and the enemy must prepare for a comprehensive battle with all our people, to defeat and uproot the occupation and settlements," Abd al-Hakim Huneini, a senior official in the resistance group's West Bank division, said in a statement. Palestinian groups and activists also warned that Israel's practices and settler "assaults" against Palestinians

### Israel plans to double settlement in Golan Heights

MEVO HAMA: Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Sunday the country intends to double the amount of settlers living in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights with a multimillion-dollar plan meant to further consolidate Israel's hold on the territory it captured from Syria more than five decades ago.

Bennett said the new investment in the region was prompted by the Trump administration's recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the swath of land and by the Biden administration's indication that it will not soon challenge that decision.

This is our moment. This is the moment of the Golan Heights," Bennett said at a special Cabinet meeting in the Golan

in the West Bank will lead to a new intifada (uprising). Some Palestinian activists said the intifada has already begun and called for escalating "popular resistance" against the Israeli troops and settlers.

"The intifada is already here," said a senior activist belonging to the ruling Fatah faction. "What we are witnessing in the West Bank is similar to what happened during the First Intifada," which erupted in 1987.

Heights. "After long and static years in terms of the scope of settlement, our goal today is to double settlement in the Golan Heights.'

Entrenching Israeli control over the territory would complicate any future attempt to forge peace with Syria, which claims the Golan Heights.

Israel captured the Golan Heights in the 1967 Mideast war and later annexed the territory, promoting settlement and agriculture there as well as creating a thriving local tourism industry. The U.S. was the first country to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan, which the rest of the international community regards as Israeli-occupied. - Agencies

Another activist affiliated with the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO)'s Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine said the growing resentment in the West Bank was also directed toward the Palestinian Authority.

"Many people are angry because the Palestinian Authority is not doing anything to defend them against increasing attacks by the Israeli army and the settlers," the activist said.

Hamas and other Palestinian factions, meanwhile, renewed their call for stepping up "all forms of resistance" against Israel. The Palestinian Authority, for its part, stepped up its criticism of the Israeli regime in the wake of the growing violence by its troops and settlers in the West Bank. "At a time when the Palestinian people and the whole world celebrate Christmas, the settler militias, their armed terrorist organizations, the occupation forces and their various branches continue to escalate the aggression against the Palestinian people, their land, property, homes and holy sites," its ministry of foreign

affairs said in a statement. The ministry said that settlers again had attacked Palestinians in various parts of the West Bank over the past week "with the participation and support of the occupation army."

The Israeli regime is "fully and directly responsible for this expansionist colonial war," it said, "which constitutes the true essence of the official Israeli policy toward the Palestinian people and their rights."

The ministry called on the international community to put pressure on the Israeli regime "to stop its aggression and settlement policy immediately, and to truly engage in a peace process and negotiations that lead to the end of the occupation within a specific time limit and in accordance with the approved international peace references."

US considers giving Ukraine battlefield intel NEW YORK: The US military is reportedly working on a

scheme to provide Ukraine with battlefield intelligence in a purported bid to respond to perceived Russian offensive amid rising concerns in Moscow that the US-led NATO alliance is pushing for a major military build-up in Ukraine for possible confrontation with Russia.

The list of ideas being drawn up by the US Defense Department, the State Department and the White House "include redirecting helicopters and other military equipment once allocated for the Afghan military to Ukraine,' the New York Times reported Thursday citing senior administration officials.

The Biden administration is also considering sending "additional cyber warfare experts" to Ukraine, the daily further added, noting that the US and the UK have also dispatched "some experts to shore up defenses" in case Russian President Vladimir Putin launches what they allege as "a cyber strike on Ukraine either in advance or instead of a ground invasion." - Agencies

#### Soviet Union could have survived: Gorbachev

Islamabad **POST** 

Monday, December 27, 2021

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: The Soviet Union's first

president, Mikhail Gorbachev believes that the Soviet authori-

ties had underestimated the scale of inter-ethnic problems in the Soviet Union and the need for reforming the country. He is certain that the country could have survived even after the August 1991 government coup attempt as a Union of Sovereign States.

"At first we underestimated the scale and depth of the problems in inter-ethnic relations and the relations between the center and the republics. It took us too long to realize that the Union needed renewal," Gorbachev told TASS on Saturday. He explained that the Soviet authorities' aim was "to preserve the union and to create a real federation with real sovereignty for the republics, which delegate part of their powers to the center."

"Security, defense, the transport network, a single currency and human rights were to remain in the hands of the union authorities under the draft of the union treaty. I am certain that it was a viable option and that most republics would have supported it, but the coup upset this possibility," Gorbachev said.

#### Pak Online Pavilion opens in China

BEIJING: Pakistan's Online National Pavilion opened on China's leading e-commerce platform JD.com (Jingdong) to enhance the Pakistani high-quality products in China and promote bilateral trade. The inauguration ceremony for Pakistan's National Pavilion at JD.com was held at Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing, where Ambassador of Pakistan to China. Moin ul Haque inaugurated Pakistan's first online na tional pavilion in China. While thanking Prestige International for setting up Pakistan's online pavilion. Ambassador Haque said that in view of growing trade and business ties between Pakistan and China, the national pavilion would provide a useful platform to Pakistani and Chinese traders to promote Pakistan's high-quality products through China's huge online market. Haque further said that while the pavilion will serve as a starting point in further exploring excellent opportunities offered by the Chinese digital economy, it would also complement the efforts of Pakistan's offline pavilions which have already been in active operation in various cities of China including Chengdu, Kunming, Urumqi, Yiwu, and Zhengzhou. Moreover, this pavilion would also provide a window for promoting Pakistan's culture, cuisine, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges. - APP



RAMALLAH: Palestinian mother Enas Asafra embraces freedom and meets her family after spending 30 months of detention inside Israeli occupation prisons. - DNA

had tested negative for COVID-19 had in fact tested positive. The lab's medical director said those people were being contacted and informed of the error.

"An emergency response team is now investigating the cause of this mistake, which is believed to be due to human error. We sincerely apologize," said SydPath medical director Anthony Dodds. Doctors and pharmacists in New South Wales have said they are running short of vaccine doses amid a rush for shots spurred by concern over the omicron variant.

New South Wales reported 6,394 new infections, up from 6,288 a day earlier. Case numbers in the state have surged over the past two weeks but hospitalizations have lagged behind new infections.

#### Covid-19 kills 52 more in Iran

#### AGENCIES

TEHRAN: The number of deaths from the coronavirus pandemic in Iran increased to 131,400 with 52 more Iranians killed by the deadly disease over the past 24 hours, Iran's Health Ministry announced on Sunday.

Some 52 more Iranians have died from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) over the past 24 hours bringing the total deaths to 131,400, Iran's Health Ministry said on Sunday.

1,857 new cases of infection with the COVID-19 were found over the past 24 hours, 316 of whom were hospitalized, it said.

The Iranian Health Ministry noted that 6,026,378 patients out of a total of 6,184,762 infected people have recovered or been discharged from hospitals. Some 2,774 COVID-19 pa tients are in critical conditions and in intensive care

units, it added. The Ministry of Health also announced that 59,529,947 Iranians have received the first dose and 51,255,555 people have so far received the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Moreover, 5,922,213 people have also received the third shot as the booster jab.

#### Greek ex-president **Karolos Papoulias** dies at 92

ATHENS: Veteran Greek politician Karolos Papoulias, who served as president at the height of the economic crisis of the 2010s, died on Sunday at the age of 92, the presidency said. "With sadness we address our last greetings to Karolos Papoulias," President Katerina Sakellaropoulou said in a statement, thanking him for "vigorously defending social cohesion and national unity".

Papoulias spent a decade as president after being elected in 2005 and re-elected in 2010, during the crisis that plunged the country into the most grave political and economic turmoil of recent decades. His popularity suffered a major blow for supporting austerity measures dictated by international lenders in return for a bailout, which sparked violent protests. In October 2012, demonstrators blocked a national parade in Thessaloniki and chanted "traitor" at Papoulias.

Before walking out of the parade, Papoulias told reporters: "We fought for Greece. I was a resistance fighter at 15, fighting against Nazism and the Germans.'

However, he gave up his salary in solidarity with "the sacrifices of the people" Born in Ioannina in northwest Greece in 1929, he was a national pole vault champion and member

of the national volleyball team in his younger years. He later studied law in Athens, Italy and Germany and be

came a lawyer in 1963. During the Greece's 1967-1974 dictatorship he went into exile in Germany and became one of the co-founders of the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok), which became one of the most dominant parties of the post-dictatorship era. A member of Parliament from 1977 to 2000, he twice served as foreign minister in socialist governments. - Agencies

### Turkish companies interest to join projects in Karabakh

#### **News Desk**

BAKU: Turkish companies are interested in participating in the implementation of large-scale infrastructure projects in Azerbaijan's Karabakh.

The remark was made by Turkey's Trade Ministry international services trade department head Emre Oztellin during the meeting with the Azerbaijan Railways Deputy Chairman Hijran Valehov. He stated that the meeting will play an important role in expanding existing railroad opportunities between Azerbaijan and Turkey.

In turn, speaking about the existing cooperation between the two countries in various spheres, Valehov mentioned that Turkish companies are also actively involved in restoration and construction projects in Azerbaijan's liberated territories. It should be noted that representatives of well-known Turkish companies in the fields of transport, construction, architecture and engineering participated in the meeting. During the meeting, the opportunities for cooperation between the two countries in new areas were discussed.

Azerbaijan and Turkey cooperate in various fields of economy and have

#### Azer-Turkish FMs mull situation in Caucasus

BAKU: Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu have discussed the situation in the South Caucasus. The discussion took place during the telephone conversation on December 25, the Turkish ministry has reported.

During the conversation, the parties also discussed bilateral relations between the two countries. Azerbaijan and Turkey cooperate in various fields of economy and have jointly completed giant energy and infrastructure projects such as Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan, Baku-Tbilisi-Kars, and TANAP. On June 15, Azerbaijan and Turkey signed the Shusha Declaration on Allied Relations, which focuses on defence cooperation, promoting regional stability and prosperity, and establishing new transportation routes. In the first ten months of 2021, the trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Turkey amounted to \$3.4 billion. The trade turnover between the two countries amounted to \$4.1 billion in 2020. - News Desk

jointly completed giant energy and infrastructure projects such as Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan, Baku-Tbilisi-Kars, and TANAP.

On June 15, Azerbaijan and Turkey signed the Shusha Declaration on Allied Relations, which focuses on defence cooperation, promoting regional stability and prosperity, and establishing new transportation routes.

In the first ten months of 2021, the trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Turkev The trade turnover between the two countries amounted to \$4.1 billion in 2020. The two countries set up a goal to bring the mutual trade turnover to \$15 billion in 2023. It should be noted that so far, Turkey is Azerbaijan's second-largest investor followed by the UK. Additionally, Turkey was one of the first countries that expressed its interest and readiness

amounted to \$3.4 billion.

baijan's liberated territories.

to participate in the restoration of Azer-

Putin to mull options if West refuses guarantees The US and its allies have refused to offer Russia the kind of guarantee on Ukraine that Putin wants, citing NATO's principle that membership is open to any qualifying country

#### AGENCIES

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Sunday he would ponder a slew of options if the West fails to meet his push for security guarantees precluding NATO's expansion to Ukraine.

Earlier this month, Moscow submitted draft security documents demanding that NATO deny membership to Ukraine and other former Soviet countries and roll back its military deployments in Central and Eastern Europe.

Putin has urged the West to move quickly to meet the demands, warning that Moscow will have to take "adequate military-technical measures" if the West continues its "aggressive" course "on the threshold of our home.'

Asked to specify what such Moscow's response could be, he said in comments aired by Russian state TV Sunday that "it could be diverse," adding without elaboration that "it will depend on what proposals our military experts submit to me.'

The U.S. and its allies have refused to offer Russia the kind of guarantee on Ukraine that Putin wants, citing NATO's principle that membership is open to any qualifying

#### Kremlin spokesman calls for cautious optimism

MOSCOW: Russian presidential press secretary Dmitry Peskov has called for cautious optimism concerning Russia's security guarantees talks with the United States and NATO. "Today, we should arm ourselves with patience and sit down at the negotiating table in January and listen to what out vis-a-vis are saving. The situation will clarify then," he said in an interview with the Moscow.Kremlin.Putin program on the Rossiya-1 television channel on Sunday.

"Naturally, such information attacks provoke emotional response, but it should be borne in mind that when diplomats sit down at the negotiating table, not in public, they begin quite a different conversation. It is more substantive, quieter and often more balanced. That is why I would prefer to be cautiously optimistic and pin hopes on the consultations we expect," he said. On December 17, the Russian foreign ministry released two Russian draft agreements in security guarantees from the United States and NATO. Russian presidential aide Yuri Ushakov told US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan that Moscow was ready to begin talks on draft documents on security guarantees. Earlier, Russian President Vladimir Putin called on NATO to begin substantive talks on reliable long-term security guarantees to Russia. He stressed that Russia needs legally binding guarantees because the West has failed to fulfill its verbal commitments. - Web Desk

country. They agreed. however, to launch security talks with Russia next month to discuss its concerns.

Putin said the talks with the U.S. will be held in Geneva. In parallel, negotiations

are also set to be held between Russia and NATO and broader discussions are expected under the aegis of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. In remarks broadcast Sunday, Putin said that Russia submitted the demands in the hope of a constructive answer from the West.

"We didn't do it just to see it blocked ... but for the purpose of reaching a negotiated diplomatic result that would be fixed in legally binding documents," Putin said.

He reaffirmed that NATO membership for Ukraine or the deployment of alliance weapons there is a red line for Moscow that it wouldn't allow the West to cross

"We have nowhere to retreat," he said, adding that NATO could deploy missiles in Ukraine that would take just four or five minutes to reach Moscow. "They have pushed us to a line that we can't cross. They have taken it to the point where we simply must tell them; 'Stop!'

He voiced concern that the U.S. and its allies could try to drag out the security talks and use them as a cover to pursue a military buildup near Russia.

He noted that Russia published its security demands to make them known to the public and raise the pressure on the U.S. and its allies to negotiate a security deal.

"We have just one goal - to reach agreements that would ensure the security of Russia and its citizens now and in a longterm perspective," he said.

#### Taliban blames ex govt of corruption

KABUL: Abdul Latif Nazari, who was appointed deputy minister of the economy, said the existence of corruption in most departments of the former government brought Afghanistan's economy close to the edge of collapse.

At a ceremony held at the Ministry of Economy to introduce Abdul Latif Nazari, he blamed the former leadership of the administration involved with the economy, saying corruption existed widely at most of the departments during the former government.

'Most of the problems are inherited from the previous government, if we judge fairly, billions of dollars were misused due to corruption," said Nazari at the ceremony. Islamic Emirate officials said the appointment of Nazari is a step toward forming an inclusive government, which is demanded by the international community. Acting Minister of Economy Qari Din Mohammad

Haneef the ministry needs professional figures and people who are not corrupted. – Agencies







### **Briefs** Proofs on how India kills its own people to malign Pakistan

# NAB has no affiliation with

#### Pakistansponsored resolution

#### DNA

UNGA adopts

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: In current times of information age and technological advancement, India still manages to befool the world and continues false flag operations, killing its own people, just for mere vested interests, writes freelance journalist Bakhtawar Mahmood.

In one of her blogs she wrote that the phenomenon started with 1971 - fall of Dhaka and still this saga continues.

"I will try to unfold all the major events, one-by-one, from the pages of history that how India planned, conducted and maneuvered the facts just to defame Pakistan at international forums. I will also share with you the evidences I collected, right from investigation of Hemant Karkare in Samjhota Express blasts, to book of German author Elias Davidson exposing Mumbai Attacks as an inside job." "On the basis of these evidences, I will also suggest the way forward that either India must present the evidence of Pakistani involvement or world should wake up to name and shame India for blaming Pakistan,' she added.

#### India announces 6 dams on **River Indus**

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: India violated the Indus Water Treaty again and announced 6 new hydropower projects on the River Indus illegally. akistan nas informed the Indian Indus Water Commission of its concerns over the construction of six controversial projects. The report said India is constructing hydropower projects including Durbuk Shyok (19 MW), Shankoo (18.5 MW), Nimu Chilling (24 MW), Mangdum Sangra (19 MW), Kargil Hunderman (25 MW) and Tamasha (12 MW). The Pakistani Indus Water Commissioner has made correspondence with his Indian counterpart at the official level to convey the concerns. It is worth mentioning that a delegation of the Indian Indus Water Commission headed by commissioner PK Saxena is expected to visit Pakistan for the annual meeting in March 2022. Pertinent to mention here that India cannot build a storage facility of more than 3.65 million acre-feet of water on the western rivers due to which the flow of the western rivers may change.

# any political party: Chairman

Justice Javed Iqbal says NAB considers eradication of corruption as its national duty

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Justice Javed Iqbal Chairman NAB has said that NAB has no affiliation with any political party, individual or group but state of Pakistan.

He said that NAB considers eradication of corruption as its national duty. The present management of NAB has chalked out an effective and proactive anti-corruption strategy which has been acknowledged by Transparency International (TI), Pakistan, World Economic Forum, PILDAT and Mishal Pakistan. The initiatives taken by the present management of NAB have started yielding excellent results.

He said that according to Gillani

and Gallup survey, 59 percent people have shown confidence over performance of NAB, which is solid evidence of NAB's performance.

National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Chairman Justice Javed Iqbal has said that the learned Accountability Courts convicted at least 1194 accused persons due to vigorous pleading of NAB on the basis of solid evidence.

The NAB's overall conviction rate of NAB in the learned accountability Courts is about 66 per cent, which is a remarkable achievement in the investigation of white-collar crimes in the world. He said that the major focus of NAB is on corruption such as money laundering, massive frauds, misappropriation of assets and embezzlement of



government funds. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has recovered Rs821 billion directly and indirectly since its inception.

The NAB has been activated after

a detailed analysis of all areas such as institutional flaws, operations, prosecution, human resources, awareness and redressal.

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has introduced a new concept of Combine Investigation Team (CIT) in order to benefit from the experience and collective wisdom of senior supervisory officers, a system of CIT comprising Director, Additional Director, Investigation Officer, Legal Counsel, financial and land revenue experts besides establishing its own state of the art Forensic Science Laboratory in NAB Rawalpindi which has facilities of Digital Forensics, Questioned Documents and Fingerprint Analysis.

NAB is focal organisation of Pakistan under United National

Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).NAB is pursuing a national strategy of awareness, prevention and enforcement of anti-corruption, which has yielded excellent results.

NAB is role model not only for Pakistan but also for entire Saarc countries as NAB has been unanimously elected as chairman of Saarc Anti-Corruption Forum which is great achievement of Pakistan due to NAB's efforts. NAB is Pakistan's the only an-

ti-corruption body in the world which had signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with China to oversee China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects being completed in Pakistan. NAB is committed to make Pakistan free by eradicating all forms of corruption as per law.

NEW YORK: The UN General Assembly has unanimously adopted a Pakistan-sponsored resolution that calls for multidimensional response to counter all forms of disinformation that erodes human rights.

The resolution entitled, "Countering Disinformation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms," was recommended by the 193-member Assembly's Third Committee, which

deals with social, humanitarian and cultural issues. Co-sponsored by a large

number of countries, it was the outcome of extensive consultations with all member states against the backdrop of exponential proliferation of disinformation around the world, which is exacerbating social discord, competing nationalisms, an infodemic amidst the pandemic, discrimination, hate speech, stigmatization, racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia and related intolerances.

Expressing his gratification over the adoption by consensus of the resolution by the General Assembly, Ambassador Munir Akram, Pakistan's permanent representative to the UN, said.

#### Lahore remains on top of poor air quality index

DNA

LAHORE: Lahore continue to remain on top of the list of the most polluted cities in the world today having worst air quality.

According to the Air Quality Index, Lahore has been ranked first in the list with 453 reading, while Indian pital city New Delhi re mained second and Kolkata ranked third in the AQI list. Fog engulfed Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport and poor visibility affected flight operations. Most incoming flights were diverted to Islamabad, Airport Manager said.



LARKANA: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah offering Fateha on the grave of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto on her 14th death anniversary at Garhi Khuda Bakhsh. - APP



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy Hamad Azhar Sunday announced to introduce a new refinery policy for separating the furnace oil from refiners.

Hamad Azhar in his fresh tweets said 6,000 tons of furnace oil is being extracted daily from refineries. He said daily consumption of furnace oil will reach 13,000 in a few days as some refineries have started providing

extra furnace oil to the IPPs. The minister said the IPPs still have less than the re-

quired level of furnace oil. Hammad Azhar said there was a shortage of furnace oil in the summer due to the low discharge of water in the dams. The energy minister said Furnace oil used 116 per cent more in summer power generation than last year and resultantly, this year, 200,000 tons of furnace oil was imported for winter.

One of the reasons for the import of furnace oil was the possible default of LNG cargo, he said adding that fortunately, no more LNG cargo defaulted between November and December.





#### Book on Benazir's assassination launched

ISLAMABAD: Senior PPP leader Senator A. Rehman Malik Sunday made startling revelations about the assassination of former Prime Minister Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto on her 14th martyrdom anniversary. These revelations have been summed up in the form of a book entitled "The Assassination of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto". The book consisted of 28 chapters and carried all the details of characters involved in the incident of Liaqat Bagh. The book is published in both English and Urdu and available to the public on free of cost. While paying rich tribute to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and martyrs of Liaqat Bagh incident, he rejected false impressions that the PPP government during its five years tenure, had failed to

investigate the case. He claimed that any such impressions are baseless and stand negated after this book as all those who were involved in the murder of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto were identified, arrested, trialled, and even convicted except those who were killed mysteriously and those who are absconders. –  $\ensuremath{\mathbf{APP}}$ 

coronavirus deaths

#### SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan reported 2 more coronavirus deaths and 358 new cases that emerged during the last 24 hours (Saturday), showed the data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday morning. According to the statistics released by NCOC, after the addition of 6 new deaths, the toll has now surged to 28,907, which represents a ratio of 2.2 percent. The positivity ratio of the coronavirus cases in Pakistan reaches 0.68 percent, as 358 new coronavirus cases emerged in the last 24 hours after conducting 52,050 tests.

It takes the total cases tally to 1,293,440. The number of active cases in the country is 9,674 with 631 patients in critical condition. There were 446 more recoveries recorded in the last 24 hours as the number of total recovered cases reached 1,254,859 with a 97% recovery rate. Punjab, the most populous province of the country, has reported 57 new cases in the last 24 hours, taking the provincial tally to 444,553 with 2,533 active cases. In Punjab, 1 more patient died of coronavirus as the death toll reached 13,063. With 186 new recoveries, 428,957 patients have recovered from the virus in Punjab so far.

Sindh has recorded 237 new cases during the last 24 hours taking the provincial tally to 480,525 with 6,101 active cases. There was no new death reported related to the deadly disease as the death toll in Sindh remained 7,661. With 193 new recoveries, 466,763 patients have recovered from the virus in the province so far.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has recorded 37 new cases during the last 24 hours taking the tally to 181,204 with 604 active cases. The province reported 1 new virus-related death as the death toll reached 5,922. With 43 new recoveries, 174,678 patients have recovered from the virus in the province so far.

### Pak reports 2 more UK wants to increase trade with Pakistan to £10 billion

#### DNA

LAHORE: Member Parliament House of Commons UK Ms Anum Qaiser Sunday disclosed that the United Kingdom wants to increase bilateral trade with Pakistan from existing £3 billion to £10 billion to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. Talking to chairman UK-Pakistan Business Council (UPBC) Mian Kashif Ashfaq on Sunday she said that improvement in bilateral trade and economic relations between the UK and Pakistan would bring progress and prosperity to both countries

She said that about 5,000 UK companies were doing business in the UAE, but only 150 companies were in Pakistan despite the fact that Pakistan was a huge market of over 220 million people.

Ms Anum emphasised that Pakistan should focus on addressing the issues of red tape and other bottlenecks along with ensuring a predictable and growth-oriented tax regime to attract more investors from the UK and other countries.She said that the UK was focusing on four areas for close cooperation with Pakistan which included healthcare, education, green energy and infrastructure.

She said that the UK could also cooper-



ate with Pakistan in agriculture, manufac turing, pharmaceutical and other sectors to make its economy more competitive. She added that the UK would try to provide preferential access for Pakistani products to its market, which would further improve its exports.

Talking about export of fruits and vegetables to the UK, Ms Anum Qaiser said that Pakistani exporters should work on meeting UK standards to gain better penetration into its food market.She stressed that Pakistani companies should focus on better marketing of their products as insufficient focus in that area was keeping them away from promoting exports up to their real potential.She said that the UK had issued advisories to its citizens to encourage them to visit Pakistan.

She said that The British Deputy High

Commissioner in Karachi Mike Nithavrianakis had also recently visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and assured the ICCI that he would cooperate with its delegation in trip to the UK and in connecting them with the right partners. Honorary Consul General of the republic of Moldova Mian Mahmood Ul Hassan, eminent scholar Dr Waqar Ch visiting faculty School of Communication Studies Punjab University and traders from Manchester Muhammad Azam Khan, Shaharyar Khan, Asfund Yar Khan and Mehr Khan were also present on the occasion

Mian Kashif Ashfaq welcoming her on visit to Pakistan said that there was great potential for promoting bilateral trade between Pakistan and the UK for which better connectivity between private sectors of the two sides was needed. He said that Pakistan under the dynam-

ic leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan was expanding its industrial base through the development of Special Economic Zones and added that UK companies should explore joint venture and investment avenues in such facilities. He was of the view that close cooperation between UK and Pakistani companies would help in producing value added products.

'International flight QR 628, coming from Doha to Lahore, was also diverted to Islamabad," airport official said. "Flight operations will be brought to normal routing after improvement in the visibility," he added. According to the reports of international media, burn ing of crop residue and garbage in northern Indian states causes dangerous hike in environmental pollution in the region.

The AQI is calculated on the basis of five categories of pollution: ground-level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. AQI as high as 151-200 is considered unhealthy, while an AQI rating between 201 to 300 is more harmful and AQI over 300 is termed extremely toxic.

### World economy to top \$100 tn in **2022: Report**

India looks set to overtake France next year and then Britain in 2023 to regain its place as the world's sixth-biggest economy

#### **News Desk**

LONDON: The world's economic output will exceed \$100 trillion for the first time next year and it will take China a little longer than previously thought to overtake the United States as the No.1 economy, a re-

port showed on Sunday. British consultancy Cebr predicted China will become the world's top economy in dollar terms in 2030. two years later than forecast in last year's World Economic League Table report. India looks set to overtake France next year and then Britain in 2023 to regain its place as the world's

said. "The important issue for the 2020s is how the world economies cope with inflation, which has now reached 6.8% in the U.S.,'

The report showed Germa-

said Cebr deputy chairman Douglas McWilliams. "We hope that a relatively modest adjustment to the tiller will bring the non-transitory elements under control. If not, then the world will need to brace itself for a recession in 2023 or 2024."

sixth-biggest economy, Cebr

ny was on track to overtake Japan in terms of economic output in 2033. Russia could become a Top 10 economy by 2036 and Indonesia looks on track for ninth place in 2034

# **DECEMBER 2021**

Pakistan's Premier News & **Diplomatic Affairs Magazine** 

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