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The world lost a great person Desmond Tutu: Androulla Kaminara

Detailed News On Page-01

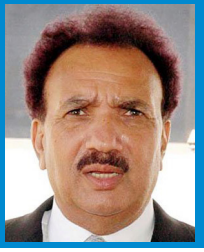
NAB has no affiliation with political parties

Detailed News On Page-08



Rehman Malik launches book on Benazir

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Briefs

Desmond Tutu dies aged 90

NEWS DESK

JOHANNESBURG: Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and veteran of South Africa's struggle against white minority rule, died on Sunday at the age of 90. In 1984 Tutu Key dates in the life of South African cleric and activist Desmond Tutu won the Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent opposition to apartheid. A decade later, he witnessed the end of that regime and chaired a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, set up to unearth atrocities committed during those dark days.

PM Imran expresses condolences

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday expressed his condolences on the death of 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 Archbishop 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.

Iran for good ties with neighbors

DNA

TEHRAN: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said that when the Iranian government is focused on 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.

PTI condemns Sharifs' ties with Shamim

Following the report of Ex-CJ GB signing 'affidavit' in the presence of Nawaz Sharif, Fawad says title of 'Sicilian mafia' justified



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-Baltistan (GB), had signed his 'affidavit' in the presence of former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif in London. In a tweet, he said now it had been established as to why the former prime minister 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

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Attack on judiciary premeditated

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Account Minister 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 Sagib 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.

Benazir a beacon of a movement, says Bilawal

Chairman PPP says today is the day to make a pledge to eradicate terrorism

BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid rich tribute to the first woman elected Prime Minister of the Islamic world and Party Chairperson Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and said that Benazir Bhutto is a beacon of a movement. The nation will never forget her national spirit, long struggle and strong leadership. According to a statement issued by the Media Cell Bilawal House, 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 Khappy".

Continued on Page 06

Ready to issue Nawaz' visa on his return

Sh Raheed says Nawaz Sharif has not consulted any doctor and he is healthy



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 institutions. He said that these statements would not make any difference and Prime Minister Imran Khan was not going anywhere. Sheikh Rasheed alleged that the highest cases of corruption in the world were against Shahbaz Sharif, adding that Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari were the most corrupt persons of this country. 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 and would listen to the problems of the people." He further said that he had decided to sit a day in every organization to resolve the issues of the people. Replying to a question on inflation, he said that the seeds for the same were sowed by the previous governments. Replying to another question on MQM's former chief, he said that talks with him could not be held. Later, he also congratulated the PTI-led federal government for launching the Green line bus service for Karachiites.

PML-N says govt puzzled before Nawaz' arrival

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Punjab President Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) Rana Sanaulah on Sunday slammed government on getting puzzled before arrival of former prime minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif. Rana Sanaulah's perspective came in response to Minister of Interior Sheikh Rashid's opinion on Nawaz's return to the country. He added that the government will have to leave as it failed to fulfill what it had promised and it has nothing else to talk in press conferences other than blaming PML-N's leadership for bringing country to rock bottom. Rana Sanaulah went on to add that government is still unable to prove any corruption allegation against Nawaz Sharif and once he become prime minister again, PM Imran Khan and Interior Minister

Continued on Page 06

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. 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

PM convenes National Security Council meeting

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has announced to convene a meeting 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

'Iran, Hezbollah aid Yemen rebel strikes'

RIYADH: The Saudi-led coalition on 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

Inside...

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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 parliamentary 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 Parliamentary Affairs. He said they were unnecessary ministries in the government's current structure.

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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 officer.



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

DC for recovery govt arrears

BUREAU REPORT

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.

Dr. Jaffar Hassan awarded

The long Service Award had been awarded to the legend gold medalist Dr. Jaffar Hassan Mubarak. 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 Mubarak for serving humanities and hoped that he would continue to serve the depressed public. Social Worker Dr. Jaffar Hassan Mubarak 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.

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-e-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 Sannudri Faisal Sultan also cut cake at THQ Hospital. They paid rich tribute to the father of nation. Meanwhile, on the eve of Christmas, Deputy 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 other places. 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.



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.

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 Zohd 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 biggest 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 con-

ference 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. 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.

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

He said, the country has become economically weaker day by day due to frivolous policies and measures and today the skyrocketing inflation and unemployment rates have made the lives of the people miserable. External debt has crossed all limits and there is a risk of bankruptcy. In these circumstances, there's an urgently needs for an economic and strategic team to take over the reins of the country. - DNA

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 Wajihah 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 Wajihah 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 Wajihah 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, Wajihah 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, Wajihah 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 Wajihah 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 Wajihah have divorced, however, the former claimed otherwise.

Senior Iranian cleric arrives in Pakistan



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Iran's Secretary General of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought Hamid Shahriari arrived in Islamabad on Sunday morning to meet with Pakistani religious leaders.

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Mohammad Ali Hosseini and Iranian Culture Counselor Ehsan Khazaei received Hojatoleslam Hamid Shahriari and Member of Iranian Assembly of Experts Molavi Nazir Ahmad Salami at Islamabad International Airport.

Secretary General of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought is scheduled to attend various events during his stay in the Pakistani capital, including a conference on the unity of the Islamic Ummah, a meeting with the chairman of the Pakistan Islamic Ideology Council, some religious officials, and senior Islamic scholars. Later Hojatoleslam Shahriari will travel to Lahore and

Karachi to meet and consult with Pakistani religious leaders.

The Islamic Unity Conference 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 Hojatoleslam Shahriari Hojjatul, Nazir Salami and Pakistani personalities in Islamabad.

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Briefs

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 Quetta 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 its 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 without 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 Faizabad 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 respective 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

PM following thoughts and teachings of Quaid-e-Azam

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 role to the fullest.



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 prayers 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



AIIOU, JICA join hands to exploit CPEC potential

ISLAMABAD: The Allama Iqbal Open University (AIIOU) 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.

"Initially, under the project training will be started in Rashakai and Gilgit-Baltistan Industrial Zones while later its scope will be extended to all other SEZs," AIIOU 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-

ready in process of designing courses in this regard.

To a question about skill-based education, the VC said that it was basic mandate of the varsity since its establishment to provide skill-based education to the people. The university had devised special courses in computer, tractor repairing, poultry and farming to provide technical training to the people and help them earn respectable livelihood. He said even the university arranged courses in tailoring and embroidery with private partnership to train girls in Gitgat Baltistan region. To a question that the AIIOU VC told APP that the university was providing education to all irrespective of their age, gender or social status. He said, there is no age bar on acquiring education from AIIOU, 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

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, Aqir Akhtar, Mohammad Shabir, Shahid Ali, Nadeem Akhtar, Mubashir Iqbal, Rashid, Haroon, Sajjad, Ehsanul Haq, Roshan Ali, Muzaffar, Asad Hayat, Bahamand, Muhammad Siddique, Ajmal, Alamgir, 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 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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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, high-rise, 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.

Briefs

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 Alexander Ogorodnikov. According to a press statement Sunday, the meeting was also attended by the Deputy Head of the Economic Relations Department Mr. Anatoly 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 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 Dods. 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 patients 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.

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 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. 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

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 ac-

tivist 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."



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

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 Sakellariopoulou 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 became 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 Turkey

amounted to \$3.4 billion. 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 to participate in the restoration of Azerbaijan's liberated territories.

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

Kremlin spokesman calls
for cautious optimism

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

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 long-term perspective," he said.

Soviet Union
could have
survived:
Gorbachev

AGENCIES

MOSCOW: The Soviet Union's first president, Mikhail Gorbachev believes that the Soviet authorities 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 national 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

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

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. Pakistan has 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), Shankou (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.

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, tried, and even convicted except those who were killed mysteriously and those who are absconders. – APP

NAB has no affiliation with 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 per cent 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 anti-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.



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

Pak reports 2 more 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 (NCO) on Sunday morning.

According to the statistics released by NCO, 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.

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, manufacturing, 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 Nithavranianakis 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, Asfud 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 dynamic 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.

UNGA adopts Pakistan-sponsored resolution

DNA

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.

New refinery policy to separate FO from refineries

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 required 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.



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 capital city New Delhi remained second and Kolkata ranked third in the AQI list.

Fog engulfed Lahore’s Alama Iqbal International Airport and poor visibility affected flight operations. Most incoming flights were diverted to Islamabad, Airport Manager said.

“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, burning 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 report 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

sixth-biggest economy, Cebr 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.,” 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.”

The report showed Germany 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.

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