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UN chief urges Armenia, Azerbaijan to hold dialogue

Moroccan King for unity among African nations: Karmoune

Collective efforts need of time: Ambassador Androulla Kaminara



Briefs

Politics and crime must be separated

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz on Sunday emphasized that politics and crime must be separated.

In a tweet statement, he said that red line should be accepted in the national interest of Pakistan and politics.

The Minister said the nation understands difference between interest of Nawaz Sharif and national interest. He said the supporters of Nawaz Sharif will also have to realize this difference.

'Imran's GB speech against rules'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Spokesman to the former President, Asif Ali Zardari has said that Imran Khan's political speech in Gilgit-Baltistan is against election rules and asked that why the Election Commission of Pakistan does not take notice of this violation of election rules and regulations. Spokesman said that the federal ministers are also influencing the elections in GB because running the election campaign in GB by federal ministers is illegal. Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to GB during election campaign is also illegal.

Siraj launches movement against inflation

DNA

BAJAUR: Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Sirajul Haq has launched a movement against inflation with the party's power show at Sports Complex in Bajaur Agency's in Khar area on Sunday. The JI Amir warned the government to act quickly and control inflation if it wants to remain in power for few more months. Sirajul Haq said people will not tolerate the rulers if inflation would not be lowered down and the masses will not be kept silent anymore.

"Time has come to march towards Islamabad," the JI Amir said.

PM IMRAN KHAN ANNOUNCES Provisional provincial status for GB

PM blames the Opposition for trying to establish the narrative that General Elections 2018 in Pakistan were rigged

A.M.BHATTI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan announced granting the provisional-provincial status to Gilgit-Baltistan on Sunday as he arrived in the area to attend its 73rd Independence Day celebrations.

"One of the reasons for me coming to Gilgit-Baltistan is to announce that we have decided to grant Gilgit-Baltistan the provisional provincial status," he said. "We have taken this decision keeping in mind the UN Security Council's resolutions," added the prime minister. PM Imran said that he could not announce or talk about the development packages for Gilgit-Baltistan since it would be a violation of the stated procedures as elections were about to take place in the area.

"However, I will tell you that it is our government's foremost policy to uplift Pakistan's poor that amount to 25% of the population and the country's backward areas," he said. The prime minister said that one of the many reasons Gilgit-Baltistan remained backwards was because it was "cut off" from the rest of Pakistan.

Continued on Page 06

PPP to provide employment

DNA

GHZAR: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday has said that former Prime Minister (PM) Benazir Bhutto had provided democratic and political freedom to the nation. While addressing the workers, the PPP chairman said that today, everyone wants to win ownership of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Former governor GB Qamar Zaman Kaira, Sohrab Khan Marri, DR. Karim Khawaja and Qasim Naved were also present on the occasion. Prime Minister Imran Khan had promised to continue development work on CPEC project but nothing has done so far, he added. Bilawal vowed to provide employment to the people of Gilgit-Baltistan as it is included in the mandate of PPP. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government has destroyed the federation, Punjab and KP, he claimed.

Babar sets up dominant win

SPORTS REPORTER / DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan eased to a seven-wicket win in the second ODI in Rawalpindi to secure second place on the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League table, as well as a series victory. Iftikhar Ahmed claimed his best-ever List A figures of 5/40 as he led the home attack in a convincing display with the ball. Then, captain Babar Azam's 77-run innings off 74 balls made sure that the hiccups caused by his fellow batsmen do not cause a major headache.



Iftikhar, for his bowling feat and a handful of runs in the chase was named the player of the match. After electing to bat first, Zimbabwe captain Chamu Chibhabha was the first to fall as he edged an attempted cut shot through to Mohammad Rizwan to become Haris Rauf's first ODI wicket. Musa Khan, on ODI debut, then forced Craig Ervine to drag on to pick up his maiden international wicket. The third ODI is on Tuesday. The series win means lots of fringe players and newcomers should get a chance.

Maryam Nawaz launches 'Sher Jawan' campaign

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: PML-N vice-president Maryam Nawaz addressed the launch ceremony of the party's "Sher Jawan" campaign on Sunday. The PML-N vice-president launched the campaign in the party's bid to encourage its young workers to bring about a positive change in the country. Talking about the campaign, she said that it aimed at providing the youth with political awareness. "Sher Jawan is a campaign to remind the youth about the reason behind Pakistan's creation." "It is a campaign that aims to make the youth understand the Constitution, restore their faith in democracy, and warn them

Continued on Page 06

PDM asked to postpone Peshawar rally

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) should postpone its rally in Peshawar keeping in view the potential threats of terrorists' attacks. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Minister for Labour and Culture Shaukat Yousafzai said this as he addressed media after meeting with K-P Chief Minister Mahmood Khan. Yousafzai asked the PDM to hold talks with the government on all issues except accountability. "Peshawar has witnessed a tragic terrorism incident in which innocent children of a madrassa were targeted. The PDM should reconsider their Peshawar rally in view of the potential threat of terrorism," he said adding that K-P government will not impose any ban on rallies and processions. The PDM should not play with the lives of the people to save the corruption of some leaders, he added. The provincial minister said that speeches are being made in PDM rallies against the army which is reprehensible and is providing an opportunity to the enemies for propaganda against the country. - DNA



DIAMER: Chairman WAPDA briefs PM Imran Khan on progress of work at Diamer Bhasha Dam site. DNA

FO rejects fake news about Pakistani diaspora

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office has taken notice of some fake news regarding Pakistani diaspora in France being spread by some sections of Indian media and dummy twitter accounts. In a statement, the Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhry said the baseless and misleading information is patently handwork of Indian anti-Pakistan propaganda machine working overtime.

He said Pakistani diaspora in France is law abiding and contributing positively to the French economy. The Spokesperson said there are no complaints from them of difficulties in the aftermath of the recent developments. He said the official twitter account of the Embassy of Pakistan, Paris is "@PakinFrance".

Indian forces martyr top freedom fighter

DNA

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred a prominent freedom fighter, in Srinagar, on Sunday. According to details, he was martyred during a cordon and search operation in Rangreth area on the outskirts of the Srinagar city. In Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K), Indian troops in their continued acts of state terrorism martyred 23 Kashmiris including a woman during the last month. Last week, the FO said that at least 18 innocent Kashmiris had been killed in October.

Pak slams Modi on Pulwama remarks

Modi had repeated unfounded allegations that Pakistan was involved in the Pulwama attack, that claimed the lives of 40 soldiers a couple of years ago

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has rejected Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comments that insinuated Islamabad was involved in the Pulwama attack, advising India to refrain from dragging Pakistan into its domestic politics.

"Pakistan categorically rejects the Indian Prime Minister's insinuation of Pakistan's involvement in the Pulwama attack by alluding



to remarks made by a Minister in the National Assembly," read a statement by the Foreign Office. Modi had repeated unfounded allegations that Pakistan

was involved in the Pulwama attack - that claimed the lives of 40 soldiers a couple of years ago - citing federal minister Fawad Chaudhry's speech in parliament a few days ago.

Modi had used the Pakistani federal minister's statement to hit out at Indian Opposition parties: "The real face of such people has been exposed after the truth was accepted in the parliament of our neighbouring country," he had said.

Continued on Page 06

Collective efforts need of time: Amb. Kaminara

DNA

ISLAMABAD: European Union (EU) Ambassador to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara Sunday said collective and focused efforts were required to address the international issues particularly COVID-19 and climate change. She said while talking to APP, the United Nations (UN) was the only platform to respond the global issues accordingly. Since its inception the world body, she said, had provided all possible assistance to many countries during the conflicts and crisis times and it had also tried its best to bring the under-developed and developing countries at par with advanced countries.



Ambassador Kaminara said, "The EU is a strong supporter of multilateralism and believes that multilateral cooperation is key to peace, human rights and development." The EU and its member states, she said, were one of the biggest donors and providing almost a quarter in the total UN's funds for humanitarian support, fighting climate change, upholding human rights and conflict prevention and resolution. To a query, she said the EU and UN agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) were extending their services in various sectors including education, food security, environment, counter-terrorism, and short and medium term response to the COVID-19 in Pakistan. - APP

152 new COVID-19 cases reported in Capital

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on coronavirus Sunday said that 152 new COVID-19 cases were reported from the federal capital during last 24 hours. According to an official of NCOC, as many as 224 cases were reported last day which was highest number of cases reported in a day during last one month.

He said that so far 19,970 cases were reported from the federal capital while 222 deaths were reported from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) while 18,059 patients had been recovered completely. Meanwhile, on the direction of Ministry of National Health Services, the district administration of Islamabad had continued smart lockdown in different streets to reduce transmission of the infection. The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Sunday were recorded 12,592 as 977 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours.

Smart lockdown to be imposed in Punjab: CM

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that smart lockdown would be imposed in the areas where coronavirus cases reported.

In a statement, the CM said the decision for closing the markets at 10 p.m. had been taken with consultation and more strict measures could be taken in case of not following the SOPs in Bazaars and markets. He warned that due to violation of the coronavirus SOPs, the number of patients are increasing day by day.

Moroccan King for unity among African nations

Ambassador of Morocco Mohammed Karmoune says, Morocco's public health sector might not be as advanced as Japan's for instance, however, this safety-preparedness approach is not only a winning strategy, but also unprecedented for majority of MENA countries, and even for some European countries

EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: King Mohammed VI has called for unity on African leaders to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. He spoke on this matter with the presidents of Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, to launch an initiative of African Heads of State aimed at establishing an operational framework to support the countries of the continent in their different phases of pandemic management. Ambassador of Morocco Mohammed Karmoune disclosed this in an interview with Daily Islamabad POST. His detailed interview shall be published in the November issue of CENTRELINE magazine.

He further told that Morocco also donated to the African Union Commission medical supplies that would boost the continental capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The donation represents the values of support and solidarity between African Union Member States.

Concretely, the Kingdom of Morocco quickly went from words to deeds. Since Sunday, June 14, the cargo planes of the airline Royal Air Maroc are active again on the tarmacs of African airports. In the wake of his commitment made in April 2020 to strengthen South-South solidarity, King Mohammed VI ordered the dispatch of medical aid to 15 sub-Saharan countries, with massive help: 8 million masks, 900,000 visors,



600,000 charlottes, 60,000 gowns, 30,000 liters of hydroalcoholic gel, 75,000 boxes of chloroquine and 15,000 boxes of azithromycin, all from Moroccan factories in accordance with the standards required by the WHO. The measures taken by Morocco

at the first stage of the COVID-19 outbreak is showing how much Morocco did not underestimate the situation and learned from other countries' mistakes. In comparison to the majority of African countries, Morocco's strong institutions, peaceful society, robust infrastructure, and several achievements on food security, have definitely helped policy-makers to draw a prompt response to exacerbate the Coronavirus panic, and dismiss spurious information around it.

The ambassador further said, Morocco's public health sector might not be as sophisticated as Japan's for instance, however, this safety-preparedness approach is not only a winning strategy, but it is also unprecedented for the major-

ity of MENA countries, and even for some European countries.

"Despite the fragile economic situation Morocco faced before the pandemic, the actions taken by the Government and all the other institutions show it is among the first countries globally to sacrifice its own economic welfare to prevent this virus from spreading." "This move, in turn, has inspired Moroccans to trust the Government's measures and help one another in this time of crisis.

"The Coronavirus situation shows the societal benefits of cohesion and solidarity with one another and shows how it is important to consider the positives of this difficult period, rather than just the negatives."

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Briefs

SSU conducts self-defense course

DNA

KARACHI: A self-defense and firearms safety course was conducted at SSU Headquarters wherein 30 students of PAF (KIET) University participated. The purpose of the course was to make students aware of various precautions in case of any emergency or terrorist attack. During the training, students were briefed about martial arts, firing and the use of different types of weapons, according to a SSU spokesman here on Sunday. Later, the students also made shooting practice practically. The students also visited various departments of SSU headquarters and appreciated the professional standard maintained and efforts to further enhance the capabilities of SSU Commandos. The participants of the course expressing their views said that it was the need of the hour for students to start self-defense training. On this occasion, the DIG Security and Emergency Services Division said that interest of students in self-defense exercises is worth appreciating and the students will have the full support of the Security Division and SSU in this regard.

'Healthy environment must for a healthy society'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: UNICEF Pakistan Country Representative Aida Girma Sunday said it was imperative to protect and ensure healthy environment in order to groom and nurture a healthy and robust society. Regarding Clean Green Index initiative, she said it was definitely a motivating step towards raising standards of cleanliness and ensuring green environment. This project would have a vital role in ensuring healthy environment and could be implemented across the country, she said while talking to APP. She spoke high of Pakistan's initiatives to effectively mitigate social economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic and tackle climate changes with formal launch of Clean Green Index. Aida Girma said the UNICEF would continue to work with the Pakistan government to carry forward the Clean Green Initiative to promote healthy atmosphere, besides facilitating the institutions in improving water, sanitation and hygiene services.

PAL to hold 'Iqbal Ambassador Conference' on Nov 9th

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) will hold a day long 'Iqbal Ambassador Conference' on occasion of birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal on November 9th. Minister for Education and Professional Training, National History and Literary Heritage, Shafiqat Mahmood and Ambassadors of different countries to Pakistan and Pakistani Iqbal Scholars will attend the conference. The Ambassador to Pakistan will shed light on Iqbal's works in their countries. According to an official, the conference will open new doors for the promotion of Iqbal's art, personality and philosophy. He said that work has been done on Iqbal in many countries of the world similarly Allama Iqbal has addressed many personalities and many countries of the world in his poetry and thought. These references will be promoted in this conference and progress will be made in the promotion of Iqbal's thought and philosophy in these countries.

Pakistan slips down in absence of corruption, rule of law index

Report further shows that Pakistan has improved or retained its ranking and scores in some factors including Regulatory Enforcement and Civil Justice. The World Justice Project's report highlights that more countries declined in overall rule of law performance for the third year in a row

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan fell four places down in the global ranking of "Absence of Corruption" factor whereas the country's overall ranking in the rule of law index for the year 2020 has dropped by one position as compared to the previous year, detailed report of the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index 2020 reveals. The World Justice Project (WJP) measures rule of law performance in 128 countries and jurisdictions

across eight primary factors: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice. The Index is the world's leading source for original, independent data on the rule of law. The WJP's Rule of Law Index (RLI) 2020 reflects that Pakistan secured 0.39 score and placed the country on 120th position in the world ranking. Whereas in 2019 Pakistan's ranking was 117 and its total score was 0.39. In 2019

the World Justice Project's Rule of Law report included 126 countries in its report however, it added two new countries in its 2020 report. In the South Asia region, Pakistan is only ahead of Afghanistan in the regional ranking. In the category of lower middle-income countries, Pakistan has been placed on 25th position out of 30. According to the report, Pakistan's position has significantly dropped down in three major factors which includes Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption and

Open Government. Pakistan's ranking in the Constraints on Government power factor has been recorded on 79th place in 2020 whereas; in 2019 Pakistan was on 74th position in the global ranking. Similarly, in the Absence of Corruption factor Pakistan is now ranked on 116th position as compared to its 112th position in 2019. It faced a major decline in the ranking of Open Government factor where it is now placed on 91st position in 2020 as compared to 83rd position in 2019.

But the report further shows that Pakistan has improved or retained its ranking and scores in some factors including Regulatory Enforcement and Civil Justice. The World Justice Project's report highlights that more countries declined in overall rule of law performance for the third year in a row, continuing a negative slide towards weakening and stagnating rule of law. The majority of countries showing deteriorating rule of law in the 2020 Index also declined in the previous year, demonstrating a persistent downward trend.

Hashoo Group & Imperial Builders to re-launch Cecil Hotel

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan's leading hotel group will manage the heritage hotel building, introduce five-star standards and bring back its past glory. Imperial Builders are restoring the heritage building of Cecil Hotel in Murree, which dates back to the British Era to its past glory, in collaboration with Hashoo Group who will manage the completed hotel. Hashoo Group are the owners and operators of Pearl-Continental Hotels, Marriott Hotels, and Hotel One in Pakistan, whereas Imperial Builders are recognised in the construction industry for completing outstanding structures around Pakistan. In this connection, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Hashoo Group and Imperial Builders at Pearl-Continental Hotel Karachi on Monday,



26th October 2020. "In line with the Prime Minister's vision to promote tourism in Pakistan, we are delighted to collaborate with Imperial Builders to restore and manage this historical, prestigious hotel," expressed Mr. Murtaza Hashwani - Hashoo Group

Deputy Chairman and CEO, at the MoU signing ceremony. "It makes us immensely proud to partner with Hashoo Group for restoring the historical Cecil Hotel, and developing it to modern-day construction standards, to welcome travellers and tourists to this area,"

expressed Mr. Hunaid Hussain Lakhani - Imperial Builders CEO. Cecil Hotel, dating back to 1851, is one of the oldest hotels in Pakistan, and has a rich history almost as old as the discovery of the region. Located in the scenic surroundings of The

Murree Hills, this hotel has always been the favourite of millions for decades. The historical hotel building is now being completely restored to its former glory, and will be operated as a luxury Pearl Continental (PC) Hotel. In addition to the PC hotel, Imperial Builders will also be constructing an additional, contemporary Hotel One close by, with the first wing due for completion in Spring 2021. This dual branding development is the first of its kind in Pakistan, and will ensure that travellers from all walks of life can find accommodation according to their affordability and taste. The final facilities will also include unique tree houses so that guests may have one of a kind stay experience. This private sector investment in Murree district will not only provide excellent, first-class tourism and resort services in the area, but also boost the local employment and add value to the domestic tourism infrastructure of the country.

Customs foils smuggling bid at Lahore airport

DNA

LAHORE: Customs authorities on Sunday foiled a smuggling bid of around Rs3.4 million at Allama Iqbal International airport, Lahore. According to DC Customs, Saqib Warraich, 23 iPhones, four iPads, three Sony cameras, and one wireless set were recovered from a bag sent from Dubai to Lahore. DC Customs said the smuggled electronic items were to be dispatched to Islama-

bad from Lahore Airport's domestic departure. The smuggled items have been taken into custody. While the airlines have been directed to check the bags at the Lahore airport before dispatching them. In a separate action, last month, Customs authorities had recovered smuggled clothes worth millions of rupees in Karachi. The customs preventive anti-smuggling organization in raids in Karachi recovered non-duty paid clothes of 45000kg.

Silver jubilee of gardens club held

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The Silver Jubilee Ceremony of Gardens Club was held at Lyallpur Golf and Country Club. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali was the Chief Guest while Parliamentarians Ch. Ali Akhtar, Latif Nazir, Firdous Rai, Additional Deputy Commissioner General Umar Maqbool, Chairman All Pakistan Power Looms Honors Association Waheed Khaliq Rame, Chairman Ibrahim Group Sheikh Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman Pakistan Science Foundation Dr Khalid Mehmood, President Gardens Club Hamid Fayyaz Khan, Secretary Mian Mumtaz Khaliq, Raheel Sultan and representatives from various business organizations were also present. On the occasion, plants were also planted regarding Ur-

ban Forest under the Plant for Pakistan campaign while the participants cut the 25th anniversary cake of the club. The Deputy Commissioner congratulated the management on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of The Gardens Club. He appreciated the deep commitment with exhibition of flowers annually. He said that thanks to the exhibition organized by the Gardens Club, the flower lovers get to see different types of flowers in a pleasant atmosphere. He also appreciated the keen interest of the Gardens Club in Urban Forestry and said that the importance of tree planting for keeping the environment fresh and preventing smog-like conditions cannot be denied as per the government's vision by the district administration in this regard. He said that the Clean & Green program is being successfully implemented.

Sindh sees major spike in COVID cases

DNA

KARACHI: The Sindh province on Sunday witnessed a massive spike in COVID-19 cases after it recorded 480 fresh virus cases, including 367 from Karachi, within past 24 hours, Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah said on Sunday. "We have performed 11,313 cases during the day, which resulted in 480 people testing positive for the virus," the chief minister said while giving a routine daily update on COVID-19 situation in the province. He said that 110 patients had recovered from the deadly infection during the past 24 hours

while four people lost their battle against it. Giving detail of overall COVID-19 situation in the province, Murad Ali Shah said that 146,331 virus cases have been reported in the province so far of which 2,631 succumbed to the infection. "We have 4,921 active COVID-19 cases in the province of which 245 are being treated at various hospitals while the remaining are self-isolating at their homes," he said adding that 186 patients are in critical condition while 28 are on the ventilator. Pakistan has reported 17 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus, taking the nationwide tally of fatal-

ities to 6,823. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCO), 977 fresh infections emerged during this period, lifting the national tally of cases to 333,970. Around 27,655 samples were tested during the last 24 hours across the country. There are a total of 12,592 active cases of the coronavirus as 314,555 patients have so far recuperated from the disease. Thus far, Sindh has reported 145,851 cases, followed by Punjab reporting 104,271 cases while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reported 39,564, Balochistan 15,920, Islamabad 19,970, Gilgit Baltistan 4,261 and Azad Jammu and Kashmir 4,133.

40 cases against medical stores found

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The meeting of District Quality Control Board was held with Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali in the chair. The medical store inspection reports of Drug Inspectors were reviewed in the meeting. The total 40 cases against medical stores found involved in different violations of Drug Act were examined during the meeting and hearing of pleas of medical store owners were made in this regard. After hearing, the meeting decided to refer the cases against 20 medical stores to the Drug Court and getting the criminal cases registered against the owners of two medical stores involved in serious violations of Drug Act. Moreover owners of 3 medical stores were given warning on presenting solid pleas and proof and 14 cases were adjourned till next meeting due to not appearing of medical stores owners. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the performance of the Drug Inspectors and directed them for accelerating the drive against sale and manufacturing of spurious drugs. He said that stern action should be taken against the quacks who were playing with the health of patients. He urged upon sealing the medical stores immediately involved in sale of spurious and intoxicating medicines. The Deputy Commissioner gave clear and loud message to the functionaries of health departments that any kind of corruption would not be tolerated.

Hazara police arrested 389 notorious criminals: DIG

ABBOTTABAD: On the special instructions of Deputy Inspector General of Police, Hazara Region, Qazi Jameel-ur-Rehman, Hazara Police, headed by District Police Officers, has continued special operations against drug dealers, notorious criminals and illegal arms holders. Hazara police have arrested 389 notorious criminals wanted in murder and other cases during these operations in the last two months while cracking down on the drug menace from the society and protecting the younger generation from this menace. According to details, 473 kg of cannabis, 38 kg of heroin and 0.798 kg of ice were seized and cases were registered under the Narcotics Act. Police seized 76,199 illegal legal weapons and ammunition and registered various cases against them. DIG Hazara directed the Hazara police officers to initiate systematic operations against the operators of large drug trafficking networks so that the supply of drugs could be curtailed. - APP

Minister visits madrasa for condolence

PESHAWAR: Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Ali Muhammad Khan on Sunday visited madrasa at Dir colony for condolence over bomb blast in which eight students were killed and over 100 injured earlier this week. Talking to media after condolence with teachers and administrative staff of the seminary, he said that one couldn't think of targeting innocent students of madrasa when they are attending classes and busy in seeking religious knowledge. Ali Muhammad Khan said that Prime Minister Imran had directed him to visit madrasa on behalf of him and federal government for condolence and expressing sympathy and solidarity with bereaved families and teaching staff of the seminary. He said that entire country was grieved over loss of precious lives in this terrorist attack. He said that students were an asset of the country weather they are school students or seminary students. "There is no difference between children martyred at madrasa and school", he said. He said that government would provide financial assistance to the martyrs' families and injured. - APP

Ex-governor inaugurates sculpture exhibition

DNA

LAHORE: Former Punjab governor and president Sculptors Art Foundation of Pakistan (SAFPAK) Lt-Gen (retd) Khalid Maqbool inaugurated a four-day sculpture exhibition at Hamal Art Gallery, Gulberg, here on Sunday. Talking to the media after the ceremony, he said that Lahore is known as the hub of cultural and fine arts activities from old times, as our artists, poets, writers are very talented people. He urged the corporate sector to fulfill their socioeconomic responsibilities by encouraging sculptors and other artists. Khalid Maqbool stressed that artists should promote soft image of Pakistan through their works. At the exhibition, more than 250 articles of 50 sculptors from across the country have been displayed which included sculptures of humans, animals, models of buildings, handicrafts, etc. The ex-governor said that artists are a sensitive segment of society and they express their sentiments, feelings through their artworks besides highlighting the issues, problems faced by society and depict the beauty of nature through their artistic skills in the shape of their works. Mansoor Zubari, chairman SAFPAK, said that wood, stone, fiber, plastic, silicone and different metals have been used to create sculptures, models and handicrafts. A large number of fine arts lovers and artists and Mohamad Jamil Hamal was also present at the ceremony.



MULTAN: Ambassador of Germany Bernhard Schlagheck taking a ride in auto in Multan. - DNA

Around 27,000 TB cases report every year in Pakistan

government was committed to achieve the target of eliminating the disease from the country and sought support of all stakeholders in that regard, said official of TB Control Programme

ISLAMABAD: The number of patients diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB) is increasing in the country as estimated 27,000 new cases are reported every year in the country. According to an official of TB Control Programme, total TB cases incidence rate per year is 525,000 in Pakistan while the figure of TB cases under treatment is 368,589. Sharing the official available data, he said as many as 160,000 patients were missed from treatment while 56,000

deaths were occurred due to TB in every year. The official said 1,571 microscopy centers had been working in the country. He added TB treatment success rate was 93 percent. He said the government had paid special attention to this critical issue and strengthened the program for providing a free treatment to TB patients. He said more than three hundred thousand TB patients were benefiting free diagnostic and treatment facilities every year in the country.

He said more than 30 hospitals had been upgraded to take care of multi-drug resistant TB cases and 13 laboratories equipped with state of the art facilities were being established in various parts of the country. He said the government was committed to achieve the target of eliminating the disease from the country and sought support of all stakeholders in that regard. He said the government had planned several activities to raise public awareness about

the devastating health, social and economic consequences and to step up efforts to end the disease. He said it was in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease. He added every year TB day was celebrated on the urgency to act on the commitments made by global leaders to control the disease. He said that TB remained the world's deadliest infectious kill-

er. Each day, nearly 4500 people lost their lives to TB and close to 30,000 people fall ill with this preventable and curable disease, he added. He said global efforts to combat TB had saved an estimated 54 million lives since the year 2000 and reduced the TB mortality rate by 42%. He added to accelerate the TB response in countries to reach targets heads of states came together and made strong commitments to end TB at the first-ever UN High Level Meeting in September 2018. - APP

Briefs

Capital police foils bid to smuggle drugs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sabzi Mandi and Noon police have thwarted an attempt to smuggle narcotics from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to down parts of the country and arrested two persons in possession of cache of drugs, a police spokesman said. Following orders of IGP Islamabad Muhammad Amir Zulfikar Khan, he said that DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed had categorically directed all police officers to accelerate their efforts against drug dealers/smugglers and curb this menace from Capital.

Following these directions, SP (Industrial Area) Zubair Ahmad Shaikh constituted special team under the supervision of DSP Khalid Mehmood Awan including SHO Sabzi Mandi Sub-Inspector Muhammad Iqbal, SHO Noon Abdul Razaq, Sub-Inspectors Adeel Shokat, Muhammad Nawaz along with others. The accused identified as Saif-ur-Rehman and Javed Khan besides recovery of 6.357kilogram hashish from them. During preliminary investigation both the suspects confessed to smuggle this cache of drug from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Islamabad and various cities of Punjab. IGP Islamabad and DIG (Operations) have appreciated the performance of CIA Police team and announced cash rewards for them. DIG (Operations) has said that Islamabad police is accelerating all out efforts for safety and security of citizens. He also requested the citizens to inform police in case of any such suspicious activity in their areas.

Govt provides 50% fee concession to women

ISLAMABAD: Member National Assembly and Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) Munaza Hasan said government provided ease to women entrepreneurs with 50 percent fee concession on all stalls charges. Talking to APP, she said to enhance overall economic value 7.5 percent was allocated exclusively for women entrepreneurs in all trade fairs and exhibitions. Adding that incumbent government's trade development policy was to energize women entrepreneurship in support of developing and realizing Pakistan's export capabilities and potential. She said an educated, healthy and empowered woman on the decision-making table best personifies the state of peace and progress. — APP

Mask stands compulsory in capital

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Hamza Shafiqat Sunday said face mask would be mandatory in public places from next week (Monday) aimed to combat COVID-19 spread. Talking to PTV news channel, DC Islamabad said violators would face penalties, adding, in line with a decision taken by the federal government the Islamabad Capital Territory Administration (ICTA) on Sunday declared that all residents have to wear a face mask in public places.

To ensure that everyone has access to masks at an affordable price, Shafiqat said that they were controlling it under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). He warned the violator could be jailed too depending on the severity of the flouting of social distancing protocols and precautionary guidelines. "We have to protect people from coronavirus second wave which can be done only if shopkeepers, restaurant owners, vendors, transporters and other business owners follow the SOPs devised by the government," he said. "We have sealed around 50 schools, hotspot areas, hotels, streets and fined where the citizens were not following their SOPs," said DC. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President ICCI and Amer Ali Ahmad, Chairman CDA pose for a group photo while visiting various markets in Islamabad. Abdul Rauf Alam, M Ejaz Abbasi, Shehzad Abbasi, Muhammad Hussain, Khalid Chaudhry and others are also present. — DNA

ICCI, CDA working together for betterment of markets

It was the first of a series of joint visits planned to analyze and assess the current state of markets and then plan and undertake the required developments works in order to upgrade their condition

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry along with Amir Ali Ahmad, Chairman CDA visited various markets of Islamabad including Super Market, Jinnah Super, Rana Market and Farooqia Market to see the on ground situation for the need of development works in markets including carpeting of roads, restoration of streetlights, repair of footpaths, provision of public toilets, parking facility, improving sewerage and sanitation systems and focus on

better beautification of all major markets of Islamabad in order to uplift the basic infrastructure and overall look of all markets.

The Directors of all the departments of CDA and Officers of District Administration also accompanied the Chairman CDA. The representatives of respective markets including Abdul Rauf Alam & Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi former Presidents ICCI, Sheikh Abdul Waheed, Saeed Khan, Shehzad Abbasi, Muhammad Hussain, Khalid Chaudhry and others were also present at the occasion.

After visiting the markets, the Chairman CDA passed orders for

undertaking required development works in markets to facilitate the traders. He specifically issued instructions that all streetlights of above markets should be made functional within 24 hours. It was the first of a series of joint visits planned to analyze and assess the current state of markets and then plan and undertake the required developments works in order to upgrade their condition.

During the joint visit to markets, President ICCI and Chairman CDA agreed that anti-encroachment drive would be undertaken in markets by taking the trading community on board and by addressing

their genuine concerns so that encroachments from markets could be removed with joint efforts.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan has adopted a proactive approach to address the key issues of business community with close liaison of CDA and for this purpose, along with Chairman CDA and his team has started visits of markets to see first-hand the current state of affairs and work with CDA to improve the infrastructure in markets so that traders could feel facilitated in promoting business activities.

He said that he would take Presidents of market associations on board to work with CDA for removal

of encroachments from markets in order to restore their original beauty and aesthetics.

He also lauded the positive approach of Chairman CDA and hoped that with his determination and commitment, the condition of markets would soon be improved. He assured that ICCI would extend all sorts of cooperation and support to CDA in addressing the key issues of markets and industrial areas so that with joint efforts, industrial areas and markets could be upgraded and Islamabad could be developed into a modern looking capital at par with the other major capitals of the world.

Healthy environment must for a healthy society: Aida Girma

Regarding Clean Green Index initiative, she said it was definitely a motivating step towards raising standards of cleanliness and ensuring green environment

ISLAMABAD: UNICEF Pakistan Country Representative Aida Girma Sunday said it was imperative to protect and ensure healthy environment in order to groom and nurture a healthy and robust society. Regarding Clean Green Index initiative, she said it was definitely a motivating step towards raising standards of cleanliness and ensuring green environment. This project would have a vital role in ensuring healthy environment and could be implemented across the country, she said while talking to APP. She spoke high of Pakistan's initiatives to effectively mitigate social economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic and tackle climate changes with formal launch of Clean Green Index. Aida Girma said the UNICEF would continue to work with the Pakistan government to carry forward the Clean Green Initiative to promote healthy atmosphere, besides facilitating the institutions in improving water, sanitation and hygiene services. — APP

Govt initiative for olive promotion

ISLAMABAD: Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Amin Khan said that government has taken productive initiative for the olive promotion in tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Talking to APP, he said that immense potential in tribal districts to plant wild olives with better varieties. "We spend billions of dollars on oil imports, local solutions here just need to tap" he said. — APP

Plight of Kashmiris needs to bring in limelight: Uzma Gul

Condemning the blasphemous cartoons in France, Uzma Gul called upon the Muslim Umma to boycott French products.

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Jammu & Kashmir Solidarity Movement and Pak-Kashmir Women Alliance, Uzma Gul Tuesday said it was imperative to stand against the Muslim genocide and brutal oppression of Indian forces in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Talking to APP, Uzma Gul said that Kashmiris have sacrificed unaccountable lives that ignited this indigenous freedom movement. "Freedom is not free", she said adding, "We should not let our sacrifices go in vain". To a question about internationalizing the Kashmir issue, she said, "It is important to wake up the conscience of civilized world from the slumber for which it was necessary to wage massive protests and counter India narrative within the country as well as at all international fora". The protests through peaceful rallies and participation in different seminars on global or regional peace were an effective tool to get the attention of the world to this burning issue of freedom of Kashmir, she added. She stated that human rights violations report was submitted with the Commonwealth on July 14 this year but unfortunately the name of India as a terrorist state was removed from the report. Gul was of the view that Indian Government was instigating the Hindutva to terrorize Muslims in India to force them to leave their homeland. "Modi is the butcher of Gujarat and wanted to tear India apart by creating Hindu-Muslim riots", she added. Criticizing the opposition, she said that all the parties have come together for their personal interests and to defend looted public money added that they should come together for the independence of Kashmir. Condemning the blasphemous cartoons in France, Uzma Gul called upon the Muslim Umma to boycott French products. She was of the view that the blasphemy of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was part of Islamophobia. Uzma Gul said India should immediately stop grave human rights violations in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. India has a fascist government that was trying to convert the Muslim majority into minority in the occupied valley. She was affirmed that the struggle of Kashmiris will continue till the end of this dark night. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Somali students studying in Pakistan posing for a picture after graduation ceremony. — DNA

3 months acting course starts today

ISLAMABAD: Rung School of Music and Arts will hold three months long acting course titled as "The Acting Class" to provide the students with practical experience about acting and enable them to understand and perform various roles starting today.

In collaboration with Art Group, Theater Wallay the acting classes would focus on the whole process of developing a play from the scratch. It will be a three months course that will cover all aspects of a theater performance, an organizer told. He said that students will be presented with a detailed and unique study plan, culminating in a live performance as well as the opportunity to perform in a well publicized web-series. The course will be conducted in a large open air space, following social distancing and other protocols, along with additional Online Classes if required. The course is designed specifically for furthering career, life and creative potential and this experience will help the students in their development in the area of their choice of a creative career on stage, screen or television.

He said that they will receive specialist training in voice, movement emotive skills adding that this course will equip the students with the skills they would need to become a professional actor. It will include studying various schools of acting and discuss the challenges of understanding a character and portraying it in more than one way. Difference between stage, TV and screen acting will also be underlined with theoretical and practical assignments, he said. — APP

Residents demand more facilities in public parks

ISLAMABAD: The residents on Sunday demanded more facilities and maintenance in public parks set up at various sectors of Federal Capital. They were of the views that due to lack of facilitates and annual maintenance mostly parks were giving deserting look, wild grass was not yet trimmed after monsoon season. Mustafa Siddique a resident of G-6 told that people particularly children were reluctant to visit the public parks due to poor maintenance. He said that many parks had not yet been cleaned since long and swings and benches were also broken which needed urgent attention for repairing. Due to out of order flood lights, no could even think to visit these parks after evening, he said. Beauty of the public parks including Kachnar park, Rawal park, F-9 park etc has faded due to growing up of wild grass, weeds, herbs and shrubs. Rashid Khan, a resident of G-7 said that children parks of G-7 were ignored by the authorities' concerned and since long no maintenance work was carried out. Hammad Ali, a visitor said that there was no proper lighting system in the parks and visitors were reluctant to visit there. — APP

Traffic mess on Murree road irks motorists

RAWALPINDI: Traffic load on city roads, particularly Murree Road, has become a nuisance for the people. The motorists were going through a mental agony as there was no option except to remain stuck in traffic jam at roads of the city including Murree Road, Li-aquat Road, College Road, Raja Bazaar, Marrir Hassan, Tench Bhatta, Mall road and other link roads of the city.

One of the motorists, talking to APP, said that encroachment was the main impediment in smooth traffic flow. He demanded the concerned authorities to take action so that traffic problems could be resolved.

Traffic police spokesman said traffic police were making all out efforts to maintain traffic flow on the city roads. — APP

Nation values sacrifices of armed forces: Asad Qaiser

Speaker National Assembly said soon Insaf Health Cards would be provided to the people of the entire province which is a great achievement in the history of the country

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser has said that the nation values the sacrifices of Pakistan's armed forces and it is very unfortunate to insult national institutions for shining in politics shops. He expressed these views while addressing the inauguration ceremony of Gadoon Amazai Feeder

completed at a cost of Rs. 22.1 million in Tehsil Topi, Swabi District. Federal Minister for Energy Omar Ayub was also present on the occasion.

Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser said that three major transformers would be installed along with Gadoon Amazai feeder while work on Tehsil Chota Lahore Grid Station would also be expedited. The Speaker National Assembly said that for the first time in Pa-

kistan's history, the economy was moving in a positive direction. The people are suffering today due to the failed policies of the government in the past. Thanks to the best policies of the present government, Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser said that the dollar is coming down and Insha-Allah, the temporary inflation will end very soon.

He said that significant reforms and initiatives have been taken

in the fields of health, education, electricity, gas and sports in Swabi, the fruits of which are benefiting the people of Swabi.

"A cadet college is also being constructed in Swabi," he said. He said that about Rs. 1.70 billion has been invested in Sui Gas and Sui Gas will be provided to more areas which are deprived of Sui Gas facility.

Speaker National Assembly said soon Insaf Health Cards would

be provided to the people of the entire province which is a great achievement in the history of the country.

"We are doing politics not for our own caste but for the welfare of the people and for the betterment of the country and when we took over the reins of the country, the economy was paralyzed and the treasury was empty," Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser concluded.

Briefs

Chairman CDA instructs to upgrade all public parks

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) has expressed grave concern over the dilapidated condition of public parks and issued instructions to upgrade all public parks within three months. Meanwhile, instructions were also issued to construct a cycling track in Sector E-7.

Chairman CDA Amir Ali Ahmed paid a surprise visit to public parks across the city. Members, Director Environment, Director Sanitation, Director City Sewerage, Director Street Lights and other officers and staff were also present on the occasion. Chairman CDA said that renovation, restoration and repair work of parks has been started. 235 parks in Islamabad will be rehabilitated in 3 months. The parks would be rehabilitated so that the citizens could have a good time in these parks with their families and especially their children without any fear, he added. In this regard, all the required facilities have been provided to the Environment Department. We have changed the concept of small and big parks. Constructive development works are being carried out in all the parks on equal basis. Chairman CDA directed the Environment Department to immediately repair the existing swings in the parks, install new swings, cut wild grass, plants and shrubs, plant new flowers and fruit plants, paint and paint and chlorine spray including dengue.

Restaurants, stalls serving variety of 'Soups'

ISLAMABAD: With the start of winter nights, the business of 'chicken soup' get upwards boom in the Capital city where a large number of people can be seen enjoying chicken soup either by standing near soup stalls or sitting in shops and restaurants. Chicken soup is a sole winter delicacy whose demand increases as soon as the mercury takes a dip in Capital city and several chicken corn soup vendors are seen in the market catering to people who love to indulge in this winter delicacy. According to Shopkeepers, Islamabadies are enjoying the refreshing cool breezes caused by dropping temperature. They like to savor the salty soup to ward off cold. A citizen Muhammad Musa at F-10 soup stall talking to APP said, there is nothing quite as comforting as a bowl of hot soup to warm you up in the winter months. Another customer at G-7 Sitara Market said chicken corn soup is such a good and healthy food item during the cold evenings and its most seasonal delight in my family. A shopkeeper in Jinnah Super Market said all soup vendors usually do business from start of November to the beginning of March and once winter is over, all turn to selling other summer related food items. — APP

Red Data survey of endangered species continues

ISLAMABAD: The first National Red Data Book survey, a detailed data of endangered species of mammals facing threat of extinction, was in full swing amid limited financial allocations due to COVID-19 to assess the population of declining species and outcome of its conservation initiatives across the country. The Ministry of Climate Change has maintained the survey of mammals under Ten Billion Tree Tsunami project (phase-I) despite major cut in PSDP releases of 80 percent in funds being provided under the project amid COVID-19 pandemic. Project Director TBTT Joint Secretary MoCC Suleman Khan Warrachit told APP that there was no such credible data available related to mammals and other native wildlife species for informed decision making. "All the policies formed earlier have been developed superficially based on estimated data of mammals. Due to Prime Minister Imran Khan's keen interest in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation the ministry has taken an initiative to develop first ever National Red Data Book on Mammals of Pakistan based on population estimates, under the umbrella of Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme, Phase-I." — APP

Kyrgyzstan keen to develop strong trade ties with Pakistan: envoy

The Ambassador said that Kyrgyzstan provided Pakistan the shortest route to Central Asia as its goods could reach his country from Kashgar (China) within 3 days. He said that Pakistan could also enhance its exports to the EU under the GSP Plus regime through Kyrgyzstan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Erik Beishembiev, Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan said that his country greatly valued its relations with Pakistan and was keen to develop strong trade and economic ties with it as both sides have great potential to diversify and expand bilateral trade in many areas. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Ambassador said that Kyrgyzstan provided Pakistan the shortest route to Central Asia as its goods could reach his country from Kashgar (China) within 3 days. He said that Pakistan could also enhance its exports to the EU under the GSP Plus regime through Kyrgyzstan. He said that Pakistani investors should explore JVs in Kyrgyzstan to promote exports to EU countries and Central Asia. He said that Kyrgyzstan was interested in buying medical equipment from Pakistan as Pakistan has made good progress in this field after Covid-19 pandemic. He said that a business forum of Kyrgyzstan would be organized in November at Lahore that would provide a good opportunity to the private sectors of both countries to further strengthen their business linkages. He identified mining, industry, agriculture, banking, textile production, pharmaceuticals, JVs for the processing and sale of agricultural products as the most promising areas for bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan. He said that the inauguration of CASA 1000 was



planned this year, but the Covid-19 pandemic has caused its delay. He said that Kyrgyzstan has weekly flights from Pakistan for its students and was considering launching regular flights between the two countries that would help in improving bilateral trade as well. Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan were enjoying friendly and cordial relations at political level that should be transformed into growing trade and economic relations between the two countries.

He said that the current volume of bilateral trade between the

two countries was quite nominal and emphasized that strong efforts from both sides were needed to improve it. He stressed that both countries should focus on establishing direct linkages between their private sectors to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation. He said that Pakistan could export many products to Kyrgyzstan including pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments, leather and sports products, but insufficient direct links between the two countries was a major hurdle in promoting two-way trade. ICCI President said that Pakistani products were very competitive with affordable prices and emphasized

that the Kyrgyzstan embassy should share the information about its major imports so that Pakistani exporters could make efforts to export those products to his country and capture a better market share in Kyrgyzstan. He said that ICCI was in the process of discussing some avenues either in Pakistan or Kyrgyzstan to bring the business community of both countries at one platform so that they could interact and explore prospects for further enhancing bilateral trade. He said that Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan should consider signing a free trade agreement and address all trade barriers between the two countries in order

to boost trade and exports. He said that establishing direct air links between the two countries was very important to increase trade relations and people to people contacts. Ms. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President and Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI said that organizing single country exhibitions on reciprocal basis and encouraging frequent exchange of trade delegations was the way forward for promoting business relations between the two countries. Ejaz Abbasi, Mian Shaukat Masud, M. Shakeel Munir, Ch. Ashraf Farzand, Khalid Chaudhry, Ms. Nasira Ali and others were also present at the occasion.

17 outlaws including afghan national gang held

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have arrested 17 outlaws including two members of a street criminals gang and recovered stolen motorbikes, narcotics, currency and weapons from them, a police spokesman said. Following directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Amir Zulfkar Khan, Deputy Inspector General of Police (Operations) Waqar Ud Din issued directions to all zonal officers for renewed efforts against those involved in anti-social activities. SP (Investigation) Malik Naem Iqbal constituted police team under the supervision of DSP CIA Hakim Khan including ASI Zulfkar Ali, along with others succeeded to arrest two member of former jail bird afghan national

gang. They were identified as Zakar-Ullah s/o Sher and Jameel Shah s/o Gul Mehran resident of Afghanistan. Police have recovered two 30 bore pistols along with ammunition from their possession. Cases have been registered in Golra and Ramana Police Stations and further investigation is underway from them. While CIA police team also arrested three accused namely Imran Abbas, Imran, and Jameel and recovered two stolen motorbikes and one 30 bore pistols from their possession. Moreover SP (Saddar) constituted police team under the supervision of ASP Rana Abdul Wahab including SHO Shalimar police Station Sub-Inspector Sulman Shah, ASI Fawad Khalid along with others succeeded to arrest accused Fahad Anwer and recovered cash from him.

PM offers condolences over earthquake

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday extended condolences to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdo an and the people of Turkey over the loss of precious lives in an earthquake in Izmir city. He tweeted: "We stand with the Turkish nation, offering every help we can give. We can never forget the way Turkey stood with us when the devastating earthquake hit Pak & AJK in 2005." Nineteen people were killed in Turkey and Greece after a strong earthquake struck the Aegean Sea on Friday, bringing

buildings crashing down and setting off tidal waves which slammed into coastal areas and islands. People ran onto streets in panic in the Turkish city of Izmir, witnesses said, after the quake struck with a magnitude of up to 7.0. Neighbourhoods were deluged with surging seawater which swept debris inland and left fish stranded as it receded. Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) said 17 people died, one due to drowning, while 709 people were injured. On the Greek island of Samos two teenagers, a boy and a girl, were found dead in an area where a wall had collapsed.

Masood demands end to demographic transfer in IOJK

DNA

ISLAMABAD: October: Member British Parliament and Shadow Deputy Leader of the House of Commons Mr. Afzal Khan called on Sardar Masood Khan, President Azad Kashmir here at Jammu and Kashmir House. Both the leaders discussed the deteriorating situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and also called for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Jammu Kashmir guaranteeing the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people. During

a press briefing following the meeting, the President called for the immediate halt of rapid demographic change taking place in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He said that after taking the unilateral steps on August 5 last year and introducing the New Domicile Rules, the Indian government has adopted a policy of land grab and lebensraum by introducing the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, 2020. These rules, he said, allows any Indian citizen to buy land in the disputed region and also allow

the lands acquired by the government for industrial or commercial purposes to be disposed of or sold to any Indian. The AJK President said that the priority, right now, is ceasing the rapid population transfer, whereby in a matter of a few months, around 2 million non-State Hindus from all over India have been granted domiciles of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that at this pace the Muslim majority of Jammu Kashmir would be made a minority in the next 23 years. President Masood Khan said that Kashmir is going through the darkest period of its history.

He said that Kashmiris are being killed, maimed, blinded and incarcerated under draconian laws like the Public Safety Act. "There is no political representation of the Kashmiris as the true leadership is jailed. The non-Kashmiri Lieutenant Governor and the Chief Secretary are directly executing decisions issued from Delhi", he said. Masood Khan thanked the members of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Kashmir belonging to various British political parties for raising awareness on Kashmir and issuing a report on Kashmir.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yudakul and Turkish renowned chef cutting cake. — DNA

'NAB strongly believes in accountability for all'

Due to its effective anti corruption strategy, NAB has recovered Rs. 466 billion since its inception which were deposited in the national exchequer as per law

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Justice (RETD) Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB has said that Corruption is just like cancer which is a silent killer. NAB strongly believes in "ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ALL" policy is absolutely committed to root out corruption in all its forms and manifestations with iron hands. He said that corruption is a major hurdle in the way of progress and prosperity of the country depriving a deserving person of its due right on merit. He said that. Due to vigorous prosecution, NAB's conviction ratio is about 68.8 percent which is one of the best conviction ratios as compared to other anti corruption organizations. Today NAB is the focal institution under the United Nations Convention against corruption (UNCAC). NAB is the first Chairman of SAARC Anti Corrup-

tion Forum. NAB is the only institution of Pakistan in the world to which China has signed an MOU in order to oversee CEPC projects being undertaken in Pakistan. NAB has adopted a three pronged strategy of awareness, prevention and enforcement which has been considered one of the best strategies in the world. Due to its effective anti corruption strategy, NAB has recovered Rs. 466 billion since its inception which were deposited in the national exchequer as per law. Moreover, NAB has filed 1230 corruption references in the respected Accountability Courts and their total worth is about Rs. 943 billion. As per survey of Gillani and Gallop, 57 percent people of Pakistan have shown confidence upon NAB. Similarly, reputed national and international organizations like Transparency International, World Economic Forum, PIL-



DAT and Milshal Pakistan have appreciated NAB's effort which is an honor for Pakistan. He said that the logical conclusion of mega corruption white collar crimes cases is top priority of NAB. NAB gives importance for training of its investigation officers and prosecutors on modern lines in order to conduct state of the art inquiries and investigations on the basis of solid evidence as per law so corrupt should be brought to justice. He said that NAB has introduced a new System of Com-

bine Investigation Team (CIT) in order to benefit from collective wisdom of senior supervisory officers; a system of Combine Investigation Team (CIT) has been put in place. This is lending quality to the work. He said that NAB has established witness handling cells at all the regional bureaus besides Anti Money Laundering Cell at NAB headquarters. Moreover, NAB has established complaint cells in NAB headquarters and in all the regional bureaus. The number of complaints received till Oct 2020 are almost much more than 2019 which shows people trust upon NAB. He said that in order to aware citizens about the ill effects of corruption, especially youth, NAB has signed an MOU with the Higher Education Commission. Due to this reason, more than 50 thousands Character Building Societies (CBS) have been established in Universi-

ties and Colleges throughout the country besides establishment of Prevention Committees in order to identify and plug the gaps in resolving people's problems as per law. Moreover, NAB has devised a monitoring and evaluation System to track implementation and outputs systematically, and measure the effectiveness of performance which helps in enhancing the operational, monitoring and evaluation capabilities of NAB. He said that Monitoring and Evaluation System (MES) is an important management tool to track progress and it facilitates in decision making as well as establishes links between the past, present and future actions. NAB is a people friendly institution who strongly believes in self respect of people visiting NAB on the directions of Chairman NAB. NAB had set up special desks at all bureaus across the country with a mandate to redress grievances of entrepreneurs.

UN urged to take note of land transfers in IOJK

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, Shehryar Khan Afridi on Saturday urged the UN experts on Human Rights and Freedom of Expression to make an immediate intervention into the Indian government's illegal transfer of 2.4 lac kanals of land in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) to Industries and Commerce Divisions of India. Addressing a reception held to eulogies the services of doctors, paramedics and armed forces in fight against COVID-19, Shehryar Afridi said all Indian actions in IOJK were illegal and in blatant violation of the United Nations resolutions on the Kashmir dispute and were aimed at genocide of Kashmiris. He also asked the UN experts to take note of the ongoing raids of National Investigation Agency (NIA) of India on offices and residences of human rights defenders, journalists and of members of civil society, humanitarian aid organizations operating in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. "The NIA has been raising fears among the activists of human rights organizations and journalists since October 28 so that the media and human rights organizations do not report on the Indian government's genocidal actions against Kashmiris," he said.

Electric fan export rise 9.26%

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The exports of electric fan from the country witnessed an increase of 9.26 percent during the first quarter (Q1) of financial year (2020-21) as compared to the corresponding period of last fiscal year. The country exported electric fan worth US \$7,365 million during July-September (2020-21) as against the exports of US \$6,741 million during July-September (2019-20), showing growth of 9.26 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the exports of electric fan also rose by 22.98 percent by going up from 383,000 to 471,000, according to the data. Meanwhile, on year-to-year basis, the exports of electric fan grew by 2.01 percent during the month of September 2020 as compared to the same month of last year. The exports of fan from the country during September 2020 were recorded at \$1,722 million against the exports of \$1,688 million in September 2019. On month-on-month basis, the exports of electric fan however decreased by 23.53 percent during September 2020 as compared to the exports of \$2,252 million in August 2020, the PBS data revealed. It is pertinent to mention here that the overall merchandise trade deficit increased by 2.02 percent during the first quarter of current fiscal year (2020-21) as compared to the deficit of the corresponding period of last year. The deficit during July-September (2020-21) was recorded at \$5,804 billion as compared to the deficit of \$5,689 billion, showing increase 2.02 percent. During the period under review, the country's exports registered negative growth of 0.94 percent, by going down from \$5,510 billion last year to \$5,458 billion during the current year.

Theater Wallay to hold theater performance

ISLAMABAD: Art group, Theater Wallay will hold theater performance titled "Manto's Akhri Salute" on November 13,14 and 15 in twin cities. The Play is being setup up to pay tribute to Saadat Hassan Manto, a story of two soldiers who fought side by side in the WWII. They parted ways due to Partition of India (and birth of Pakistan) in 1947. According to an official, the adaptation and Direction done by Safer Ullah Khan. He said that the event will place under strict SOPs and tickets must be purchased online prior to the event as tickets will not be available at the gate. The Farm is a cultural space where Theatre Wallay has been trying to promote the local theater, music and movies for the past four year, he stated. — APP

Compensation package

THE fire in Hafeez Centre, Lahore earlier this month sent shockwaves through the trading community. The plaza was the go-to place for all technology-related needs of the provincial capital. The damage from the flames was spread out over an estimated 500 different shops, but most of those retailers in the centre had expensive stock stored at the plaza, ranging from top-of-the-line phones and computers to everything else related to tech that is currently available in Pakistan.

Luckily, Chief Minister Punjab has announced that a compensation package worth Rs5 billion will be provided to those affected. This does not exactly cover the losses faced by the shopkeepers at Hafeez Centre, but is a good start nonetheless. It is important for the government to look to facilitate traders where possible, because a good business environment keeps the economy running.

The government quite clearly realises that the fire in Hafeez Centre did not only destroy the livelihoods of shopkeepers, but it also took away an important revenue destination for the government; the daily volume of sales in Hafeez Centre entailed that the government was always benefitting from the purchases made by retailers; especially in the current climate where taxes on all commodities and imports are extremely high. Beyond compensation, the government must also look towards a rebuild and provide the space for traders to set up shop once more. Whether it is a renovated version of Hafeez Centre or any of the surrounding plazas, one thing that is clear is that there needs to be more awareness about fire safety. Anyone that has visited the centre is acutely aware of how hotch-potch wiring and tight corridors with makeshift setups were an accident waiting to happen. It was only a matter of time before something short circuited. We were fortunate that no lives were lost this time. It is hoped that we learn from this and adhere to better fire safety practices in the future.

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

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Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



Second wave

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

THE first wave of Covid-19 enveloped the world. A strict lockdown was imposed across Pakistan. Although the number of cases and fatalities because of the Covid-19 were not as severe as that in the UK or the USA, still the business operations were halted and precious lives were lost. Now as the second wave of the Covid-19 is surfacing, especially in the winter season when viruses and bacteria spread aggressively, policy measures must be implemented. The National Command and Operations Centre has recently issued directives for restaurants, commercial markers, shopping malls, and wedding halls operating in several cities to shut down before or by 10 pm. Recreational spots are asked to shut down by 6 pm. This initiative must be implemented across the board, across all cities, in letter and spirit. Although Pakistan did survive the initial phase of the Covid-19 attack, the second phase, as doctors predict, could be stronger than before. The national policy to withstand this virus should also include a holistic approach to wear masks, carry sanitizers and use them when in public, and to maintain social distance with each other. Unnecessary traveling must be avoided. Children and senior citizens need to follow all precautionary steps with assertiveness. In this regard, educational institutes should continue following the hybrid model of education where some students attend classes on campus while the rest attend online classes. In the case of another lockdown, the educational institutes can continue conducting a hundred percent online classes now that such a mechanism has been implemented. Furthermore, every individual needs to ascertain that the SOPs in their homes are being followed. In offices, all employees must ensure following such protocols. During uncertain times, we need to remain proactive, cautious, and vigilant under any circumstances. The world has gone through the chaos that Covid-19 created when it first broke out. We can fight against it and defeat the pandemic by implementing logical preventive measures.

For future prosperity, Afghanistan must look north

Luke Coffey



Thankfully, there is a growing realization of this in Washington. The Trump administration's strategy for Central Asia published last February placed an important focus on Afghanistan's role in the region. Two of the six "policy objectives" directly deal with Afghanistan: "Expand and maintain support for stability in Afghanistan" and "Encourage connectivity between Central Asia and Afghanistan"

WHEN the international community talks about a "regional solution" for Afghanistan, mostly it is referring to the situation in Pakistan. Sometimes the regional solution is expanded to include India and China. Until recently, it was rare for the Central Asian republics to be discussed in this context. This is because many people fail to see Afghanistan for what it really is — a Central Asian country. Afghanistan is not part of the Middle East, and referring to it as part of the so-called "broader Middle East" is also misleading. At least half of the country is culturally, historically, economically and geographically part of Central Asia. Policymakers must recognize this.

While the current focus on Afghanistan is on peace talks taking place in Doha, longer-term economic prospects will be realized through greater economic integration with Central Asia. Connecting Afghanistan with the broader region and international markets is part of the solution to bring prosperity and stability to the country. Free trade has been shown to improve livelihoods and lift people out of poverty. As a recent World Trade Organization study concluded: "Trade liberalization helps poor countries to catch up with rich ones, and this faster economic growth helps to alleviate poverty." Landlocked Afghanistan suffers from a lack of connectivity with its neighbors, but this has not always been the case. For centuries, going back to the Middle Ages, what is now called Afghanistan was an integral part of regional trade along the Silk Road. Cities such as Balkh, Badakhshan, Bamiyan, Kabul and Herat were important trading stops on this trading route.

Thankfully, there is a growing recognition that Afghanistan's economic future is closely linked to Central Asia. Today, the country has the potential to occupy this important role again by serving as an important trade route not only east to west but also north to south. Regional trade and infrastructure projects in

the pipeline could bring significant benefits to the Afghan economy and the region.

Currently, three rail links connect northern Afghanistan with Central Asia — one offers a connection with Uzbekistan and two connect with Turkmenistan. These links will play a major role in Afghanistan's participation in future regional transit projects.

There are also efforts to connect Afghanistan with Europe via Central Asia. In December 2017, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey signed the Lapis Lazuli Corridor Agreement. The goal of the corridor is to transport goods between Europe and Afghanistan in seven to nine days using a network of rail and ferries.

There are also important north-south projects in which Afghanistan serves as a key transit country connecting Central Asia with South Asia. The Central Asia-South Asia power project, also known as CASA-1000, was inaugurated last February in Afghanistan. This project will bring surplus electricity from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Another major scheme, the Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline project, could fundamentally change the natural gas connectivity of Central Asia. When complete, the proposed 1,700 km pipeline will carry natural gas from Turkmenistan to India, helping to end Russian and Chinese hegemony over the region's energy market. In addition, a fiber-optic cable will run alongside the pipeline.

Central Asian countries such as Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan understand the importance of stability and prosperity in Afghanistan. While Kazakhstan does not share a land border with Afghanistan, it is intertwined through historic trading routes that still link the two countries. Over the years, Kazakhstan has played a constructive role in Afghanistan. As the region's biggest economy and a secular republic, it has a direct interest in ensuring that Afghanistan becomes stable. Since the death of former President Islam

Karimov in September 2016, Uzbekistan has made gradual, but important, steps toward opening up and reforming its governance. Relations with neighboring countries, which have been strained for years, are beginning to improve. This new approach under the leadership of Karimov's successor, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, holds immense promise for the region, especially for Afghanistan.

The international community cannot give up on Afghanistan. It must find ways to help the country achieve not only security but also economic prosperity.

As the largest international donor, and the country that has been most involved in helping Afghanistan for the past two decades, the US has a role to play in facilitating economic relations between Afghanistan and Central Asia. Thankfully, there is a growing realization of this in Washington. The Trump administration's strategy for Central Asia published last February placed an important focus on Afghanistan's role in the region. Two of the six "policy objectives" directly deal with Afghanistan: "Expand and maintain support for stability in Afghanistan" and "Encourage connectivity between Central Asia and Afghanistan."

It is anyone's guess how the Doha peace talks will play out. If anything, the outlook is far from good following a recent spike in violence. But regardless, the international community cannot give up on Afghanistan. It must find ways to help the country achieve not only security but also economic prosperity. Helping Afghanistan and the Central Asian republics to integrate and realize their potential for trade and economic partnership can go a long way to achieving this goal. If history teaches us anything, it is that Afghanistan and the combined countries of Central Asia form an integral part of broader Eurasian trade and commerce. This is how it was in the past and, with the right approach, how it will be in the future.

— Courtesy: Arab News

Why COVID-19 is a threat to democracy

Cornelia Meyer



How govt measures are accepted by the public essentially boils down to the issue of trust in whether a government has the interests of all at heart. In Europe, people were broadly understanding during the first lockdown. They are more weary now, which is made worse by the fact that opposition parties now refuse to stand shoulder to shoulder with govts, as they did in March

THE coronavirus has the US, Latin America, India and Europe firmly in its grip. The number of cases in the US has surpassed 9 million, and over 235,000 people have died.

France, Spain, Germany, Belgium and others have re-imposed measures ranging from restrictions on movement to fully fledged closures, and on Saturday evening British Prime Minister Boris Johnson declared a second month-long lockdown for the whole of England. China has a handle on the virus and life has more or less returned to normal, but it is easier for an authoritarian regime to contain the spread of the pandemic. Strict enforcement measures go hand in hand with infringements of civil liberties unthinkable in a Western-style liberal democracy. South Korea, Taiwan and Japan have also fared reasonably well, but these democracies are underpinned by Confucian values of trust in the authority of elders. Everything is bigger and brasher in the US, and COVID-19 is no exception. President Donald Trump and challenger Joe Biden have vastly different approaches. Trump insists that closing down the economy would cause more damage than the virus. Biden emphasizes the loss of life and the apparent lack of consistent policies. Nothing illustrates their differences better than the dispute over facemasks. Trump sees in them an infringement of personal liberties, and his rallies are densely packed with unmasked supporters. Biden is never without a mask, and urges the administration to follow the science. In the middle is medical adviser Dr. Anthony Fauci, who explains why face coverings are important and warns that even if there is a vaccine in 2020, it will be the end of 2021 or even 2022 before America can return to normal. The

schism between the candidates is reflected by protesters taking to the streets demanding to be liberated from the shackles of lockdowns. Things may be different in Europe, but not that different. There were violent demonstrations in Italy as the government tightened restrictions, and protests all through summer in Paris, London, Stuttgart, Berlin and Zurich.

The issue underlying the controversy over COVID-19 measures is about weighing up the relative status of two public goods: Personal freedom and public well-being.

COVID-19 poses a challenge to the civil liberties that are the cornerstone of any democracy. To make matters worse, the economically weak and marginalised groups suffer more than the affluent, which exacerbates the social divide. It is a home truth that democracies work best when the difference between rich and poor is small and the middle class is strong.

Western democracies rely on civil liberties, none more so than the US, where the right to the pursuit of happiness is enshrined in its Declaration of Independence. Many measures to combat the virus infringe on those civil liberties. This is where the quest for freedom may conflict with a government's duty to protect public safety and public health.

COVID-19 and the measures to fight it have also come at great expense to the global economy, from \$11 trillion to \$28 trillion depending on the source. Unemployment has soared, with the economically weakest hit the hardest. Low paid, high contact service sector jobs had to go first. Bloomberg estimates that the pandemic has so far cost more than 174 million jobs in the travel and tourism sector worldwide. New lockdowns will raise these numbers. Other frontline staff in supermarkets and

health care may not lose their jobs, but they are at heightened risk of infection. This raises the question of how government will take care of the socially weak.

True, there have been generous support packages, but the question remains how long they can continue. Here, too, there is a political divide; the right argues for fiscal prudence and the left for social cohesion, whatever the cost. Nowhere is that more evident than in the tough negotiations about a further rescue package in the US.

How government measures are accepted by the public essentially boils down to the issue of trust in whether a government has the interests of all at heart. In Europe, people were broadly understanding during the first lockdown. They are more weary now, which is made worse by the fact that opposition parties now refuse to stand shoulder to shoulder with governments, as they did in March. The broader perspective is that COVID-19 poses a challenge to liberal democracies the world over. A 2020 Freedom House report on democracy under lockdown argues that COVID 19 precipitated a crisis resulting in the conditions for democracy and human rights worsening in 80 countries.

COVID-19 poses a challenge to the civil liberties that are the cornerstone of any democracy. To make matters worse, the economically weak and marginalised groups suffer more than the affluent, which exacerbates the social divide. It is a home truth that democracies work best when the difference between rich and poor is small and the middle class is strong. If anything, COVID-19 should serve as a rallying cry to take care of the weak, and of democracy, because we are all in this together.

— Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs

Provisional provincial status for GB

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Turning his guns towards India, PM Imran said that the most racist and Hindu supremacist government in history was in power in India. He said that the citizenship and registration laws were enacted to target Muslims in the country. PM Imran said that he could not stress enough the importance of a strong army for a nation's security. "Pakistan is secure today because of its armed forces," he said. "Our army is the main reason why we haven't suffered the same fate as many other Muslim countries."

He blamed India for promoting sectarian hate in Pakistan, saying that New Delhi was behind fanning hate between the Shia and Sunni sects in Pakistan. The prime minister felicitated Pakistan's intelligence agencies for rendering ineffective India's conspiracies to spread anarchy in the country. He blamed the Opposition for trying to establish the narrative that General Elections 2018 in Pakistan were rigged. After that, the prime minister said, they tried to blackmail him on the economy and the coronavirus situation.

Pak slams Modi on Pulwama remarks

From Page 01

"Today when I was watching the parade of officers here, an image came up in my mind... this image was of Pulwama attack. The country can never forget that when India was mourning the death of its sons... there were some people who were not a part of that grief. They were looking for selfish gain in the Pulwama attack," Modi had said. Pakistan said it was a "brazen attempt" by the Indian government to twist Chaudhry's remarks, clarifying that the minister was talking about the shooting down of two IAF jets on February 27, 2019. The Foreign Office blamed the BJP's "incurable obsession" with Pakistan, stating that it was the main reason why the right-wing party kept blaming Islamabad for its own failings and shortcomings. "It has been a part and parcel of the BJP's electoral strategy to raise the Pakistan 'bogey' in the attempt to galvanise voters' support, while seeking to divert public attention from their domestic and foreign policy failures," reads the statement by the Foreign Office.

Maryam launches 'Sher Jawan' campaign

From Page 01

against the hybrid government," she said, adding that it eyes to fulfil the dreams of the youngsters. Maryam, speaking on what true "slavery" is, said that it embodies itself in moves that "take away the right to speak, force people to bow down before the powerful, induce fear in people, restrict them from asking for their rights and ask them to remain silent". "People are given their rights as if it is charity and even those are provided after the powerful approve," she said. "People are sent to jails when they demand their rights - this is slavery," Maryam said.

Shedding light on the Karachi incident, she said: "Slavery is when the inspector-general is abducted in Karachi and forced to sign the orders of (retired) Captain Safdar's arrest."

Maryam went on to say that the Constitution was the book that contained the rights of the people. "It mentions what should and should not take place in Pakistan, what is right and what isn't." Urging the audience to read the Constitution, she said that even if a single demand of PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif went against it, then people should not support him.



RAWALPINDI: Pakistani bowler Haris Rauf celebrates with teammates after taking wicket of Zimbabwe's captain Chamu Chibhabha during 2nd One-Day International (ODI) cricket match played between Pakistan and Zimbabwe teams at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. - DNA

Trump, Biden barrel through key states before final vote

Using some of his most urgent language yet, Trump warned of "bedlam in our country" if no clear winner emerges quickly in the November 3 election, saying, without evidence, that it could take weeks to sort out a result and that "very bad things" could happen in the interim

NEW YORK: Donald Trump, challenger Joe Biden and their top surrogates were barreling through crucial states in the industrial Midwest and the coastal southeast on Saturday, in a frantic sprint to mobilize voters as they pressed their closing arguments with the US presidential election only days away. Using some of his most urgent language yet, Trump warned of "bedlam in our country" if no clear winner emerges quickly in the November 3 election, saying, without evidence, that it could take weeks to sort out a result and that "very bad things" could happen in the interim. Biden meantime told backers it was "time for Donald Trump to pack his bags and go home." Underscoring the high stakes - and the disruptive impact of the coronavirus pandemic - a record 90 million early votes have already been cast, as the bruising contest heads toward the biggest turnout in at least a century. The vi-

rus has killed nearly 230,000 Americans, ravaged the world's largest economy and was infecting record numbers of people across the US. Trump was focusing Saturday on the key battleground state of Pennsylvania - "the state where the story of American independence began," he said in the small city of Newtown, the first of four stops in that state amid a frenetic final sprint. Biden made his first joint appearance of the campaign with his former boss Barack Obama - probably the most popular Democrat in the country - in Flint, Michigan as they scramble to boost turnout in a state Trump carried by a razor-thin margin in 2016. Vice President Mike Pence, meantime, was campaigning in narrowly divided North Carolina while Biden's running mate Kamala Harris was in Florida, another vitally important swing state. Pennsylvania has emerged as one of the top prizes this year. In his motorcade



en route to rural Bucks County, the president passed hundreds of supporters holding up a forest of pro-Trump signs. The crowd then booed reporters in trailing vehicles. In remarks at an event there, Trump lashed out at Biden, saying he would shut down the state's fossil-fuel industry. The president claimed credit for creating the "greatest economy in the history of this country

- the history of the world" - while "foreign nations are in freefall." Despite recent signs of recovery, however, millions remain jobless. And the race has been overshadowed by the surging pandemic, which had even sickened Trump and many members of his staff. More than 94,000 new infections were recorded Friday in the US - another new high - and total cases

passed nine million, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. In stark contrast to Trump, who has belittled mask-wearing by Biden and others, the Democrat has scrupulously followed the guidance of public health experts.

After Biden and Obama appeared Saturday before a socially distanced drive-in rally in Flint, they made an unannounced stop in suburban Bloomfield Hills before heading later to Detroit to be joined by superstar singer Stevie Wonder. Biden leads in the state by nearly seven points, according to a RealClearPolitics average of polls. The state's 16 electoral votes could provide a sizable leap towards the 270 needed to win the White House. Trump, in eking out his 2016 victory, took advantage of low turnout rates among Michigan Blacks. As Biden campaigns with the nation's first Black president, he clearly hopes to change that.

Turkey quake death toll hits 55

As many as 104 people have been rescued from under the debris, while search and rescue activities still continue

DNA

ANKARA: The death toll from Friday's earthquake in Turkey's Aegean region has risen to 55, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca announced Sunday. At least 896 people were also wounded in the magnitude-6.6 quake that struck Izmir, Turkey's third largest city. As many as 104 people have been rescued from under the debris, while search and rescue activities still continue. The Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency said there have been 883 aftershocks with

42 stronger than magnitude-4.0, as of 12.30 a.m. local time (0930GMT). Among the hospitalized victims, 76% have so far been discharged, while eight people are in intensive care units, according to the minister. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said that new houses will be built for those whose homes have been destroyed "as soon as possible." Turkey is among the world's most seismically active zones as it is situated on several active fault lines. It has suffered devastating earthquakes in the past as well.

UN chief urges Armenia, Azerbaijan to hold talks

NEW YORK: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres remains "deeply concerned" over reports that hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone are continuing to affect civilians, his spokesman said on Saturday.

A statement issued by Spokesman Stephane Dujarric said that the UN chief condemns the violence and reiterated that "both sides have the obligation, under international humanitarian law, to take utmost care to spare and protect civilians and civilian infrastructure in the conduct of military operations." Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces since they fought a war in the 1990s as the Soviet Union was dissolving. The latest conflict between the two countries, which began on 27 September, marked the worst escalation of fighting since the war's end and heightened fears of instability in the South Caucasus, a region that provides



crucial transit routes for gas and oil to world markets.

In an effort to mediate the decades-long conflict, the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan met in Geneva on 30 October for talks brokered by Russia, the United States and France - co-chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). News media reported that the talks concluded close to midnight with both sides agreeing not to deliberately

target civilians or non-military objects, however, shortly after the pledge was announced, the truce was broken.

"The Secretary-General fully supports the call of the co-chairs OSCE Minsk Group for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, as agreed in Moscow on 10 October, and confirmed subsequently in Paris on 17 October and in Washington D.C., on 25 October", the statement continued, noting that the call was again echoed by the co-chairs in Geneva. The UN chief called on the sides to "implement, in good faith and on an urgent basis, the concrete steps they agreed to take through the facilitation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, as well as their previous commitments".

He also urged the warring parties to continue engaging in "substantive dialogue" and, with the co-chairs, to intensify their efforts to "reach a peaceful and sustainable settlement of the conflict".

US election outcome and ties with EU

Ruling that European subsidies to Airbus were illegal, the World Trade Organization gave Donald Trump the green light to apply punitive tariffs worth some US \$7.5 billion

DNA

BRUSSELS: Can the European economy expect any clouds to lift after the US elections? Described by Donald Trump as the United States leading commercial foe, the European Union has paid a high price for his America First policies. How much more would the EU stand to lose from his re-election - and how much could it gain from a victory by Democrat candidate Joe Biden? In the light of the changing face of transatlantic relations, nothing can be taken for granted - that's what the people in this edition of Unreported Europe tell us, starting in the heart of France's vineyards. Wine is one of a number of European food and drink products targeted by punitive tariffs. Set in between the Burgundy and Beaujolais regions, wine producer and trader Maison Jean Loron send a quarter of their exports for sale in the American market. But business got much harder a year ago, when

French, German and Spanish wine exporters were hit by a new 25% tax on their exports to the US. Preserving market shares in the US was crucial in the face of competition from American and Chilean wines, but also Italian wines, not hit by the tariffs. Philippe Bardet, Maison Jean Loron's CEO, said their options were limited: "We made a decision that hit us in the wallet: to lower our prices to offset the taxes applied by the United States. That (figure) has run into several hundred thousand Euros. That's a lot to us, it's our profit for the year. We (now) sell for nothing in the United States. So we hope there will be a way out of this, we're not sure." I asked him if he thought the situation would change if Democratic Party candidate Joe Biden won instead: "Obviously, a change of President would be a good sign. But whatever happens, the situation isn't going to resolve itself in the short term." Exporters are the collateral victims of a long-running battle between Air-

bus and its American competitor, Boeing. Ruling that European subsidies to Airbus were illegal, the World Trade Organization gave Donald Trump the green light to apply punitive tariffs worth some US \$7.5 billion. The response came last October: the WTO authorised the EU to impose tariffs on US goods worth \$4 billion in retaliation for illegal subsidies to Boeing. When asked who the US' biggest commercial foe was in an interview with CBS News in 2018, Trump had responded that they had "a lot of foes. I think the European Union is a foe. What they do to us in trade. They have really taken advantage of us." These comments came shortly after the EU imposed new taxes on US steel and aluminium exports, as well as a number of iconic American products such as Harley Davidson motorbikes and Levi jeans. This in itself had been a response to the US tariffs imposed earlier on European steel and aluminium products. The tug of war is not expected to lose momentum if Don-

ald Trump wins the presidential election on November 3. Valdis Dombrovskis, the EU Commission's Executive Vice President, and Commissioner for Trade, made it clear to me that if negotiations couldn't solve trade disputes, the EU would definitely act: "Our trade and investment relationship remains the largest and most important in the world. It's important to continue to engage (and) to continue to develop our transatlantic relations, because when the EU and US works together, we can also be a force for good in the world. "But we have also been clear that when the US is taking unilateral steps, the EU is going to respond in a proportionate way. "So although we do not intend to escalate the situation, we have to defend ourselves." Despite Donald Trump's punitive tax policies, the European union's trade surplus for goods with the United States has actually risen consistently since he came into power in January

2017: A new offensive is expected if the outgoing President wins a second term; threats of a 25% tax on European car imports have loomed since EU leaders announced they would impose digital service taxes on American tech giants. The plans were suspended until the end of the year, the deadline for an agreement to be found. The issue is just one of the contentious topics that are not expected to simply go away, whatever the outcome of the presidential election, according to experts on both sides of the Atlantic. "I think the overall tone of the relations would improve dramatically under a Biden administration. "But there are other issues which are (still) going to be very, very difficult: this digital tax issue - if anything, the Democrats are more beholden to the Silicon Valley digital giants like Google and Facebook than the Republicans are. "The Boeing-Airbus (conflict) is not going to go away.

England to lockdown again

DNA

LONDON: Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced on Saturday a new four-week lockdown in England, which will join several European countries in imposing the measure for a second time since the coronavirus pandemic began, as Slovakia took a different tack and began testing its entire population. The list of countries on the continent re-implementing stringent new restrictions on people's lives is fast expanding as Europe experiences a dizzying spike in Covid-19 cases, leading to widespread exasperation and sometimes violent protests. Just minutes after Johnson's announcement, Portugal's Prime Minister Antonio Costa announced a partial lockdown for his country, with 70 percent of the population going back into lockdown. Also on Saturday, Austria brought in a second lockdown of its own, while Greece declared a partial one. The new measures came just a day after France started its second lockdown and Belgium said it would tighten its measures.

Aleem Dar sets new record

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's Aleem Dar has been awarded a special memento for



his 210th appearance as an umpire for an one-day international (ODI) cricket match when he turned up for the second ODI between the green shirts and Zimbabwe.

Dar's 210th appearance set the record of him supervising the highest number of ODI matches in the world. With a new feather in his cap, he beat the 209-match feat held by South African Rudi Koertzen. Before today's match - the second ODI between Pakistan and Zimbabwe - started, he was seen excitedly clutching his souvenir following a brief ceremony at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. Last year, Dar set the record of supervising the most Test matches when he stood in his 129th Test - played between Australia and New Zealand in December. Born on June 6, 1968, in Jhang, Aleem Dar is a member of the Elite Panel of ICC Umpires. He had also played first-class cricket before becoming an umpire. Dar has also won the David Shepherd Trophy as the best umpire of the year for three years in a row from 2009 to 2011, after being nominated twice in 2005 and 2006.

'All major cricketing nations to visit Pakistan soon'

DNA

RAWALPINDI: All major cricketing nations are expected to visit Pakistan in next three years to play international Cricket in the country. This was stated by Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board Ehsan Mani during his visit to Pindi Cricket Stadium on Sun day along with Chairman Zimbabwe Cricket Board Tavengwa MUKUHLANI. Talking about complete domestic and international Cricket calendar, Ehsan Mani praised Zimbabwe for supporting Pakistan's efforts in reviving international Cricket in the country. He said Pakistan will reciprocate such support. The PCB Chairman said that PCB is committed to provide every possible assistance and cooperation in promoting Cricket across Pakistan. On this occasion, Chairman Zimbabwean Cricket Board expressed gratitude to Pakistan for extending marvelous hospitality to the visiting team.

Briefs

Displaced Syrians fear spread of coronavirus

QAH: Hassan Sweidan is terrified he will catch Covid-19 in the overcrowded displacement camp in northwest Syria he calls home, even more so as medical staff in the region have become sick. Humanitarian workers fear any further rise in novel coronavirus cases would be disastrous in northwest Syria, where almost 1.5 million people live in overcrowded camps or shelters, often with poor access to running water. In an informal settlement in Idlib, the country's last major rebel stronghold, Sweidan said he and other displaced Syrians did not stand much chance against the disease. "We live in a camp all crammed in together. If someone talks to his family, all the neighbours can hear it," said Sweidan, who is in his forties and has an existing health condition. If someone gets sick, "it's hardly the disease's fault," the father of six added. In the encampment in Qah, a few makeshift solar panels shimmer on the canvas roofs of endless tiny breeze-block rooms where families have settled after being uprooted by war. Resting after helping a friend build a small room to serve as a shop, Sweidan said he hopes he does not have to take anyone in his family to the local hospital. - APP

Merkel's CDU to elect new leader in mid-January

BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel's CDU party will elect its new leader in mid-January after a planned vote in early December was pushed back because of a surge in coronavirus infections. The three hopefuls for the top job in the Christian Democratic Union had put forward the date, party general secretary Paul Ziemiak said in a tweet late Saturday. "This agreement is a strong signal for cohesion in our party," he wrote after talks with outgoing party chief Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer. North Rhine-Westphalia state premier Armin Laschet, corporate lawyer Friedrich Merz and foreign affairs expert Norbert Röttgen are vying for the post. The candidates have proposed an online congress if meeting in person were to be impossible because of restrictions to curb coronavirus transmission. The chief of the CDU traditionally leads it and its smaller Bavarian sister party the Christian Social Union to the polls. The chosen candidate would have a strong claim on the post of chancellor and be in pole position to replace Merkel should the conservative bloc win next year's election. Merkel protégé Kramp-Karrenbauer took over as leader of the party in 2018, after the veteran chancellor said she would not seek a new mandate at next year's polls. But the race for the party's top job was thrown wide open when Kramp-Karrenbauer resigned just a few months into the post over her handling of a regional election scandal. - APP

JI women condemn blasphemy in France

ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of Women's Wing Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan Durdana Siddiqui has condemned the recent wave of Islamophobia and blasphemy in France. Talking to App, she said that blasphemy against the Prophet of Islam and their hatred against the tenets of Islam have exposed their ugly faces. She said that let France know that every child, youth, old and woman of the Ummah knows how to protect the honor of their Prophet more than their own lives. In a statement condemning the publication of the insulting caricatures in a French magazine and then its official patronage, she said these seditionists have so much courage because unfortunately most of the rulers of the Muslim world have lost their religious pride and are unable to fulfill their duty. She stated that "If the rulers of the entire Muslim Ummah respond to this Western and European terrorism with full unity and strength, then there is a chance that no one in the world would even dare to think of insulting the glory of Prophet Muhammad PBUH". - APP



ISLAMABAD: The lawyers and advocates of the several Bar Associations of Pakistan have visited Azerbaijan Embassy Islamabad and condemned the missile and artillery attacks of Armenia against civilians of Azerbaijan, extended their sympathies over the losses of precious innocent lives and expressed their firm solidarity with Flag of Azerbaijan. - DNA

Businessmen laud valiant struggle of armed forces

The armed forces and people are on one page with utmost discipline and unwavering faith to defend the geographical frontiers and stamp out the menace of terrorism from the country: Iftikhar Malik

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The business community Sunday vehemently condemned the unnecessarily criticising valiant Pak armed forces for achieving ulterior motives and always proud of it for successfully braving spate of terror and defending motherland from external aggression and threat effectively. Chairing a core committee meeting of United Business Group here today Iftikhar

Ali Malik said "we express unwavering solidarity with our brave armed forces to frustrate the evil designs of anti state and disgruntled unscrupulous elements". He said the government, the armed forces and people are on one page with utmost discipline and unwavering faith to defend the geographical frontiers and stamp out the menace of terrorism from the country. He said that armed forces one of the best in the world should not be maligned into politics to

achieve the nefarious designs and vested interests of their foreign masters. The patriotic business community will thwart such targeted specific anti state stances by a section of dejected and frustrated elements. He further said our armed forces are our greatest asset as they not only offer their precious lives for fighting in battlefields but also always remain in a state of preparedness to undertake the responsibility of working as a cohesive force in very challenging

situation, may it be horrifying earthquakes or the devastating floods. He said that Pakistan is facing gigantic and myriad challenges including terrorism and is passing through a critical period of history. He said that with the proverbial resilience of our people, we are destined to overcome this challenge and will soon emerge as a stronger country. Iftikhar Malik prayed to Almighty Allah to grant the strength and vision to fulfill obligations to the nation to the best of our abilities

and in line with the principles set by father of the nation "We, by playing our part in the development of the country, can make Pakistan unassailable against security and economic challenges," he added. He said that better law and order is pre-requisite for strengthening of national economy and promotion of democratic system besides inflow of foreign investors in every sphere of life. Iftikhar Ali Malik said that such manipulated statement will not serve their nefarious designs.

'I understand Muslims anger'



DNA

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron said he can understand Muslims being shocked by cartoons of the prophet Muhammad but that he can never accept them being used to justify violence. The French leader spoke to media in which he sought to clarify his position on Islam and defuse tensions that flared following the killing of a teacher who showed caricatures of Muhammad to his pupils. "I understand and respect that we can be shocked by these caricatures. I will never accept that we can justify physical violence for these caricatures and I will always defend in my country the freedom to say, to write, to think, to draw," Macron said. He emphasised that the French press is free to publish what it wants and that what is released is therefore not the official position of the government. "But does the president think this right should be removed? The answer is no because this is the right of the French people."

COVID-19: smaller Turkey on Christmas this time

DNA

LONDON: Feeding time for the turkeys on a farm in Dorset in England, only this year they might not have to gobble down so much. Thanks to COVID-19 restrictions on large gatherings, organic turkey farmer Mark Chilcott is anticipating an increase in demand for smaller birds this Christmas, although he

knows it's a gamble. "If we run out of small sizes then people have to have crowns or joints or half turkeys basically nothing else we can do," explained Mark. "But we expect to sell out easily this year, demand's really quite good...as far as sales go we're ahead of last year." Many people have predicted the demise of the turkey on festive menus in recent years, but producers say that's not what they've found.

Quality not quantity is also the name of the game at Copas Turkeys in southern England they go for happier, stress-free birds, and argue that that's the way to keep up the tradition. "You know as well as I do that there's veganism, vegetarianism is becoming much more popular, but what we're very proud to say is we have a couple of customers that are vegetarian that come back to us and eat our product at Christmas," said

the farm's sales manager, Verity Copas. Total in Papua New Guinea: Dialogue, consultation and empowerment. Valorization of natural resources can be a decisive contributor to the improvement of the living conditions in developing countries. You would think the prospect of less of their flesh being eaten would be welcomed by the birds, but pollsters have found that turkeys still don't vote for Christmas.

'Overseas community should take advantage of investment opportunities in Pakistan'

DNA

LONDON: A delegation of UK Pakistan Business Council recently called on Pakistan High Commissioner to London Moazzam Ahmad Khan. Minister for Trade and Investment Shafiq Shehzad was also present on the occasion. The meeting discussed ways to make investment in Pakistan secure and efficient. High Commissioner of Pakistan Moazzam Ahmad Khan said that the overseas community should not only make the most of investment opportunities in Pakistan but also ensure business ties and cooperation with each other. High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan said that Pakistan High Commission London is always ready for any kind of cooperation with the Pakistani Overseas Business Com-



munity based in UK. He further said that the doors of Pakistan High Commission London are always open for the community especially the business community. Pakistan High Commissioner Moazzam Ahmad Khan said that there are many products and items that we all have to work together to promote.

And a lot of things can be brought from Pakistan that are not only needed in the UK but also Pakistani products can be better in terms of quality. The High Commissioner of Pakistan stationed in London during a meeting with the delegation of UK Pakistan Business Council also said that the Governor State Bank

of Pakistan and the Government of Pakistan were facilitating Roshan Bank Account for the overseas community. Not only the business community but also the entire overseas community should take full advantage of this facility. Every Overseas Pakistani residing in UK should open their own account and send money to their relatives in Pakistan through this account. The High Commissioner said that we should all make the most of Roshan Bank account and convince our friends and relatives to open their Roshan account and avail of various facilities. Talking to the delegation, Minister for Trade and Investment Shafiq Shehzad said that under the leadership of the High Commissioner of Pakistan, we will strive to ensure that not only London but all commercial offices operating under the auspices of Pakistan.

Georgia opposition calls for protests

TBILISI: Georgia's opposition called Sunday for mass protests after the ruling Georgian Dream party claimed victory in a tightly contested parliamentary election. Exiled ex-president and opposition leader Mikheil Saakashvili accused Georgian Dream of falsifying Saturday's vote and urged his supporters to take to the streets. The vote could spark another political crisis in the ex-Soviet republic of four million, where elections are often followed by accusations of fraud and mass demonstrations. Saakashvili's United National Movement party (UNM) was already calling for a protest rally Sunday afternoon outside parliament. Independent local election observers also said there had been multiple irregularities. It was unclear whether the opposition would be able to mobilise large numbers of supporters, with many Georgians weary of political instability and worried by the coronavirus pandemic. With votes from nearly 92 percent of precincts counted, Georgian Dream had won 48 percent of the proportional vote, against 45.5 percent for opposition parties, the Central Election Commission said. The proportional vote decides 120 of the 150 seats in the legislature. Georgian Dream's leader, billionaire ex-prime minister Bidzina Ivanishvili, said his party "has won elections for the third time in a row. - APP

Daraz's biggest shopping event on Online Retail

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan's No.1 online shopping platform, Daraz, is geared up to launch its biggest annual 11.11 sale, commonly known as Gyara Gyara. The country will witness the world's biggest sale from 11th to 17th November as they have been for the past 2 years in a row. The importance of the event extends beyond exclusive discounts offered to the customers. 11.11 is unique and different in every aspect as it brings a shopping and entertainment experience for its users in a single App. Apart from the exclusive brand launches, brand partnerships and payment partners, Daraz as a platform aims to boost the economic activity post the COVID pandemic this 11.11 sale. The platform is expecting a record-breaking traffic of 2.5 million users on 11th November which will help our partners set a new baseline of sales for the upcoming year. To commemorate the 11.11 sale, there was a launch press conference held on October 31st, 2020 in Karachi with leading partners from various industries including FMCGs, Electronics, Smartphones, Fashion, Banks and Logistics. Aside from the launch aspect, the event acknowledged the prominent members who have partnered for the Daraz sale 2020.

In fact, Armenia admitted its defeat: Ilham

MONITORING DESK

BAKU: President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has said that Armenia, in fact, admitted its defeat. "The Armenian prime minister has recently addressed a letter to the Russian President Mr Putin. That letter, in fact, an acknowledgement of defeat because they wanted military support from Russia although there are no grounds for that," the head of state said as he received a delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey Mevlut Cavusoglu. "Azerbaijan is carrying out its military operations in Azerbaijan's internationally-recognized territory. Azerbaijan is not carrying out any operation in the territory of Armenia, and we do not even have such plans." The President said that on the one hand, Armenia admitted its defeat, as evidenced by the letter addressed to the Russian leader, while on the other, it did not want to give up completely.

Tribute to Shah Rukh Khan: The King

MUNAZA KAZMI

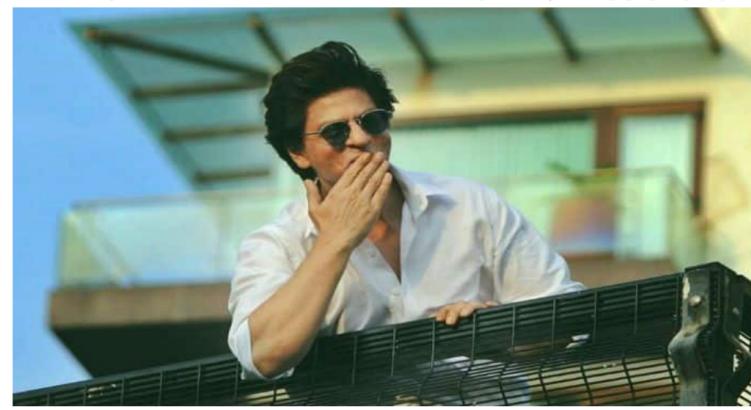
For many Shah Rukh Khan is an inspiration while for others, he is a living legend, and for me he is life, therefore on this birthday I have planned to pay him a tribute, as the actor completes yet another milestone, 55 successful years of life. Shahrukh Khan also known as King Khan reasoning his immense popularity was born to a Muslim family on 2nd November 1965 in Delhi, India. After graduating in economics from Hans Raj College, he pursued master's degree in mass communication, but sooner he entered in film industry through theatre and television. His first on screen work was of Fauji 1988 and Circus 1989, which earned him immediate recognition. Khan's breakthrough movie was Deewana 1992, that resulted in turning point of his career. Khan's earlier triumph was built upon antihero portrayals and obsessive lover such as Baazigar 1993 and Darr 1993. In both movies he created his own version of villain, the beloved

villain! The one which still rhythm in our ears as KKrian and without whose melodies our first love would feel incomplete. However later he assumed the role of hero and produced blockbusters as Dilwale Dulhania le jayenge 1995, Dil to pagalhai 1997, Karan Arjun 1998, and Kuch-

kuchhotahi 1998. These movies made 90's a golden era, then Devdas 2002, Kal ho naa ho 2003, Veer Zaara 2004, of which I would say, "Shah-rukh taught world what true love is", in fact the love which only Shah-rukh can do. 22 years in prison for the esteem of beloved, breathing his

last on the gate of beloved, surprises, flowers and many more. Moreover, Khan played other roles as well, noteworthy of them was his role as emperor Ashoka in movie Ashoka the Great 2001, My Name Is Khan 2010 in which he embarked on a journey to change people's perception of

Muslim community and the crime drama Raees 2017 as a bootlegger. To date Shahrukh Khan King of Bollywood have completed 28 years of success in the industry. I would say 28 years of love, compassion and being a reason of smile and sometimes tears of joy and emotions. He has appeared in more than 90 Bollywood films and earned numerous honors and awards, including 15 Filmfare Awards and total of almost 300. Along Shahrukh is the only Bollywood actor to receive 3 international doctorates. Moreover, if we see into his personal life Khan's loving and caring personality would be reflected from his works of philanthropy, since he established department for cancer and special Children, Khan also adopted 12 villages since 2012. Further, Shahrukh Khan is the only Indian to get an award from UNESCO for his Charity works. In conclusion King Khan is one of the most adored and beloved actors of the world and today I thank him for all those years and wish him a very Happy Birthday. May Almighty bless you.



Briefs

'Pak Army saved life of your wing commander'

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Fayyaz-ul-Hasan Chohan on Sunday has bitterly replied to former Indian Major Gaurav Arya, reminding him that Pakistan Army soldiers had saved the life of his wing commander Abhinandan Varthaman from the enraged people. In a post on social-networking website Twitter, the minister said that you should thank and pray for Pakistan Army for not allowing the angry locals kill your commander. It's very easy to threaten anyone on television, he said. Fayyaz Chohan also shared a video of Pakistan Army rescuing Abhinandan after he was caught by the locals.

Australia: no new cases for first time in 5 months

DNA

MELBOURNE: Australia recorded no new daily coronavirus community infections today for the first time in nearly five months, health officials said, paving the way for further easing of social distancing restrictions. The state of Victoria, a coronavirus hot spot which accounts for more than 90pc of Australia's 907 coronavirus-related deaths, saw zero new daily infections and no deaths for the second consecutive day. With no fresh cases recorded in the rest of the country, Australia saw its first day of no transmissions since June 9, Health Minister Greg Hunt said.

NCOC directs to enforce SOPs strictly

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Center has directed the quarters concerned to spearhead stringent enforcement of Standard Operating Procedures and mass mobilization adherence to safety guidelines in the wake of surge in coronavirus cases. The NCOC which met in Islamabad took a detailed review of epidemic curve chart data, prevailing positivity ratio of COVID-19, micro and smart lockdown imposed and implementation of the SOPs. The forum was informed that the positivity ratio of coronavirus cases is surging for the past three weeks whereas all other indicators are showing a rising trend. The NCOC decided that no complacency in adherence to SOPs particularly mask wearing and social distancing can be allowed as it might escalate the contagion.

PML-N Balochistan chief advised to step down

DNA

LAHORE: The gulf of differences has widened in the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), citing the party sources. The sources said that party leader Maryam Nawaz has taken notice of the statements of Abdul Qadir Baloch, who heads the Balochistan chapter of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), with regard to the protest rally of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) in Quetta. Baloch, has been advised by the party's senior leadership to step down from the top seat of the PML-N in Balochistan, according to sources. Jamal Shah Kakar, incumbent provincial General Secretary of the PML-N, who has completed the organizational set up of the party in Balochistan, has been directed by the leadership to look into the organizational matters of the party, sources said.



ISLAMABAD: Adam Mulawarman Tugio the newly arrived Ambassador of Indonesia in a group photo with the staff their families at the Indonesian Residence. The embassy staff warmly welcomed the new ambassador. – DNA

China's electric enterprise reinforces Pak energy grid

The Jamshoro project is the latest clean coal-fired project undertaken by Siemens and HEI in Pakistan for the first time under the name of consortium

DNA

BEIJING: Recently, the design of Pakistan Binjiasheng Phase III project undertaken by Harbin Electric International (HEI) has entered the sprint stage, procurement has been basically completed, equipment delivery about to enter the peak period, and the on-site construction fully opened. According to Gwadar Pro on Sunday, the project team is coordinating the design, production, manufacturing supervision, logistics, construction, commissioning and other participating parties to move forward in accordance with the plan. When completed, the project will provide electricity security for Karachi, Pakistan's largest city. This is the first F-class Single-Shaft Combined-Cycle Power Plant project of HEI, which fills up blank of Single-Shaft Combined Cycle project performance and plays an important role in developing joint cycle power station market of the company. Binjiasheng is a typical brownfield project, which involves a large number of old plant interface and transformation work in addition to the new power plant. HEI contacts other partners to participate in the construction, not only integrates large Chinese SOEs and private enterprises, but also cooperates with foreign companies such as Siemens of Germany and ABB of Switzerland. The temporary transfer of the project is expected to be completed on

December 26, 2021. Following the Binjiasheng Phase II 560MW Combined-Cycle Power Plant project, HEI and KE once again cooperated with Binjiasheng Phase III, which fully reflects the trust and recognition of the owners in the strength of HEI and is a good testimony of the friendship between China and Pakistan. Jamshoro Project and Binjiasheng Phase III Project are currently two key construction projects of HEI in Pakistan, which are of great significance in alleviating the shortage of power supply in Pakistan. The Jamshoro project is the latest clean coal-fired project undertaken by Siemens and HEI in Pakistan for the first time under the name of consortium.

At present, the project is making stable progress. The main equipment, such as boilers and steam turbines, has arrived at the site. It is expected to be completed in May 2022. In 1983, HEI selected Pakistan as its first destination to expand the international market by undertaking the construction of the Pakistan's Guddu Combined-Cycle Power Plant, which was hailed as the pioneering work of its "going out". The 1,180 MW Bhikki Combined-Cycle Power Plant is China's first H-class Combined-Cycle project with the largest overseas installed capacity, and is the first batch of power plants to adopt this model worldwide. Similar to this achievement in Pakistan's heavy gas turbine construction history

also includes 1223 MW Balloki Combined-Cycle Power Plant project. Relevant personnel of HEI told Gwadar Pro that the Pakistani government always attaches great importance to and supports its epidemic prevention. A joint prevention mechanism with HEI at the beginning of the outbreak of Covid-19 was established as on-site epidemic prevention facilities, improve personnel awareness and reserve protective materials which have made great contributions to keeping the coronavirus out of the project gate. During the epidemic, project department of HEI donated a total of 2,000 N95 masks, 2,000 pairs of protective gloves, 1,000 protective masks, and 600 protective clothing.

Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan decrease

Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed decline of 10.46 percent in first 3 months

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's exports of goods and services to Afghanistan witnessed a decrease of 13.98 percent during the first quarter (Q1) of current fiscal year (2020-21) as compared to the exports of corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported. The overall exports to Afghanistan were recorded at US \$209.868 million during July-September (2020-21) against exports of US \$243.980 million during July-September (2019-20), showing negative growth of 13.98 percent, SBP data revealed. On year-to-year basis, the exports to Afghanistan however grew by 11.12 percent from \$77.464 million in September 2019, against the exports of \$86.083 million in September 2020. Meanwhile, on month-on-month basis, the exports to Afghanistan also rose by

41.09 percent during September 2020 as compared to the exports of \$61.011 million in August 2020, the SBP data revealed. Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed decline of 10.46 percent in first three months, from US \$ 5.984 billion to US \$ 5.358 billion, the SBP data revealed. On the other hand, the imports from Afghanistan into the country during the period under review was recorded at US \$ 17.820 million against US \$25.453 million last year, showing decline of 29.98 percent in July-September (2020-21). On year-on year basis, the import for Afghanistan witnessed however increased by 13.93 percent from US \$7.290 million in September 2019, against the imports of US \$8.306 million in September 2020. On month-on-month basis,

the imports from Afghanistan into country also rose by 56.77 percent during September 2020, as compared to the imports of US \$5.298 million during August 2020, according to the data. The overall imports into the country witnessed decrease of 3.82 percent, from \$11.032 billion to US \$ 10.610 billion, according to the data. Based on the trade figures, the trade of goods and services with Afghanistan witnessed decrease of 12 percent in surplus during July-September (2020-21) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. The surplus during the period under review was recorded at US \$192.048 million against US \$218.527 million during same period of last year, showing negative growth of 12 percent, the data revealed. – APP

APNS makes appeal regarding Mir Shakil

DNA

KARACHI: In a statement Hameed Haroon President and Sarmad Ali Secretary General of the All Pakistan Newspapers society have appealed to the Government of Pakistan and various state institutions to look into the matter of Editor in Chief of Jang/ GEO Group who is in custody now for over 230 days while NAB investigation and remand has finished a long time ago. Further the reference against him, with all supporting evidences relied upon by NAB, has already been filed in the court. Therefore, there can be no fear of him tampering with evidence. The APNS agrees that like any other citizen of Pakistan Mir Shakil ur Rahman is not above the law. However, APNS appeals that he may be allowed his right to defend himself as a free citizen.

Saudia resumes international Umrah pilgrimage

WEB DESK / DNA

RIYADH : The third phase of Umrah pilgrimage resumption for Muslims belonging to foreign countries has started on (Sunday). The Saudi Arabia government has announced fresh measures for the Umrah pilgrimage, which was suspended for six months due to the coronavirus outbreak. The barricade placed around the Kaaba and the holy Black Stone will remain in its place and visitors will be prevented from touching them. Masjid al-Haram will be disinfected 10 times a day, while quarantine rooms have already been established for visitors having symptoms of COVID-19. Announcing the protocols for the resumption of International Umrah, it said that a negative PCR test no earlier than 72-hours before departure time in origin will be needed from the pilgrims while a quarantine period of three days must be completed in the hotel. "Each group must be accompanied by a registered guide as no individual will be allowed to perform the Umrah," it said while directing the pilgrims to arrive in the Kingdom with a registered group. Meanwhile, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation has called on Umrah performers to protect themselves and their families by adhering to the preventive measures approved by the authorities of Saudi Arabia. In a statement, Secretary-General, Dr. Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimen said the OIC congratulates Muslims around the world for the return to Umrah after temporary suspension. He also called on the Muslims to follow Saudi Arabian Ministry of Health protocols.

PTI has turned country into hell: Kaira

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Qamar Zaman Kaira on Sunday has said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has turned the entire country into a hell. In a statement, the PPP leader said that the nation will soon deal with these incompetent federal ministers. He also criticized information minister Shibli Faraz for using inappropriate sentences. The process of sending the government packing will start from Gilgit-Baltistan, he told.

Quebec stabbings leave 2 dead, 5 injured

DNA

MONTREAL: At least two people died and five were injured after being stabbed by a man wearing medieval clothes, armed with a bladed weapon near the Parliament Hill area of Quebec City, Canada, late on Saturday, local media reported. The local police said they arrested a male suspect early on Sunday and told people residing near the area to stay indoors as the investigation was still ongoing. The police had earlier said that they were on the hunt for a man dressed in medieval clothing carrying a bladed weapon, leaving "multiple victims". Five victims have been transported to a local hospital, but their immediate condition was not known, according to police spokesperson Etienne Doyon. It quoted Doyon as saying that the suspect was in his mid-20s and was also taken to a hospital for evaluation. There were no immediate details available on the possible motive behind the attack.



GILGIT: Prime Minister Imran Khan addressing a Freedom Day ceremony. – DNA