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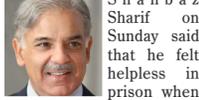


Briefs

Felt helpless on mother's death

DNA

LAHORE: PML-N leader



Shahbaz Sharif on Sunday said that he felt helpless in prison when he heard about his mother's demise. "The world can see how I am spending my days and nights in prison. What can be more devastating than hearing about your mother's death while you are behind bars?" he said. Shahbaz said that he was not allowed access to a physiotherapist in jail, nor was a heater installed in his cell despite the cold. "The government is exacting revenge on me. But this too shall pass," he said.

Babar Azam accused of violence

SPORTS DESK

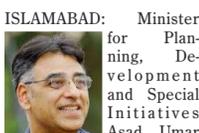
LAHORE: Star cricketer



and Pakistan's all-format captain Babar Azam has been accused of sexual abuse, violence and financial fraud by a woman from Lahore that claims to be his former girlfriend and classmate. Speaking at a press conference in Lahore on Saturday, the woman, identified as Hamiza, claimed that she was Azam's neighbour and old school mate, adding that the young cricketer tricked her into love and marriage. (Detailed news on Page 6)

PDM should follow guidelines

SHAHEEN HANIF



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Sunday said the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) should follow the guidelines issued by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) to avoid holding large public gatherings. Talking to a private news channel, he said if the opposition parties would hold political gatherings in different parts of the country including Multan then the COVID-19 cases would definitely soar there. The minister urged the PDM leadership to refrain to do politics on coronavirus outbreak.

Govt not to bow to Opp pressure

Prime Minister says opposition leaders have never worked and their autocratic lifestyle is directly dependent on saving their families' ill-gotten wealth

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Sunday opposition's bid to hold public rallies was aimed at pressurizing the government to get National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) at the cost of people's lives in the times of COVID-19 pandemic.

In a series of tweets, he said the sole and desperate goal of opposition political leadership is to save their families' looted wealth and corruption for which they are making last ditch efforts to get an NRO, but they will not succeed.

The Prime Minister said opposition leaders have never worked and their autocratic lifestyle is directly dependent on saving their families' ill-gotten wealth through robbing and impoverishing the nation.

Imran Khan said the problem of people of Pakistan during COVID 19 is the political leadership that has never gone through any democratic struggle nor worked with ordinary citizens to understand their difficulties they face and never contributed in any substantive

way for betterment of ordinary citizens. Imran Khan said these entitled "leaders" living like royalty in their secluded mansions, have simply inherited their positions because of their families and they have no concern for the lives of ordinary citizens.

The Prime Minister said when smart lockdown was imposed to save people from becoming destitute and save economy from total collapse, these "leaders" opposed it and demanded complete lockdown and now when smart lockdown is again needed to check new spike of the pandemic, they want to hold public rallies instead of caring for the lives and safety of people.



Negotiators agree on procedural rules: Taliban

This comes as both sides had opened talks in Qatar on September 12 but failed to reach an agreement

DNA

DOHA: Taliban political spokesman Mohammad Naeem, said that negotiators from both sides on November 15 agreed on procedural rules with 21 items for the intra-Afghan talks and a copy was also delivered to the host nation.

In his tweet, he stated: "The procedure of Intra-Afghan negotiations between the negotiating teams was completed and finalized in 21 articles on the 15th of November 2020."

"A copy of it was handed over to the host/facilitator country after it was approved by both negotiating teams," he added.

Nader Naderi, a member of the government team, also said in his tweet that: "The negotiation teams of both sides have ONLY agreed in principle to the 21 articles of the rules and procedures, with the exception of the introduction because it requires further

32 Afghan security personnel killed

GHAZNI: A suicide car bomber struck an army base in Afghanistan on Sunday killing at least 32 security personnel, officials said, in one of the bloodiest attacks targeting government forces in recent months. The attack occurred on the outskirts of Ghazni city, capital of the eastern province of Ghazni, which has seen regular fighting between the Taliban and government forces. It came as the government and Taliban are engaged in peace talks to end the war in the impoverished country that has killed tens of thousands of people in nearly two decades.

"Thirty bodies and 24 wounded people have been brought to hospital. All of them are security personnel," Baz Mohammad Hemat, director of Ghazni hospital, told AFP. - Agencies

discussion & clarification." He further added:

"Therefore in the joint meeting on Nov 17, 2020, in the presence of the host country, it was decided that the rules and procedures will only be considered final once it is presented to the general meeting of both delegations & approved there. The IROA has shared our understanding of the elements of the introduction with the other side." This comes as both sides had opened talks in Qatar on September 12 but failed to reach an agreement as the Taliban insisted the Doha agreement must serve as the basis for the talks. But the Afghan government team opposed the proposal and argued that Kabul was not part of the agreement.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of European Union Androulla Kaminara giving a medal to a participant after walk organized by Serena Hotels and UNODC. (More coverage on Back Page). - DNA

PDM to hold Multan rally come what may

Fazl says that the Opposition alliance has formulated the strategy to counter government action

DNA

MULTAN: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Sunday vowed to go ahead with a public gathering in Multan scheduled for November 30 despite the PTI-led government's efforts to stop the Opposition coalition. Addressing a press conference in the city, flanked by former prime minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and

PPP will host Multan rally: Bilawal

KARACHI: Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday said that his party will host a rally of PDM on November 30 no matter what government does. Bilawal Bhutto, who is in self-isolation after contracting the coronavirus, said in a tweet that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government is so threatened by upcoming foundation day of PPP that it has arrested the party workers including Kasim Gillani, son of former prime minister Yousuf Raza Gillani. PPP Chairman further announced that his sister Aseefa Bhutto Zardari will be representing him as he has tested positive for novel virus. - DNA

PML-N's Rana Sanullah at a JUI-F seminary. Maulana Fazlur Rahman said the Multan rally would be held at all cost and all the leaders would reach come what may. The PDM leadership held a consultative meeting at a JUI-F seminary to review the situation after the Punjab government launched a crackdown against the PDM workers who had entered the Multan's Qila Qasim Khan stadium by breaking gates and removing containers.

PM, mily chiefs visit ISI HQ

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday visited Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Headquarters.

The prime minister was accompanied by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Asad Umar, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Nadeem Raza, Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi and Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, PM office media wing in a press release said. - (Picture on Page 2)

Shibli Faraz warns against instigation

RANA FARRUKH

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Senator Shibli Faraz on Sunday urged the President of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), Maulana Fazal ur Rehman, to avoid instigating public for spreading violence in the country.

The direction given by Maulana Fazal ur Rehman to workers and students of seminary, for creating trouble was regrettable, he stated in an interview with a private television channel.

The government, he said could use all options against such elements challenging "writ of the state". About talks with Opposition to settle issues, he said the ruling party wanted to have discussion with representatives of PDM, but they are pressurizing the government for halting accountability process.

"It is impossible to stop accountability against the corruption," he stated. The PM wanted to hold talks on COVID-19, related issues but discussion on national reconciliation ordinance (NRO), would not be possible, he added.

Baba Guru Nanak's birth anniversary today

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The main ceremony of the 551th birth anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji will be observed today in Janamasthan Nankana Sahib. Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Pir Noorul Haq, Interior Minister Ijaz Shah, Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) Chairman Dr Amer Ahmad and members of Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGPC) and others leaders will participate in the ceremony. Deputy Commissioner Nankana Sahib Raja Mansoor Ahmad had arranged arrangements while the gurdwara besides the city had been decorated.

Pak support for Palestine cause laudable: Ambassador Ameen

On twenty-ninth of November every year, the free people of the world celebrate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, which was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 1977

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: On twenty-ninth of November every year, the free people of the world celebrate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, which was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 1977, solidarity with the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to freedom and self-determination, and to establish their independent state on their national soil, with Jerusalem as its capital.

Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan Ahmed Ameen said this in a statement. The ambassador further said, this day reflects the adherence of the vast majority of countries in the world to the values of International justice and the need to achieve security and peace in the region.

Justice requires that the Palestinian people be empowered to determine their own destiny like other

peoples, and to enable them to attain their national aspirations and goals in building a free, sovereign and viable state and to end the Israeli military occupation and the Zionist settlements as well, especially in the city of Jerusalem, which is witnessing the fiercest settlement building aimed at uprooting the Palestinian existence from the holy city.

He added, on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, our people are still under direct Israeli occupation and are subjected to an abominable racial discrimination regime, in which our people suffer from repeated violations of the Israeli occupation forces and the settler flocks who target the Palestinian people, their land, sky, air, capabilities and natural wealth.

On the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, two-thirds of which are still suffering from a refugee status since 1948, they live in camps in the neighboring countries cling-



ing to the right to return to their villages and cities from which they were forced out, and are still awaiting the implementation of United Nations resolutions, especially Resolution 194, which stipulated their return to their homes. The resolution has emphasized to compensate Palestinian refugees as well. Despite everything, the Palestinian people are still clinging to their national identity and resisting Israeli plots to eliminate our

culture and heritage. Palestinians have been living in the land of Palestine for thousands of years while struggling to maintain their identity and integrity guaranteed first by their massive sacrifices in the course. The modern history of Palestine, which has been represented by hundreds of thousands of martyrs, wounded and prisoners, as well as the UN resolutions in its various organizations and branches have also guaranteed them,

and also included the obligations that the occupying power tries to evade from by establishing alternative paths and by disavowing their commitments and by practicing the most severe violations against the Palestinian people. Ambassador Ameen said a just solution to the Palestinian issue requires an end to the new apartheid regime imposed by the Israeli occupation force and an end to its occupation of the Palestinian land that has continued since June 5, 1967, including Jerusalem, which is also a prelude to resolving all crises in the region, and an entry point for the Palestinian people to restore their pioneering civilization role in building The values of the humanitarian system that the peoples of the world seek, on their land and in their independent and sovereign state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. On behalf of the State of Palestine and the Palestinian people, the ambassador saluted the

brotherly people of Pakistan for their sympathy and support, appreciates the solidarity statements of the honorable President, Government, Parliament and all Political Parties.

The Embassy highly evaluates our historical relations with Pakistan for the last 8 decades, we are proud of Pakistan's friendship and we feel stronger with its support on official and public levels, institutions and bodies that express on daily basis their solidarity with the Palestinian people and their rights.

The Palestinian embassy in Pakistan appreciates the historical Pakistani fraternal stances in supporting the Palestinian people to obtain their rights, he added. "We also extend our appreciation to the friends of Palestine around the world for their support and solidarity on the Day of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and in their expression of their adherence to the values of justice and freedom".

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Briefs

Opposition become a promoter of virus: Firdous

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Chief Minister for Information and Culture, Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan on Sunday said that the unnatural unity of the opposition has become a promoter of Covid-19 in Pakistan. While talking to a private news channel she said "Rallies will not end the government but coronavirus is definitely growing. The fake leaders of the irrational opposition do not understand the situation." She said that an opposition leader insisted on holding a rally despite of being a victim of coronavirus himself while Maryam Safdar was interested in power rather than the people. coronavirus cases have increased after the Peshawar rally and now from the Multan rally the virus could spread from house to house, she added. She further said that protecting the lives and property of the people was the top priority of the Bazar government for which steps were also being taken. Those who challenged the state writ would be dealt with iron fists because no one was above the law, she concluded. - APP

"Largest development project to be launched"

DNA

SIALKOT: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs Muhammad Usman Dar said on Sunday the government was going to launch Punjab Intermediate Cities Improvement Investment Programme which was the largest development project in the history of Sialkot. Addressing a high level meeting here at Committee Room of Tehsil Council, he said under the Punjab Intermediate Cities Improvement Investment Programme, water supply lines and sewerage lines would be replaced and road infrastructure with parks would be constructed at a cost of Rs 15 billion in the city. He directed the local authorities of SNGPL, PTCL and WAPDA to complete the development programmes of their departments. He said that management committees would be formed at union council level to work with the district administration to ensure timely completion of these projects. Provincial Minister Chaudhry Akhlaq and Commissioner Gujranwala Division Gulzar Hussain Shah, Vice Chairman Provincial Anti Corruption Committee Brigadier (R) Muhammad Aslam Ghuman, Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Mir Muhammad Nawaz, Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance and Planning Farooq Sadiq, Infrastructure Engineer Punjab Intermediate Cities Improvement Investment Program Sialkot Ghulam Murtaza, CO Municipal Corporation Sialkot Faisal Shehzad including local officials from Nespak, Highway Department and M&R attended the meeting.

PDM workers booked for storming

DNA

MULTAN: As many as eighty Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) on Sunday booked over taking out a rally and storming into Qila Qasim Bagh by violating coronavirus SOPs. The FIR was registered against over 80 people including Abdul Qadir Gilani, Moosa Gilani, Haider Gilani and Qasim Gilani, the four sons of former prime minister Yousuf Raza Gilani under charges of vandalizing government properties, interfering in government duty and torture. Meanwhile, the police have launched a crackdown against political workers in various cities and towns of South Punjab and arrested several workers of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) ahead of a scheduled public meeting of the opposition alliance in Multan on November 30. According to reports, police arrested local leaders of PML-N Chaudhry Shahbaz Jutt, Sohail Butt, JU's Qari Khalil Rehman and Maulana Muneer Ahmed Abbasi from Tiranda Mohammad Panah in the vicinity of Liaquatpur.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imra Khan, along with Army, Air & Naval Chiefs visit ISI headquarters. They were given briefing on "national security and regional" situation by ISI chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed-DNA

NAB is blackmailing people, says Saleem Mandviwalla

Addressing a press conference on Sunday, the senator said that NAB is involved in "blackmailing people," adding that the National Commission on Human Rights, as well as the Supreme Court, have criticised the bureau for violations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senate Deputy Chairman Saleem Mandviwalla on Sunday said that it is the first time in history that the "Senate of Pakistan" is facing a tough time because of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). The NAB has recently frozen Mandviwalla's assets in connection with a fake accounts case. According to a report submitted by the anti-corruption watchdog on Tuesday, Mandviwalla had allegedly bought Benami shares in the name of a person accused in the fake accounts case. Later that day, the Senate chairman had categorically denied the allegations, calling the case

"unfair and prejudicial." Addressing a press conference on Sunday, the senator said that NAB is involved in "blackmailing people," adding that the National Commission on Human Rights, as well as the Supreme Court, have criticised the bureau for violations. "When institutions like NAB violate human rights in this country, why is it that no one raises their voice against them?" Saleem Mandviwalla questioned. "When I raise my voice against the bureau's wrongdoings, I am served a notice." He said that several members of the national assembly (MNAs) and senators have landed in trouble because of the NAB and people are blackmailed and

NAB Chairman orders to stop proceedings DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau Chairman Justice (Retd) Javed Iqbal has ordered to stop the further proceedings on the graft case against Deputy Chairman Senate Saleem Mandviwalla till further orders. Taking notice of media reports quoting Saleem Mandviwalla as accusing the NAB for maliciously and wrongfully involving him in unrelated case, Chairman NAB sought the record of the case against Saleem Mandviwalla, on immediate basis for evaluation and scrutiny to ensure provision of justice. Chairman NAB said he profoundly respects all parliamentarians. The decision to continue or stop the proceedings of the case against Mandviwalla will be taken in light of the detailed scrutiny of the record. Meanwhile, the Chairman NAB also directed regional bureaus not to seek NAB cases record from any hospital during the prevalence of COVID-19 pandemic. - DNA

humiliated in closed rooms during investigations. "I will now take up the issue on the Senate floor and discuss it," Saleem Mandviwalla maintained.

"The NAB has accused me of making an anonymous transaction but I will show to the world that I have not done any such thing." Defending himself, Mandviwalla added that NAB's Director-General Irfan Mangi has been accusing him of not doing any business despite him being related to the business industry for the last four generations. "We must ask Engineer Irfan Mangi the basis of his promotion within the NAB. Earlier, I used to write letters to the prime minister but now I will reveal every information I have to the media. All members of the NAB should disclose their assets too and I will raise this matter in the Senate." On the other hand, NAB

Chairman Justice (Retd) Javed Iqbal has taken notice of the allegations levelled by Saleem Mandviwalla and has ordered to stop further proceedings on the graft case against him until further orders. "We have summoned the record of the case and will investigate it thoroughly," the chairman said. "The NAB respects all parliamentarians in accordance with the law," he said, adding that the decision to continue or stop the proceedings of the case against Mandviwalla would be taken in light of the detailed scrutiny of the record. "We will also give a chance to Saleem Mandviwalla to explain his position in accordance with NAB's rules."

Hurriyat leaders strongly denounce Indian occupation authorities

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference and other Hurriyat leaders have strongly denounced the occupation authorities for demolishing residential houses and other structures belonging to Muslims in the territory, in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. According to Kashmir Media Service the authorities have so far demolished scores of houses and other structures of Gujjar and Bakarwal communities at Pahalgam in Islamabad and Muslim

majority areas in Jammu. The APHC spokesman in a statement in Srinagar said that the authorities had taken control of the seized land to settle Hindu outsiders to upset the Muslim majority status of Jammu and Kashmir. Gujjar Pahari Democratic Forum Chairman Chaudhry Shaheen Iqbal in a statement denounced the Modi regime's brutal action against Gujjar and Bakarwal Muslims. He said that New Delhi has no right to forcibly expel them from their

land as they (Gujjars and Bakarwals) were residing in the areas since centuries. Other Hurriyat leaders and organizations including Shabbir Ahmad Dar, Khawaja Firdous, Abdul Samad Inqalabi, Zamrud Habib, Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Freedom League, Peoples League and Tehreek-e-Wahdat-e-Islami in their statements termed the destruction of the properties of Gujjar and Bakarwal communities as the worst violation of human rights. - APP



PESHAWAR: Special assistant to the Prime Minister for Health, Dr Faisal inaugurates 5-day anti-polio drive in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. - DNA

'Opposition's attitude gives new life to COVID-19'

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar said on Sunday that second wave of COVID-19 has become dangerous with having non-traditional symptoms therefore preventive measures were utmost necessary. In a media statement issued here, the chief minister said that coronavirus was about to be eradicated from the country but highly irresponsible attitude of the opposition parties gave this virus new life. Buzdar said that these rejected elements first spread the virus of corruption and now they were becoming the source of multiplying the coronavirus by holding the public meetings. He said opposition parties' public meetings do not affect the government at all. He warned the PDM leadership that they should desist from playing with the lives of the poor masses. He also cautioned the political opponents that government will never allow anyone to challenge the writ of the state. Chief Minister said the law will take its course in case of the violations of the SOPs of the coronavirus prevention. He regretted that the opposition was not realizing its national obligations during the coronavirus epidemic. "Protecting the masses from the virus is the need of the hour rather than holding public gatherings," he said and added that the government was making serious efforts for preventing the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic from spreading in the country but the rejected elements were busy in doing "Jalsa politics." Buzdar said that there was no justification of holding public meetings under the recent situation of coronavirus pandemic and government will not allow anyone to compromise the lives of common man under any pretext. He expressed sorrow that the opposition parties had put the national interests at the backburner for their petty political interests. - DNA



HC closes down 91 quack centres

LAHORE: The Punjab Healthcare Commission (PHC) closed down 91 quack centres in 11 districts during the last seven days. According to the PHC spokesperson on Sunday, the PHC enforcement teams raided 648 treatment centres across the province and sealed 91 of quacks. Among the quackery centres, 12 each were sealed in Toba Tek Singh and Rawalpindi, 11 each in Dera Ghazi Khan and Attock, nine each in Pakpattan and Bahawalnagar, eight in Sahiwal, seven in Rahim Yar Khan, six in Chiniot and five in Muzaffargarh. In Lahore, Habib Suleman Medical and Research Centre of Shahid Hussain Sheikh was sealed. The PHC spokesperson said that so far the commission had sealed 28,871 fake treatment centre and also imposed fine on quacks. - APP

PIC to be activated by next month: Minister

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Health and Finance Taimoor Saleem Khan Jhagra has said that the newly built Peshawar Institute of Cardiology (PIC) would be activated by the middle of next month as the hospital has best facilities for heart treatment. The rate of coronavirus cases has risen to 20 percent since the PDM meeting in Peshawar, which was worrying. He expressed these views while talking to reporters during his visit to the Peshawar Institute of Cardiology (PIC). The provincial minister said that PIC consisted of 250 beds in which best facilities for cardiovascular surgery and treatment have been provided. The Cardiology Hospital has a total of six modern laboratories and six operating theaters. The provincial minister said that after the hospital became fully operational, 2,500 to 3,000 heart surgeries would be performed annually. Initially, the hospital with 140 beds, three laboratories and two operating theaters would be operational by the middle of next month. - APP

'Issue of Palestine is an issue of humanity'

Speaking at the Palestine Solidarity Conference organised by Palestine Foundation Pakistan at Idara-e-Noor-e-Haq, leaders of different political and religious parties emphasised upon solidarity among the Islamic countries

KARACHI: Leaders from various political, religious parties, and prominent figures belonging to different walks of life on Sunday endorsed the stance of Prime Minister Imran Khan regarding non-recognition of Israel. Speaking at the Palestine Solidarity Conference organised by Palestine Foundation Pakistan at Idara-e-Noor-e-Haq, they emphasised upon solidarity among the Islamic countries. JI Karachi Ameer Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman chairing the conference said that the issue of Palestine was not only religious but it was an issue of humanity. Israel could not be accepted at any cost and Pakistan's stand on the Palestine was ideological. He said that recognition of Israel by two or more countries did not remove the distinction



between right and wrong. Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman said those black sheep among our ranks raising voices for paving way to recognise Israel could not be called friends of Pakistan. He said all the Islamic countries must unite against Israel. Addressing the conference, PPP senior leader Taj Haider said that

those raising voices in favour of Israel were indirectly justifying the atrocities of Israel over Palestinians. He appealed to the media to play its vital role in strengthening solidarity among Muslim countries. Maulana Baqar Zaidi of MWM said that few leaders of Islamic countries not the whole countries had recognised Israel as their nations

were also against their decisions. He said that different terror organisations were formed by the enemies of Islam however all of them failed to achieve their nefarious designs. He was also of the opinion that Muslim countries must unite against occupying Zionist state. Palestine would be soon free from the atrocities of Israel, he added.

ANP's Younus Beneri expressed his gratitude that all the religious, political and other parties were on same page against Israel. He said there would be no peace in the world unless Palestine would be free. Religious leader Sajjad Shabbir Rizvi said that clear stance of Prime Minister Imran Khan was commendable. He said that Pakistanis had full sympathies with the oppressed people of Palestine. Israr Abbasi of PTI regretted that the previous governments had not raised the Palestine issue properly at the international level. Secretary Palestine Foundation Sabir on the occasion said that if any referendum would be held in Pakistan, 99 percent Pakistanis would vote against the Zionist state. - APP

'Modern policies being hired'

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Inam Ghani has said that services and capabilities of expert instructors of modern policing and crime fighting are being utilised to maintain and upgrade quality of the department. Talking to APP on Sunday, he said that modern techniques were being used in the training of different police services including Elite Force, Dolphin Force, Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) so that more competent and strong personnel could be trained and sent into the field. He said that the strategy of punishment and reward was in place for improvement of the police service. He said that all command officers had been instructed to ensure transparent, merit-based process of punishment and reward, free from any haste. To a question, he said that big penalties for minor errors and irregularities could lead to lowering of morale of the force and, therefore, disciplinary matrix, formulated by the Central Police Office, was being employed. The IGP said that the Central Police Office played a supervisory and monitoring role more effectively for improvement in the punishment system. To another question, Inam Ghani said that the Elite Force was a trained and specialised operational force of Punjab Police, which could be used only in the field during high-profile and intelligence-based operations to eliminate terrorists and criminal elements by showing the best performance. He said that in view of the threat of terrorism, a series of training workshops and exercises was being held on regular basis to improve the training and response rate of the Elite Force, while matters related to the development and welfare of the Elite personnel were also resolved with personal interest without any delay. About overall performance of the Elite Force and other programs, IG Punjab said that the Elite Force personnel were being provided with the best training and all possible facilities. - APP

Briefs

NLPD publishes book titled 'Learn Urdu'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Language Promotion Department (NLPD) on Sunday published a book titled "Learn Urdu" for foreigners owing to their growing interest in national language. NLPD DG Rashid Hameed while addressing the launching ceremony said that with the passage of time, Urdu has gained extraordinary acceptance at the international level and people from more or less every region of the world were becoming attached to Urdu in one way or the other. He said that this book has been published in view of the growing interest of Urdu writers in the context of CPEC and China-Pakistan relations. He said, "It has been compiled by Shafiq Anjum and Dr Zafar Ahmed, teachers of Tabanmal University". "I hope the this book will be useful for foreigners who read and write Urdu," he added. Publication Department of the NLPD will continue to publish interesting, useful and informative books on various topics, he stated. He further said that Urdu was their identity and it should remain so for future generations. He said that books and dictionaries prepared and published by NLPD were playing an important role for the promotion and development of Urdu Language.

CDA urged to end service charges on toilets

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Capital dwellers have called upon the civic agency to remove the charges being collected for using toilet service at public places. They also called for upgrading the washrooms at markets, bus stands and recreational to ensure provision of hygiene and sanitation rights to citizens. "The situation of markets' washrooms is worst as it seems that the relevant authority is least interested to clean them in time despite charging up to Rs 20," said Raja Ali who burst with anger after using the facility at Alhambra Market. Talking to APP, he said the situation should be rectified on priority as access to a decent toilet at a public place was basic right of a citizen and it was a responsibility of state to facilitate the people in responding the nature's call outdoor. "Islam lays great stress on the cleanliness so the city managers should not compromise on such matters," he stressed. Hameed ur Rehman, another resident leaving for Saikot from Faizabad Bus Station, said the situation of washrooms here was deplorable that needed urgent rehabilitation. He regretted that some contractors were renting out Mosques' toilets to earn money. When contacted, Capital Development Authority Sanitation Department Director Sardar Zimri defending the move of collecting the charges over use of washrooms at public places, said the money was being spent on their maintenance. - APP

RSA releases 115,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 115,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 54,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1489.46 feet, which was 97.46 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 26,200 cusecs and outflow as 75,000 cusecs. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1184.80 feet, which was 144.80 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 9,400 cusecs and 22,000 cusecs respectively. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Kavaan the elephant being loaded on a delivery truck for shifting to airport. The elephant is being shifted to Cambodia. - APP

Asian elephant Kaavan leaves for Cambodia

For decades, the world's loneliest elephant has entertained crowds from his small, barren patch of land in a Pakistani zoo

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Asian elephant 'Kavaan' here on Sunday left for Cambodian sanctuary where the animal would spend his remaining life in a healthy and happy environment. In his brief address, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Climate Change (SAPM) Malik Amin Aslam,

who was chief guest on the occasion, said the next phase of Kavaan's life has started today. He said the reception committee would be ready at the Cambodian airport to receive Kavaan. He said Russian chartered plane would take Kavaan to Cambodia. Initially 10 acre area would be given to Kavaan where the animal could see the other elephants.

He said, "We would make this open enclosure zoo cum sanctuary and would provide world class facilities." Minister further said that it was a new day as Kavaan's loneliness nearing to an end. It's a herd animal cannot live alone however all the arrangements were finalized. Kavaan had been a centre of attraction among children for last 35 years.

For decades, the world's loneliest elephant has entertained crowds from his small, barren patch of land in a Pakistani zoo. The visitors would call for more as he saluted them, prompted by handlers who poked him with nailed bull horns to make him perform for the money which lined their pockets. Around him, animals disappeared from their en-

losures, rumoured to be bound for the plates of the wealthy, while his only companion died, allegedly of sepsis brought on by those bull-hook nails digging deep into her skin. And for years, it seemed that no one cared about the elephant's lonely fate. His wounds became infected and the chains around his legs slowly left permanent scars. He drifted slowly into

psychosis and obesity. But yesterday, the world's loneliest elephant finally left behind his desolate enclosure for a new life on the other side of the continent, thanks to the determination of a coalition of determined volunteers and, somewhat unexpectedly, the American pop icon Cher. This is the story of Kaavan. It begins with a prayer and ends in a song.

Prime Minister's corporate farming initiative lauded

The business leader said that the remaining staff of the steel mills should also be terminated as the unit is closed since 2015 but employees are enjoying salaries and other perks resulting in a total loss of over Rs300 billion.

ISLAMABAD: Former President ICCI Shahid Rasheed Butt on Sunday lauded the decision of the Prime Minister Imran Khan to introduce corporate farming which will improve the food security situation in the country. The move may attract huge investment which will improve the struggling agriculture sector and provide edibles to masses at a reasonable price, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt also lauded the move of the government to downsize state-run enterprises wasting trillions of rupees annually. Around 4500 employees of the Pakistan Steel Mills have been terminated which will reduce salary burden by 50 percent to Rs170 million, he said. The business leader said that the remaining staff of the steel mills should also be terminated as the unit is closed since 2015 but employees are enjoying salaries and other perks resulting in a total loss of over Rs300 billion. He said that retrenchment should also be initiated in Railways which has wasted hundreds of billions of rupees while there are 14500 employees in the PIA causing colossal losses therefore almost half of the staff should be shown the door without any delay. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that these institutions are waiting trillions and the government has to get hefty loans on harsh conditions to keep them alive artificially which is not sustainable. He called upon the opposition to avoid making economising in failed institutions an issue while the government should declare trade unions illegal if they start an agitation. The government should limit the working hours in commercial centres following the steps of developed nations which will save electricity worth billions, he demanded. - DNA

Bail out package for tourism sector pleaded

ISLAMABAD: The tourism experts have pleaded for grant of soft loans and cash assistance to the tourism businesses and low-paid workers under government's loan and emergency cash schemes for ensuring sector's survival next year. "Anticipating global recession due to the second and third waves of coronavirus pandemic, low-paid workers and small and medium enterprises should be included in Ehsaas Emergency Cash programme and Prime Minister's Kamyab Jawan Programme to provide the required support to the ravaged sector," said Aftab Rana-President of Sustainable Tourism Foundation Pakistan in an exclusive chat with APP. "Cash grants to the daily wagers associated with tourism, relief package for travel and hotel industry, and concessional loans for SMEs are the need of the hour to protect the sector to fight against the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic," he said, urging the government to focus the domestic tourism which in his opinion was a sole option to achieve the sector's rebound in the coming years. - APP

DC for observing SOPs at marquees

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner, Islamabad, Hamza Shafqaat has urged the marquees and marriage hall owners to strictly observe anti-coronavirus guidelines while holding public gatherings to avoid the potential risk of the pandemic infection and community transmission at the area. The Deputy Commissioner issued these directives during his visit to different marquees and marriage halls operating in the federal capital, the other day. He inspected necessary structural adjustments or-

ganized by the marquees/marriage halls as per the revised corona precautionary standard operating procedures (SOPs) to avoid further spread of infection and community transmission. He apprised the event organizers about the amended guidelines in wake of recent Islamabad High Court Judgment. As per the revised guidelines, no indoor gatherings are permitted and only outdoor wedding events are allowed, in which number of the guests must not exceed 300 individuals with mandatory arrangements for

seating of each individual at least 6 feet apart. The event can only be carried out in open space and if tents are used, they should have mandatory provision of space between the walls and roof of the tent to ensure ventilation; hence reflecting that completely closed marquee designed tents for holding marriage events are not permitted. The marquees/banquette halls built/modified in structure with multiple ventilation windows/open spaces within the side walls are appropriate for the wedding gatherings. - APP

Residents demand more burial places

ISLAMABAD: With a massive surge in the federal capital population during last two decades, the residents of urban areas are running out of the burial places, opting to go to the neighboring boroughs for burying their loved ones. Stressing the need for more facilities in urban Islamabad, they expressed dismay over slackness of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) which could not set up a new graveyard in the capital city during the recent past. "We need more burial places in Islamabad's urban areas as various communities lacking dedicated graveyards in their localities have resorted to use green belts along the Islamabad Expressway especially near Iqbal Town and Sohan to bury their near and dear ones," local Member of National Assembly (MNA) Raja Khurram Nawaz told APP. He said exponential growth of population and mushrooming housing societies in the capital city had increased the demand of more burial places. Exhorting the CDA to only issue No Objection Certificates (NOCs) and Layout Plans (LoPs) to those housing societies which ensured allocation of graveyards, schools and parks as per the law, he said "The non-availability of facility in various areas was the major issue that we were told during the electioneering of last general election." - APP

NAB asks allottees to file claims

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has asked the affected persons of Fazaia Housing Scheme, Karachi to file their claims with Karachi office at the earliest. According to an announcement of NAB, Karachi, the applications of claims could be submitted during office hours to Investigation Wing II, old Balochistan, House, near Ziauddin Hospital, Clifton Block-2, Karachi during office hours, further details could be collected from relevant NAB office on phone 021-99251933. The applications addressing Director General, NAB, Karachi, should have supporting documents including a copy of Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC), original booking, allotment, receipt of payments made to society. Every affected person is required to submit his/her claim in person or through authorized representative from Monday to Friday during office hours. The affected people who have already submitted their original files to NAB till 20/11/2020 but have not yet received their refund amount are requested to visit NAB office for collecting pay orders of their claims.

More than 322m saplings planted

ISLAMABAD: Around 322.936 million saplings has been planted last year in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). According to the official document released here, 167,000 million saplings were planted in KP region whereas in Punjab 45.230 million and in Sindh 34.430 million saplings were planted respectively. It said that the area of Balochistan the saplings was regenerated in the year of 2019 till 2020 around 2.5 million, AJK 69.087 million and in GB 4.682 million. The total number of plants raised in nurseries was around 341.433 millions. The document also elaborated the number of plants raised in nurseries in each province including in KP 190 million, Punjab 60.625 million, Sindh 9.986 million, Balochistan 13.025, AJK 67.197 million and in GB 0.6 millions. - APP

CDA decides to enforce Zoning regulations

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has decided to enforce the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Zoning Regulations and ensure implementations by the developers of private housing societies. A few days earlier, the civic agency sealed offices of different housing schemes including Ayesha Town, Islamabad Cooperative Housing Scheme, Gulf Residencia, Royal City, Royal Residencia, Dreamland City, Babar Enclave, Ideal Residencia, Rawal Enclave, and Yar Muhammad Society. CDA officials said that these offices were sealed to discourage the establishment of illegal housing projects. They reminded that the federal capital was divided into five zones under ICT Zoning Regulations 1992. Under the regulations, the housing schemes were allowed planning and development in sector E-11 of Zone-I, Zone II and Zone V. However, later in 2010, the civic agency amended the law and included Zone-IV, which was further split into sub-zones, and permitted the Agro Farm Scheme along with other schemes, officials said. Currently, the planning and development of private housing schemes in Islamabad are regulated by two directorates of CDA. The housing department regulates Zone-II and Zone-V while Regional Planning Directorate regulates Zone-IV. According to officials, the CDA board is mulling different recommendations to stop the establishment of illegal housing schemes.

Breast cancer in Pak reaches alarming level

IBRAR KHAN / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Research shows that Pakistan has the highest rate of breast cancer than any other Asian country as approximately 90,000 new cases are diagnosed every year out of which 40,000 succumb to the disease. Estimates say 1 in 10 women may develop Breast Cancer in their lifetime in Pakistan. The situation is not much different in other developing countries. An ardent advocate of socio-economic well-being of populations, the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) highlighted this global health issue by holding a webinar on "Breast Cancer Awareness: Give Hope, Save Lives" on Sunday in Islamabad at its Secretariat, contributing to the global campaign of necessary awareness raising. Held virtually owing to the COVID-19 concerns,



the webinar was joined by experts and participants online. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador (Retd.) Fauzia Nasreen (Advisor at COMSATS) emphasized on the measures that should be taken

for overcoming lack of knowledge, appropriate facilities, family support and fear related to cancer in our society. She remarked that early diagnosis, access to proper medical facilities, affordable and

timely care are the cornerstones of breast cancer control. She warned to take breast cancer seriously and learn about the techniques of self-diagnosis for an early detection of the disease.

Dr. Samina Naem, ex-Associate Prof of Health Services Academy, and consultant at WHO, Pakistan, gave a comprehensive overview of the disease and stressed upon the importance of breaking the stereotypes and taboos related to it. A survivor's perspective also came from Dr. Fauzia Cheema, who shared the story of her experience of battling breast cancer from a point of view of a doctor facing the disease. Hers was an educational account and objective overview of healthcare system's problems related to treatment of the disease and related social and psychological aspects. In her keynote address, Dr. Farheen Raza, from Radiology Department of PIMS Hospital Islamabad, emphasized on screening and the need to have community-based health education component including focused and small group discussions to overcome the social taboos and stigma attached to female illnesses.

Briefs

UK to publish books in Pakistan via IPS press

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An agreement signed between Kube Publishing (Leicester, UK) and IPS Press - the publishing and bookselling arm of Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad - will enable readers in Pakistan and Afghanistan to buy low-priced local editions of all books of the popular UK-based Islamic publisher. The agreement signed by Haris Ahmad, CEO, Kube Publishing and Naufil Shahrukh, GM-IPS has also authorized IPS Press to exclusively import and distribute all Kube titles in the assigned territory. The first title to be published under this arrangement is the Pakistan edition of Revive Your Heart: Putting Life in Perspective, authored by renowned Islamic scholar and motivational speaker Nouman Ali Khan.

20 suspects held during search operation

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have arrested 20 suspects during a search operation in the jurisdiction of Koral police station. According to a police statement, issued on Sunday around 560 persons were checked by screening some 300 houses and 20 suspects were shifted to police station for interrogation. DIG (Operations) has said that the purpose of these search operations was to heighten the security of Federal capital and to curb the crime. He further directed all police officials for high vigilance and monitoring against those involved in anti-social activities. The DIG emphasized that it was collective responsibility of every person of the society to remain alert against those involved in criminal activities in their surroundings and inform police for action against them. "Safety of life and property of the citizens is our prime responsibility and no stone would be left unturned in this regard," the statement added. - APP

Galyat, Murree expect tourist influx

ISLAMABAD: As the government has closed down all the educational institutions across the country in the wake of second wave of coronavirus, the hoteliers of Galyat and Murree are expecting more tourists would turn to the hilly areas to enjoy chilly weather with their families. "As of now, Murree is not receiving the tourists at par with its true potential, but there are clear chances that the people will flock the area with their families in the backdrop of schools' closure and recent snowfall," said Muhammad Rafique, General Manager of Al-Azeen Hotel at Murree. Talking to APP, he said the number of visitors to the Murree had increased significantly on this weekend, but it was not the same as it received in the pre-COVID-19 times. He said the hoteliers were trying their level best to ensure implementation of Standard Operating Procedures, issued by the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation after lifting of restrictions from the sector. Another hotelier from Nathia Gali, Arshad Khan said Galyat had become center of attraction for tourists after the second spell of snowfall at the snowy resort of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa came to a halt on last Thursday. He said tourists had swarmed the Galyat on this weekend after it received around two feet of snow and there was no forecast of further snowfall till second week of December. Galyat Development Authority (GDA) Spokesman Ahsan Hameed said all the resources were being utilized to facilitate the tourists, coming to visit the scenic valleys of Galyat from various parts of the country. He said the GDA had issued a travel advisory to inform the tourists and locals for travelling on slippery roads. He urged the tourists to travel in daylight and use chains to tread on snow. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Stalls holders displaying different stuff to attract the visitors during Happiness Bazaar setup in F-7 Sector. - DNA

UNAIDS, UNFPA report shows declines in new HIV infections

"This year is a milestone for taking stock of a decade of progress towards ending AIDS by 2030. Sadly, the world has come up short against the commitments made to drastically reduce new HIV infections

ISLAMABAD: The latest progress report of the Global HIV Prevention Coalition shows declines in new HIV infections among adults in several countries. Overall progress in HIV prevention efforts remains variable and is too slow to reach the 2020 targets committed to at the 2016 United Nations High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS, said a press release issued here. "We can't end AIDS if year after year people continue to become newly infected with HIV," said Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of UNAIDS. "This year is a milestone for taking stock of a decade of progress towards ending AIDS by 2030. Sadly, the world has come up short against the commitments made to drastically reduce new HIV infections."

In 2016, United Nations Member States committed to reach a world-wide HIV prevention target of fewer than 500,000 new HIV infections among adults by 2020, a 75% reduction from 2010. By the end of 2019, the reduction was just 23%, with 1.7 million people becoming infected with HIV last year. Launched in 2017, the Global HIV Prevention Coalition aims to bring fresh momentum and clarity to HIV prevention programmes in 28 focus countries—the 28 countries worldwide with the greatest burden of new HIV infections. The 28 coalition countries have identified and promoted priority programme approaches and interventions, rekindled political commitment for HIV prevention and guided and supported programme implementation.

Progress in reducing new HIV infections in coalition countries is varied. In Eswatini, for example, new HIV infections declined by 64% between 2010 and 2019. In Pakistan, on the other hand, there was a 74% increase. But in 26 coalition countries new HIV infections declined. The report notes that there has been significant progress in implementing 10 strategic actions set out in the Global HIV Prevention 2020 Road Map, but a number of countries still have difficulties in changing underlying factors that hold back effective HIV prevention programmes, including shortfalls in financing, insufficient action on addressing the obstructive legal, policy and structural barriers that hinder programmes

for key and vulnerable populations and the slow adoption of guidance on social contracting. "To drastically reduce new HIV infections, we have to bridge the gaps and dismantle barriers that deny adolescent girls, young women and key populations access to quality, respectful sexual and reproductive health services. It's time to end, once and for all, all forms of stigma, discrimination and marginalization that stand in their way," said Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund. The COVID-19 pandemic is an additional challenge to maintaining progress in HIV prevention this year. Of particular concern are disruptions in HIV prevention services such as voluntary medical

male circumcision, interrupted access to prevention commodities, including safe injection supplies, the effects of lockdowns on educational and social support services and the interplay between economic downturns and heightened HIV risk behaviours and vulnerability. This year's report therefore begins to document adaptations that countries are taking to mitigate the potential effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The progress report was launched at a virtual meeting of ministers of health from Global HIV Prevention Coalition focus countries at which members took stock of the progress to date, with the aim of charting a way forward for the next five years on the road to ending AIDS by 2030. - APP

Parliamentarians asked to fulfill assets' submission requirement

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has drawn attention of members of the parliament and provincial assemblies towards mandatory requirement under Section 137 of the Elections Act, 2017 on submission of yearly statements of assets and liabilities. According to ECP, all parliamentarians have to submit to the ECP by December 31st, 2020, yearly statements of assets and liabilities including their spouse and dependent children as on the preceding 30th day of June on Form-B.

It added as per reproduced requirement, every member of an assembly and Senate will submit to the Commission, on or before December 31st each year, a copy of statement of assets and liabilities including assets and liabilities of his spouse and dependent children as on the preceding thirtieth day of June on Form B. The commission, on the first day of January each year through a press release, will publish the names of members who failed to submit the requisite statement of assets and liabilities within the period specified under

sub-section (1). The commission will, on the sixteenth day of January, by an order suspend the membership of a member of an assembly and Senate who fails to submit the statement of assets and liabilities by the fifteenth day of January and such member will cease to function till he or she files the statement of assets and liabilities. It added if any member submits the statement of assets and liabilities under this section which is found to be false in material particulars, he or she may within one hundred and twenty days

from the date submission of the statement, be proceeded against for committing the offence of corrupt practice. The ECP said that the prescribed form along with instructions and guidelines prepared in this regard can be obtained free of cost from the Election Commission Secretariat, Islamabad, offices of Provincial Election Commissioners in each Province, Senate Secretariat, National Assembly Secretariat and Secretariats of Provincial Assemblies. Form can also be downloaded from the ECP's website www.ecp.gov.pk. - APP

'Health teams directed to ensure administering polio drops'

The minister said the polio campaign starting from Nov 30 will remain continue till December 4 and during campaign 296,662 children will be administered polio drops across the Attock district

ATTOCK: Provincial Minister for Revenue Malik Muhammad Anwar Sunday directed the teams of health department to ensure administering polio drops to all children upto the age of five years for eradication of crippling disease and parents should play their role to make this campaign a success. He expressed these views while inaugurating polio campaign at THQ Hospital Pindigheb. On the occasion, DC Ali Anan Qamar, CEO Health Dr Jawad Elahi and others were also present. The minister said the polio campaign starting from November 30 will remain continue till December 4 and during campaign 296,662 children will be administered polio drops across the Attock district. He said, 953 teams have been constituted to administer polio drops. The teams will be present on all the entry and exit points, bus stands, railway stations, hospitals and health centers. The minister said control rooms have been established at tehsil and district level, concerned health officers will pay surprise visits to different areas to check the performance of the roaming teams and said that foolproof security will be provided to the mobile polio teams. He also emphasised upon the parents and community to play their role in ensuring administration of polio drops to the children upto the age of five years. - DNA

Installing the street lights is underway

The Chairman CDA, Aamir Ali Ahmed took personal interest for the restoration of the lights. Chairman CDA issued fund of Rs 60m to street lights department

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Work of Capital Development Authority (CDA) on installing the street lights is underway. 90% lights at main roads, streets, and markets of the capital city were being neglected for a long time. 90% of the lights were fully fused due to which citizens were

continuously registering complaints. In response, the Chairman CDA, Aamir Ali Ahmed took personal interest for the restoration of the lights. Chairman CDA issued fund of Rs 60 million to street lights department. The department of street lights is working in two shifts for the restoration of the

lights. Lights have been restored on Express Highway, Srinagar Highway, Constitutional Avenue, Margala road, 7th Avenue, 9th Avenue, Shakarparian park, F-9 park, F-10, I-10, I-9, and various other sectors and markets. The work on restoration of lights at link roads and streets is also underway

Murad Saeed blasts frustrated opposition

Addressing a press conference here, the minister criticised the duplicity of opposition and said that those who were advocating complete lockdown during the first wave of coronawere now organizing public rallies in defiance of NCOC directives

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed Sunday said Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) leadership was frustrated after defeat in Gilgit-Baltistan elections and failure of their public rally in Peshawar. Addressing a press conference here, the minister criticised the duplicity of opposition and said that those who were advocating complete lockdown during the first wave of coronavirus were now organizing public rallies in defiance of NCOC directives. Murad Saeed said the masses have rejected the PDM as they

knew fully well that when in power, the PPP and PML-N did nothing for their welfare, rather they stuffed their own coffers with ill gotten money and now the aim of so called protest movement was to get concessions from the government. He urged the opposition to stop the cruel joke with the lives of the poor people and postpone their political rallies in the larger national interest. He said the opposition had no interest in protection of people's lives or revival of economy as they wanted to do politics on these both issues. He said Pakistan succeeded to defeat the first wave of coronavirus due to effective strategy of Prime Minister Imran Khan. He said big



economies and modern health infrastructures collapsed in the world but Pakistan government with the cooperation of masses and efforts of doctors and para medical staff successfully protected lives and livelihood of the peo-

ple. He reminded the opposition parties that they had ruled the country for four decades but failed to improve health care facilities and left the economy in a shambles. He said instead of feeling ashamed for their failures, they had tried to blame the PTI government for poor economy and frail health infrastructure. He said that entire world had appreciated Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan for effective handling of coronavirus pandemic by taking timely decisions and introducing the concept of smart lock down but the opposition had no moral courage to acknowledge this fact. He said the opposition wanted to protect themselves from corona but endanger lives of the mass-

es by holding public rallies. He said the participants of an event at Bilawal House were asked to show certificate of having no coronavirus. Similarly almost all members of Sharif family including Nawaz Sharif, his sons Hussain and Hassan, his son in law, Shahbaz Sharif's son Salman and Ishaq Dar were in London but they were hellbent to play with the lives of poor people by organizing public meetings. Moreover, he said that PPP and PML-N had imposed lock down in Sindh and Azad Jammu and Kashmir respectively but in the areas not ruled by them, they were endangering people's lives by organizing public meetings which was criminal.

5093 cards to be issued senior citizens

RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Rawalpindi Captain (retd) Muhammad Mahmood Sunday said that under the 'Ba Himmat Buzurg Program' started on the direction of Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Bazard, cards would be issued to a total of 5093 senior citizens in the division. Under this program elderly persons of 65 years or above will be able to get Rs 2000 per month. He said this while presiding over a meeting at the Commissioner's Office in which officials of district administration, social welfare and other concerned departments participated. The commissioner said that the program had been started simultaneously in Rawalpindi, Attock, Jhelum and Chakwal districts and reports on issuance of cards from all districts, verification of default and other related matters were being collected daily basis. He said that cards would be issued to 2257 senior citizens in Rawalpindi district while in Attock district 894, Jhelum 616 and Chakwal 1326 deserving senior citizens would be issued cards. - APP

Shamas colony police recovers arms from accused

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Shamas Colony police arrested an accused on Sunday and recovered six 9 MM pistols and 12 magazines from his possession, a police spokesman said. Following directions of IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan, DIG (Operations) assigned task to all police officials to accelerate efforts against anti-social elements. In pursuance of these directions, SP (Industrial Area) Zone Zubair Ahmed Sheikh constituted special teams for checking and vigilance in the area. One of the team including DSP Khalid Mehmud Awan, SHO Turab ul Hassan, Sub-Inspector Mansoor Ahmed nabbed an accused Sabz Ali and recovered six 9 MM pistols and 12 magazines from his possession. Case has been registered against him and further investigation is underway. DIG (Operations) has appreciated this overall performance and directed for effective policing through out the city.

Individuals trying to sell fake papers arrested

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Sunday nabbed a group of individuals selling fake papers for the Medical Dental and College Admission Test (MDCAT) being held across the country today. Taking to Twitter, the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) confirmed that the papers obtained from their custody are fake. "The MDCAT examination has started and remains fully secure," the commission said in a tweet. After multiple delays and hiccups, thousands of aspirants are appearing in the MDCAT exam. The MDCAT is taking place in designated centres under the strict implementation of the coronavirus-related standard operating procedures, the PMC stated.

Police Inspector died of Covid-19 in Rawalpindi

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Police man was died while fighting Covid-19 on Sunday, as Inspector Muhammad Ajib was undergoing treatment at Rawalpindi Institute of Urology after contracting Corona virus last his breath. According to SOPs, his funeral prayers will be offered at his residence in Dhok Noor Dakhli Meera, Rawalpindi. On the directives of IG Punjab Inam Ghani, Rawalpindi Police paid the dues of the martyr's family. CPO Rawalpindi Muhammad Hassan Younas expressed deep sorrow over the death of the official and prayed Allah Almighty to give courage to the family to bear irreparable loss.

A digital parliament

AS the pandemic enters its first year, it becomes evident that institutions cannot shut down or things cannot be halted temporarily. Instead, the infrastructure needs to be adjusted to the pandemic—daily workings, patterns and perhaps the way we have been doing things for decades have to be changed in order to make the lockdowns work in an efficient way. Herein lies the conundrum of parliament. Parliament cannot shut down for obvious reasons—in order to counter the pandemic, legislators need to meet in session and pass laws and deliberate bills. Yet with an increasing number of parliamentarians testing positive for the virus, most recently PPP Chief Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, the old system of gathering in the National Assembly in Islamabad will not work for the time being. This is where technology must be used in order to make our democracy work. A special fund of Rs6 million has been earmarked by National Assembly Secretariat to ensure virtual meetings so that parliament sessions can be held despite the crisis. Training of sitting MNAs will be part of the programme. All the bills, agenda, publications will be available on a digital system, with the lawmakers given special access through laptops. This was a long time coming and it is hoped that the programme is installed timely. Countries across the world have put in place mechanisms for video conferences for parliament. The use of technology would not only improve the performance of the government departments but also ensure transparency in public services because it leads to better monitoring and registration of details. While a lot of this hefty fund should go towards equipment and infrastructure, there must also be an emphasis on the training of parliamentarians. Our digital policies have reflected that a large number of officials in government are still not up to date when it comes to using technology—considering its enormous place in the world and politics, this is negligence and parliamentarians regardless need training to operate in a digital workspace.

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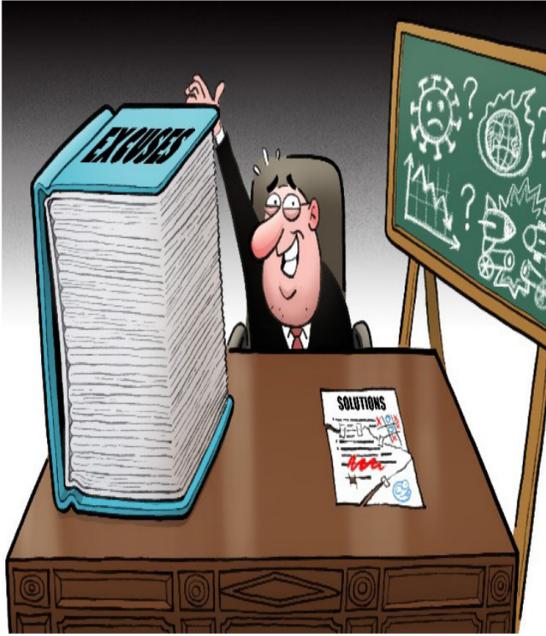
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The future of academic research

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

A PIECE of recent news mentions about 81 Pakistani academics who have become part of the two percent scientists. The list has been compiled by Stanford University in the USA. It has names of 159683 people from across the world from all scientific disciplines. These academicians and researchers were added to the list based on an international evaluation of their research papers. Moreover, their selection was made on a career-long citation impact until 2019. Included in this list are eleven teachers from the Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad and five scientists from the University of Haripur. This milestone achievement shows that Pakistanis do have the ability to make a difference and pursue tasks requiring cognitive skills. The challenge here is to create a ripple effect where the same passion to learn and grow is directed and imparted among people from all social strata. These scientists can publish the summary of their research in easy-to-understand language on social media and print publications. It will be helping those who are directly or indirectly associated with such professions to which the research is related. Translating such research in Urdu and other regional languages will be useful in its swift dissemination. Fortunately, 2% of Pakistanis are a part of such a distinguished list. However, it is the duty of these 2% Pakistanis to share their findings to help others understand their work and learn something new. The education sector of Pakistan, apart from the need for restructuring, requires a change in its syllabus. It needs to impart practical learning among students who can question and broaden their mental horizon. Such scientists can add value to the content and syllabus by adding such information that is relevant, pertinent, and useful for the careers and professional learning of the students. The concerned authorities must make such strategies so the students and professionals can benefit from the learning of such academicians, scientists, and researchers who make Pakistan proud.

Pak Civil Award for China's Minister Song Tao

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani



The IDCPC since 1951, under the direct leadership of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), has seen a continuous expansion of its international exchanges and communications serving the key tasks of the Party in different periods. The aims of its work is to serve China's reform and open-up policy and the socialist modernization drive as well as the overall strategy of state diplomacy, which help consolidate the Party's position in office

A SPECIAL Investiture Ceremony was held at Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing, on Thursday the 19th November, 2020. Pakistan's Ambassador Mr. Moin-ul-Haque, on behalf of the President of Pakistan, conferred civil award of Pakistan upon "Hilal-i-Pakistan" Mr. Song Tao in recognition of his outstanding services towards Pakistan and strengthening of Sino-Pakistan relations. Mr. Song Tao is the Minister of International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) Central Committee, and a member of 19th CPC Central committee. He has been a great friend of Pakistan and an ardent advocate of Pakistan-China friendship. In his capacity as Minister IDCPC by leading a team of four Vice Ministers & two Assistant Ministers, Mr. Song Tao has been instrumental in promoting the sustainable and healthy development of Pakistan-China exchange in the spheres of people-to-people contacts and party-to-party linkages. Mr. Song Tao has played a key role in fostering greater mutual understanding between the CPC and various political parties of Pakistan, thereby contributing to consolidating the all-around social consensus on the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and jointly building a closer Pakistan-China Community of Shared Future in the New Era. He was also the force behind the strengthen political support for realizing CPEC's potential as a game-changer for Pakistan's socio-economic development. The special investiture ceremony was also attended by the IDCPC Vice Minister Mr. Guoyeshou a part from senior officials of International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC) and from Pakistan Embassy, Minister & Deputy Head of Mission Mr. Ahmed Farooq, Defense Attache Brig. Shahid Amir Afsar, Counselor & HOC Mr. Naeem Cheema. The IDCPC since 1951, under the direct leadership of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), has seen a continuous expansion of its international exchanges and communications serving the key tasks of the Party in different periods. The aims of its work is to serve China's reform and open-up policy and the socialist modernization drive as well as the overall strategy of state diplomacy, which help consolidate the Party's position in office and contribute to the building of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the fact well acknowledged and proven over the period of decades. The CPC associates with not only the communist parties and other left-wing parties of the world as it originally did but also national democratic parties of the developing countries and political parties and statesmen of various ideologies and natures such as socialist, labor and conservative parties in the developed countries as well as their international organizations as it later expanded. Up till now, the CPC has established contacts and exchanges with more than 600 political parties and organizations in over 160 countries, most of which are either parties in office or parties participating in government. Gratifying results have been achieved which can be described as "making friends in the four corners of the earth and finding kith and kin across the oceans". IDCPC's main missions are to carry out theoretical, strate-

gic, comprehensive and policy oriented studies on international situation, world political parties, socialist movement, contemporary capitalism and other important global issues; to coordinate the research efforts within the Department and conduct academic exchanges and cooperation with outside institutions; to hold press conference and publicity activities over the Party's international work. The office has a professional team with a broad scope of research areas and appropriately structured expertise background. IDCPC through eight (8) Bureaus looking after relations and exchanges with political parties and organizations across the globe, while IDCPC Information Center is commissioned to collect and analyze information on international issues and political parties in the world. As the International Department is a functional organ of the Central Committee of the CPC responsible for the Party's international work. By party-to-party relations and the advantage of political party contacts, IDCPC have played a very positive role in establishing, developing and consolidating China's relations with foreign countries. The IDCPC, for decades, coordinated with China's foreign diplomacy. They have a unique role in facilitating the progress of healthy and stable state-to-state relations when political instability and frequent change of governments happen in some countries. As an "accelerator," party-to-party relations have facilitated the progress of state relations. Party-to-party relations cover both the party in office and the party not in power, established or up and coming people. CPC's international relations have elevated CPC's governing ability. As a party in power, with over 70 million members and leading a country of 1.3 billion people, the CPC is facing, among other tasks, a mission how to keep shoulder to shoulder with the changing international and domestic situations, and how to improve its leading and governing abilities. IDCPC also plays its vital role during COVID 19 by providing in shortest time coronavirus testing kits to friendly countries across the globe, sent plane loads of ventilators, masks and medicines. The Chinese President, Xi Jinping, who is also Secre-

tary-General of CPC has offered comforting words to global leaders like telling the Spanish prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, that "sunshine comes after the storm". As the coronavirus outbreak spreads and countries struggle to respond, China has positioned itself as a leader and benefactor in public health, building the kind of soft power Beijing needs at a time of intensifying US-China rivalry and scrutiny of Chinese influence around the world. In Pakistan, IDCPC also provided complimentary COVID 19 protection masks and necessary equipments like body suits PPEs to all Political Parties, NGOs. In this connection the role of Mr. Bayazeed Kasi -PTT's advisor on cooperation with CPC with active coordination of IDCPC is highly appreciated. No doubt, this is the fact that the International Department has so far delivered much of what is expected of it. Its brand of party-based diplomacy has assumed a prominence that is unseen in any other countries' diplomatic practices. Under President Xi Jinping leadership party-based diplomacy has indeed grown to be an important tool of China's diplomacy. Moreover, Xi is also emphasizing how party based diplomacy can play a key role in explaining China's policies and promoting China's image and soft power to foreign elites. This unique practice of party-based diplomacy has perhaps given China the advantage to cultivate friendships and elite networks of all sorts. Looking forward, while much of what has been discussed in these lines about party-based diplomacy will continue under the leadership of Xi Jinping, there could also be another growing role for the International Department in the future. This is the training of foreign party cadres, especially in developing countries. Xi is increasingly becoming more confident in promoting the developmental experiences of China to the developing world and in offering the so-called 'China solutions' to complex problems in the world. The growing and diversifying mandate of party-based diplomacy will ensure that the International Department continues to be a critical actor in Chinese foreign policy.

— The writer is Secretary-General Pakistan China Friendship Association & President Radio China Listener's Club. His email is syeed.gilani@gmail.com



BEIJING (China): Pakistan's Ambassador to China Mr. Moin-ul-Haque with China's Minister for International Department of Communist Party of China (IDCPC) Mr. Song Tao, after conferring "Hilal-i-Pakistan" a highest civil award on behalf of the President of Pakistan at special investiture ceremony.

Sustainable tourism

T OURISM is one of the most incredible socio-economic phenomena of the twentieth century. It singly started from an action "enjoyed by only a small group of relatively well-off people" during the first half of the last century, it gradually became a mass popular during the post- World War II, particularly from the 1970s and onwards. It now reaches wider scale and larger numbers of people throughout the world and is a source of employment for a significant segment of the labor force. Tourism can contribute as the major service sector in a country as well as in the globe as a whole. Furthermore, in this sector there is ample scope for cultural exchange, views and philosophy, in this regard it may contribute to peace through improved cross-cultural understanding. Rather than export earnings, international tourism also generates an increasingly significant share of government tax revenues throughout the world. In addition, the development of tourism as a whole is usually accompanied by considerable investments in infrastructure, such as airports, roads, water, sewerage facilities, telecommunications and other public utilities. Such improvements not only generate benefits

to tourists but can also contribute to the local area and thus be crucial to regional economic development. Moreover, tourism provides a substantial amount of jobs for women and unskilled workers, tourism can appreciably contribute to empowering women and lighten poverty. Even so, it is now generally accepted that tourism can make an imperative role to employment, export receipts and national income in most countries and regions. Furthermore, tourism is often identified as the most promising driving force for economic development of under developed countries and regions endowed with areas of natural beauty because it offers them a valuable opportunity for economic diversification. Likewise, if it goes uncontrolled it can be a threat for natural resources, including fresh water, marine resources, endanger species, and forests. Since, tourism can also lead to the indiscriminate clearance of native vegetation for the development of new facilities, increased demand for fuel wood and even forest fires. In many countries, coastlines are becoming overbuilt due to tourism development until the damage caused by environmental degradation – and the eventual loss of revenues arising from a collapse in tour-

ism arrivals – becomes irreversible. As intensive tourism development and recreational activities in coastal areas can not only lead to beach destruction and coastal degradation but can also threaten coral reefs and other marine ecosystems. Other major problems arising from tourist activities in mountain regions include disruption of animal migration by road and tourist facilities, sewage pollution of rivers, excessive water withdrawals from streams to supply resorts and accumulation of solid waste on trails. Here the solution could be offered by the government through making environmental policies, management measures and technologies that can surely reduce these negative impacts by proposing the foundation of sustainability in tourism, that is commonly known as ecotourism. Since only Sustainable tourism can take care about the environment through ecological development by attempting to make as low impact on the environment and local culture as possible, while helping to generate future employment for local people, with the aim to ensure that development brings a positive experience for local people, tourism companies and the tourists themselves. Moreover, it facilitates in protection of natural and heritage assets.

Munaza Kazmi



Likewise, if it goes uncontrolled it can be a threat for natural resources, including fresh water, marine resources, endanger species, and forests. Since, tourism can also lead to the indiscriminate clearance of native vegetation for the development of new facilities

Briefs

Kabul:
Pakistan
gifted
oxygen plant

ISLAMABAD: Afghan Minister for Public Health Ahmad Jawad Usmani and Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan Mansoor Ahmad Khan Sunday jointly inaugurated an oxygen production plant fixed at Muhammad Ali Jinnah Hospital at Kabul. The plant was gifted by the government of Pakistan to cater to the needs of the Afghan patients.

"The installment of this plant will make the doctors to treat Covid-19 patients effectively as the plant has the capacity of providing oxygen to more than 200 beds in addition to extra 50 oxygen balloons per hour and around 1200 balloons in 24 hours," said a press release. On the occasion, Ambassador of Pakistan Mansoor Ahmad Khan said that Pakistan had pledged \$1 billion as assistance to Afghanistan.

Only in health sector three hospitals had been completed at a cost of \$72 million which included Jinnah Hospital at Kabul, Naib Aminullah Hospital at Logar and Nishtar Kidney hospital at Jalalabad, he added. He further said that they had proposed for conversion of this hospital into a post graduate teaching hospital wherein doctors trained in Pakistan could continue their post graduate training under supervision of leading medical institutes of Pakistan. He also expressed his view that he also wished to extend the existing facilities in Jinnah Hospital by incorporating cancer block and other facilities as required by the Afghan patients.

The ambassador said that they had been closely coordinating with the Afghan government through ministry of health and ministry of Foreign Affairs on aforementioned proposals.

OIC adopts
resolutions
over Armenia's
aggression

FOREIGN DESK

NAMEY: The 47th meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was held in the Nigerian capital Niamey on November 27-28, media reports citing press service MFA.

At the meeting of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, resolutions were adopted covering political, economic and cultural issues related to the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan. These resolutions, traditionally adopted annually by the OIC, include new provisions taking into account the latest situation in the region.

The OIC adopted three resolutions entitled "Aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan", "Economic assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan" and "Destruction and insult of Islamic historical and cultural shrines in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan as a result of the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan". The resolutions were adopted by 57 OIC member countries.

2 Pakistan
players
no longer
infectious

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: New Zealand Health Ministry has stated on Sunday that two of the six initial COVID-19 positive cases in the Pakistan squad are no longer infectious.

The national squad also underwent serology Tests along with routine PCR testing for the COVID-19 virus yesterday. "Following serology (blood) testing, two of the original six positive cases are now considered to be historic cases and are therefore not infectious," the NZ health ministry said in its media release.

The media release further said that 11 individuals return positive serology due to having historical infections. Names were not revealed by the ministry. "As a result, a further 11 people (in addition to the two mentioned above) returned previous serology indicating previous 'historic' infections," the ministry added.



KABUL: Mansoor Ahmad Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan to Afghanistan along with Afghan health minister, Ahmad Jawad Usmani inaugurated new oxygen production plant provided by Pakistan to Jinnah hospital Kabul. - DNA

Mike Tyson, Roy Jones
exhibition bout ends in draw

Fifteen years after retiring with a 2005 loss to journeyman Kevin McBride, Tyson made his comeback at Staples Center in Los Angeles without spectators in a pay-per-view matchup that mixed curiosity and nostalgia

SPORTS DESK

LOS ANGELES: Legendary boxers and quinquagenarians Mike Tyson and Roy Jones Jr fought out a draw on their return to the ring in an eight-round exhibition. Fifteen years after retiring with a 2005 loss to journeyman Kevin McBride, Tyson made his comeback at Staples Center in Los Angeles without spectators in a pay-per-view matchup that mixed curiosity and nostalgia.

California State Athletic Commission officials required two-minute rounds instead of the usual three-minute rounds, mandated larger than normal 12-ounce gloves, said neither fighter could seek a knockout and declared

there could be no official winner in safety moves for the over-50 fighters.

"Sometimes that two minutes felt like three minutes," Tyson said. "I'm glad I got this under my belt and I'm looking forward to doing it again."

An "unofficial" panel of former World Boxing Council champions at ringside scored the bout a draw, an outcome that Tyson applauded despite appearing to dominate. "I'm good with that," Tyson said, admitting he thought he had won the fight. "Yeah, but I'm good with a draw. The crowd was happy with that." Jones, who looked tired and grabbed Tyson much of the fight, was unhappy at a draw. "I ain't never happy with a draw. I don't do draw,"



Jones said, admitting that Tyson hurt him throughout the bout, particularly with body blows. "If he hits you with his head, punches, body shots, it don't matter, everything hurts. Body shots definitely took a toll. Body shots are what makes you exhausted." Tyson, who entered 50-

with 44 knockouts, lost 100 pounds and began training again, his desire to get back in shape becoming a hunger to strap on the gloves once more. Jones, who entered 66-9 with 47 knockouts, had not fought since a February 2018 cruiserweight victory. He hoped a solid effort against Tyson might set up a

fight with 45-year-old Brazilian mixed martial arts star Anderson Silva.

"It's going to hurt," Tyson came out aggressive and fast, swinging and connecting often to the body of Jones, who was able to hit and evade at times, then hugging Tyson often when all else failed.

"You came back. I hit you with good shots and you took it," Tyson told Jones. "We have to do this again." A hard left to the head stung Jones in round two and he spent much of the third and fourth rounds holding and moving into clinches with Tyson. "It's something in there taking punches from Mike," Jones said. "Once I go in there, I'm game. I'll go to the end. I know when he hits me it's going to hurt."

Tyson landed an inside right and a hard left to the head of Jones in the fifth round, then connected to the body with a solid right and left in the sixth, Jones evading a right uppercut and tying up Tyson before he could land major combinations. Tyson stung the midsection of Jones in round seven but was held before he could press the advantage.

In the eighth and final round, Tyson pounded a pair of left hooks to the body but Jones tied him up and they finished trading inside punches.

"I was very happy to go the eight rounds," Tyson said. "I'm more happy with going the distance."

"I was afraid I might get hurt. Why is nobody worried about my ass? I haven't done this in 15 years."

Foreign diplomats
inspect Armenian
war crime scenes

DNA

BAKU: Representatives of diplomatic corps accredited in Azerbaijan, including heads of representations of international organizations in the country visited the liberated from Armenian occupation the city of Aghdam. The visit was aimed at familiarizing foreign diplomats with the atrocities and scenes of crimes committed by the Armenian armed forces in the city.

The diplomats were accompanied by the Azerbaijani presidential aide Hikmat Hajiyev and other officials. The diplomats familiarized themselves with severe consequences of Armenian war crimes committed in the city. They witnessed the atrocities and vandalism committed by the Armenians in Aghdam city for 27 years.

They were informed that Armenians savagely destroyed residential set-

tlements, cemeteries, historical and cultural monuments in Aghdam.

Before Aghdam, foreign diplomats and Azerbaijani officials accompanying them visited Tartar, which had suffered from huge destructions as a result of the Armenian missile attacks.

Earlier Hajiyev said that a missile fired to Tartar by the Armenian armed forces in late October had been delivered to a local museum. "Smerch missile fired to Tartar on October 29 was taken from private house and delivered to the museum of the local mayor's office," Hajiyev wrote in his Twitter account on November 28. In another tweet, the presidential aide said: "Shikharkh settlement of Tartar region. During the 44-day war Armenia intensively shelled this settlement constructed for IDPs in an indiscriminate manner. Diplomatic corps have witnessed consequences of Armenia's brutal rocket and artillery attacks."

Argentine prosecutors
investigate death of Maradona

BUENOS AIRES: Argentine justice officials are investigating the death of soccer star Diego Maradona and ordered the search of properties of his personal doctor on Sunday, a local prosecutor's office said. Maradona died at age 60 of a heart attack on Wednesday. The search order was requested by prosecutors in the affluent Buenos Aires suburb San Isidro and signed by a local judge, according to a statement issued by the prosecutor's office. "Yesterday [Saturday] the investigation and substantiation of evidence continued with the taking of statements from people including direct relatives of the deceased," it said. "By virtue of the evidence that was collected, it was considered necessary to request searches at the home and office of doctor Leopoldo Luque," the prosecutor's office said in the statement. The prosecutor's office provided no information on what prompted the investigation. Maradona's lawyer, Matias Moria, on Thursday said he would ask for a full investigation of the circumstances of the soccer legend's death, criticizing what he said was a slow response by emergency service. - DNA



MADRID: Alaves' Tomas Pina vies with Real Madrid's Toni Kroos during a Spanish football league match between Real Madrid and Deportivo Alaves. - DNA

Babar Azam accused of sexual harassment

Speaking at a press conference in Lahore on Saturday, the woman, identified as Hamiza, claimed that she was Azam's neighbour and old school mate, adding that the young cricketer tricked her into love and marriage

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Star cricketer and Pakistan's all-format captain Babar Azam has been accused of sexual abuse, violence and financial fraud by a woman from Lahore that claims to be his former girlfriend and classmate.

Speaking at a press conference in Lahore on Saturday, the woman, identified as Hamiza, claimed that she was

Azam's neighbour and old school mate, adding that the young cricketer tricked her into love and marriage.

"When I asked him to marry me, he tortured me," she said.

Hamiza said that she had financially supported Azam when he was struggling with his career, adding that she spent millions of rupees on him.

"When I called the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to lodge a complaint, they



said that it was a personal matter," she continued. According to Jang, when



questioned about the allegations, PCB's Director of Media and Communi-

cations Samiul Hassan said that this was Babar's private matter and the Board could not comment on it.

During Saturday's press conference, the woman's lawyer said that an FIR had been lodged with the Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Lahore regarding the matter but no action was taken. Hamiza's petition is now pending at the Sessions Court, which is scheduled for a hearing on

December 4. The sexual harassment case will be heard on December 5. Babar Azam, who is in New Zealand for a three-match T20I series and a two-match Test series, could not be reached for a comment on the matter. It is pertinent to mention here that another Pakistan star, Shoaib Malik, had faced a similar scandal prior to his wedding to Indian tennis player Sania Mirza a decade or so ago.

Azerbaijan
football
team visits
freed city

SPORTS DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijani football club Qarabag, a city liberated by the country's army recently from the occupation of Armenian forces. Qarabag chairman Tahir Gozel, senior team manager Kurban Kurbanov and the players offered prayers at a mosque in the city.

The team also visited an old stadium, which was razed to the ground. The players played football in the ground and lifted their championship trophy in a symbolic victory. Qarabag won the 2020 Azerbaijani Premier League title in June.

The team also paid their respects to Allahverdi Bagirov, a national hero of Azerbaijan and one of the founders of the football club, who is buried in a graveyard in the town. Bagirov was killed by an anti-tank mine during his return to Aghdam in 1992.

The Aghdam district was occupied in 1993. Some 70,000 people were since displaced and resettled in the nearby Azerbaijani provinces of Tartar and Barda.

On Nov. 20, Azerbaijani forces liberated Aghdam. Fresh border clashes erupted between Azerbaijan and Armenia on Sept. 27 resulting in civilian casualties. After over six weeks, a Russia-brokered truce was reached. The truce is seen as a victory for Azerbaijan, and a defeat for Armenia. During this period, Baku liberated several cities and nearly 300 settlements and villages from the Armenian occupation.

'Ties with
Israel
betrayal
of Muslims'

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iran has denounced the normalization of ties between certain member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Israel as "a betrayal of Muslims" and a violation of the 57-nation body's principles.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Director General for International Peace and Security Reza Najafi made the remarks at the 47th session of the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers in Niger's capital, Niamey, on Saturday.

Najafi expressed serious concerns about a decision by certain OIC countries to forge formal diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv, saying, "Any interaction with the fake and illegal Zionist regime, whose life involves 60 years of crime, murder, torture and displacement of thousands of Palestinians, is considered a betrayal of Muslims and a violation of the fundamental principles of the OIC and will deal a serious blow to the unity of the organization's member states and the Muslim Ummah." "A few members of the organization betrayed the Muslim Ummah by revealing their secret relations with the Zionist regime," he added.

Najafi further urged the international community to strengthen efforts towards upholding the Palestinians' inalienable rights to return to their homeland and establish an independent state in the occupied territories, with East Jerusalem al-Quds as its capital.

France:
45 migrants
rescued

DNA

PARIS: French patrol ship has rescued 45 migrants, including a pregnant woman and children, who were crossing the English Channel on a boat, said the Maritime Prefecture for the English Channel and the North Sea on Sunday.

At the time of rescue on Saturday evening, the boat had run into difficulties off the coast of the Leffrinckoucke commune in northern France, as several migrants appeared to be hypothermic, the French authorities said in a statement, adding that the migrants were then being taken good care of. France and Britain signed a new deal on Saturday to curb illegal migration across the English Channel, with such measures as an increase in the number of patrolers on French beaches and employment of drones and radar.

Briefs

4 Azerbaijani civilians killed in mine explosion

FOREIGN DESK

BAKU: Four Azerbaijani civilians lost their lives after a mine laid by Armenian forces exploded, state authorities said Saturday. The explosion occurred when a vehicle carrying the civilians came in contact with the landmine in the village of Ashagi Seyidahmedli of Fuzuli province, the Chief Prosecutor's Office said. The province was recently liberated by the Azerbaijani army from nearly three-decades of Armenian occupation. While retreating from the occupied territories, the Armenian forces laid mines to target the civilians, prosecutors said in a statement. They also asked the public to not enter the liberated areas without a special permit. Relations between the former Soviet republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia have been tense since 1991 when the Armenian military occupied Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Upper Karabakh, a territory recognized as part of Azerbaijan, and seven adjacent regions. New clashes erupted on Sept. 27 and ended with a Russian-brokered truce six weeks later. Baku liberated several strategic cities, and nearly 300 of its settlements and villages from the Armenian occupation during this time.

Palestinian envoy hails countries voicing solidarity

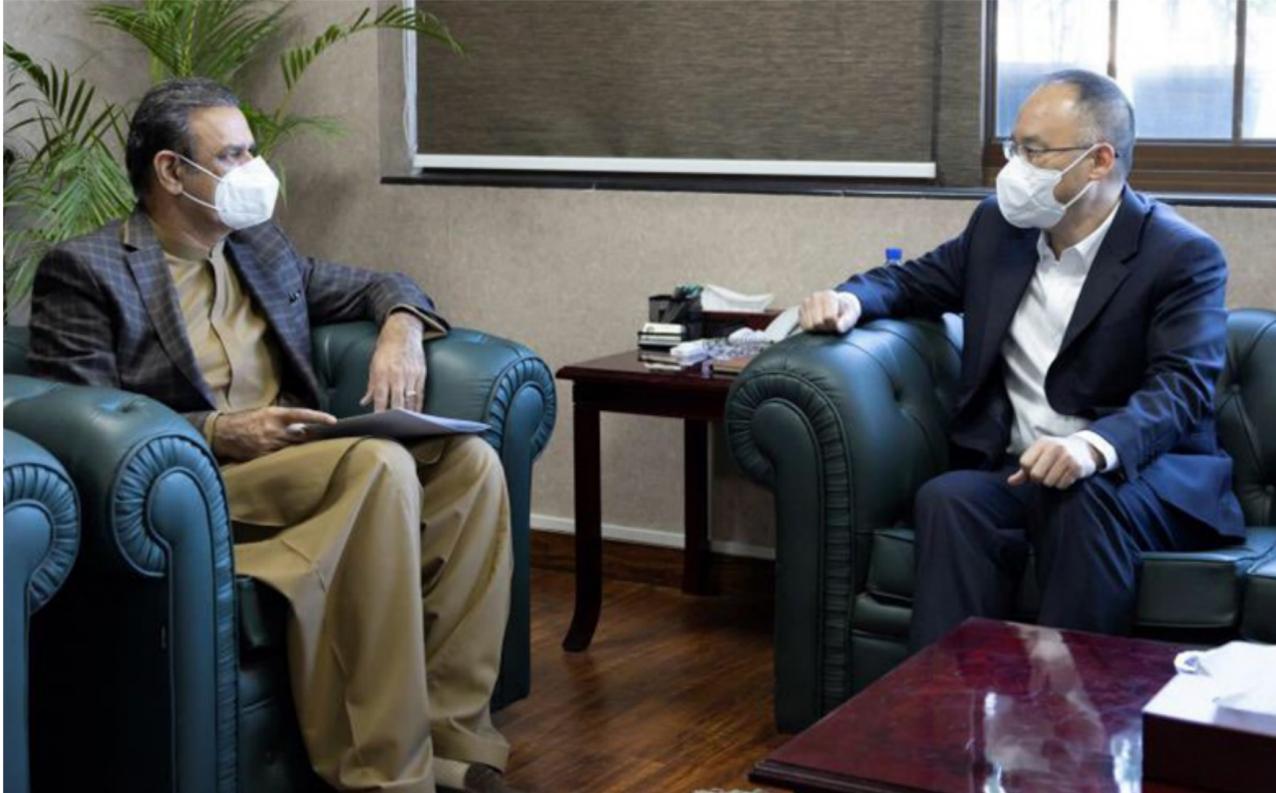
FOREIGN DESK

RAMALLAH: The Palestinian envoy to Turkey thanked Saturday everyone who supported the people of Palestine. "On the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, we thank all states, governments, organizations and people who expressed their solidarity with the Palestinian people, supported their struggle and strengthened them in their most difficult days," Palestinian Ambassador to Turkey Faed Mustafa said in a statement. Mustafa also hailed the Republic of Turkey, especially President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, for their support to the rights of freedom and independence of the Palestinian people. He also thanked Turkey's Foreign Ministry, Grand National Assembly, political parties, civil society organizations and the Turkish people for showing solidarity with the rightful cause. In 1977, the UN General Assembly called for the annual observance of Nov. 29 as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Underlining that the Palestinian people have experienced trials and tribulations for more than 72 years, he said they have not given up fighting for their rights which are recognized by international law.

Canada bans mass exports of prescription drugs

FOREIGN DESK

OTTAWA: Canada has banned the export of some prescription medicines in order to prevent a shortage in the country. The decision is in response to a US plan that would allow for drugs to be imported from Canada to make them cheaper for Americans. Although prescription drug prices in Canada are higher than some nations, they are cheaper than the US. A number of Canada's drug suppliers had warned that the plan, implemented by President Trump, would cause shortages. The pandemic has already increased demands for some medicines, according to the media. A statement from Canada's health ministry said the country sources 68% of its drugs from overseas and therefore it was important to avoid any disruptions to supplies. "Companies will now also be required to provide information to assess existing or potential shortages when requested, and within 24 hours if there is a serious or imminent health risk," the statement said.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China Nong Rong met with the Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Bajwa and discussed the way forward with. – DNA

'Biden administration will be a bigger problem for China'

I think the Chinese are more concerned with a Biden administration than a Trump administration," said O'Neill, a former chief economist at Goldman Sachs and now president of Chatham House, suggesting that Biden's team "has stronger philosophical beliefs." in key issues

DNA

LONDON: Joe Biden's presidency will be a bigger problem for the Chinese government than Donald Trump's nearly four-year presidency, economist Jim O'Neill, chairman of the British research institute Chatham House, told. Trump has taken a different approach to US-China relations by unilaterally imposing tariffs on Beijing. The US president has often criticized China on Twitter and

sparked a trade war with China that has had a negative effect on the global economy. This policy differs greatly from the European approach, for example, which often negotiates trade disputes with China using traditional institutions such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the G20. President-elect Biden will also call for these agreements to be negotiated through multilateral institutions, which could mean more concrete action against China.

"I think the Chinese are more concerned with a Biden administration than a Trump administration," said O'Neill, a former chief economist at Goldman Sachs and now president of Chatham House, suggesting that Biden's team "has stronger philosophical beliefs." in key issues. "They (Biden's team) will use existing multinational forums to try to force China to meet the standards of such international forums, whether it's the WHO, the G20, the World Bank, and so on, and so on. Than this "style of negotiation

so loved by Trump," he added. Chinese President Xi Jinping called Biden earlier this week to congratulate him on his election victory. According to media reports, Xi said he hopes the two countries will uphold the spirit of "non-conflict, non-confrontation, mutual respect" when managing their differences. One of the many points of tension between the US and China has been linked to climate change. Before the Trump presidency, Washington and Beijing often clashed

over how to address high carbon dioxide levels. However, US climate ambitions have changed with Trump, and pressure on China to step up its emissions efforts has eased somewhat. Beijing also changed its position in September – just weeks after the US presidential vote – announced its goal of reducing carbon emissions to zero by 2060. "In a strange way, it might already force China to think a little differently," O'Neill said of the impact of the US election on China.

Belarus protesters take to the streets with new tactic

MINSK: Opposition protesters in Belarus took to the streets of capital Minsk on Sunday in the latest of three months of demonstrations against the re-election of strongman president Alexander Lukashenko. Since an August election, Belarus has been gripped by massive protests that erupted after Lukashenko, 66, secured a sixth term as president of the ex-Soviet republic. The opposition believes the election was rigged and political novice Svetlana Tikhonovskaya – who ran against Lukashenko in the place of her jailed

husband – was the true winner of the polls. In recent weeks, authorities imposed an intense crackdown in which hundreds were detained and protesters were prevented from gathering in central Minsk. That prompted Lukashenko's opponents to change tactic, calling on supporters to create small gatherings in every district of the capital. Dmitry Golubev, a 20-year-old student, told AFP that he is rallying for "fair elections, Lukashenko's resignation and the release of political prisoners." "We are not evil people, not

foreign agents (...), we are citizens of Belarus, who want peace, calm and respect for human rights in their country," Golubev said, holding a red and white flag – a symbol of the Belarus opposition. According to local media, some twenty rallies were recorded on Sunday across the city. "Large columns of people have assembled in all districts of Minsk, without exception. The Lukashenko police are desperately rushing from district to district," said opposition Telegram channel Nexta Live that has helped coordinate the ongoing demonstrations. As

in previous weeks, several metro stations in the city centre were shut and mobile connection was limited. Riot police were deployed in large numbers, with the Tut.by news website reporting the use of stun grenades and tear gas. Human rights group Viasna said that more than 150 people have been taken into police custody as of 1400 GMT. "Everyone takes to the streets in their district and sees dozens, hundreds and thousands of supporters," Tikhonovskaya, 38, said in a video address posted on her Telegram channel on Saturday. – APP



KABUL: Dr. Omar Zakhilwal former Afghan ambassador to Pakistan met with NATO Senior Civilian Representative Ambassador Stefano Ponteavorvo who has also served in Pakistan as Italian ambassador, for discussion on peace negotiations including steps needed to overcome existing challenges & important role of key international partners for securing a durable peace in Afghanistan. – DNA

Iran blames Israel for scientist's death

WEB DESK / DNA

TEHRAN: Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says the recent assassination of a senior Iranian nuclear scientist bears the clear hallmark of atrocities committed by the Israeli regime, which has already murdered a number of Iran's scientific elites. The Iranian scientist, who headed the Defense Ministry's Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research, was targeted in a multi-pronged attack involving at least one explosion and machinegun fire by a number of assailants in Absard city of Tehran Province's Damavand County. The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, the country's nuclear agency, has likewise suspected Israeli involvement in both the assassination and a July incident at Iran's Natanz nuclear facility. "It looks like the Zionist regime [of Israel] has a role in these issues," AEOI Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said on Saturday. Zarif condemned the "cowardice" that characterizes the assassination as "an expression of the desperate war-mongering of its perpetrators." Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan, a military advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, issued similar comments earlier. The Israeli regime was seeking to "create an all-out war" in the dying political tenure of its "gambling ally (US President Donald Trump)" by risking escalation with the Islamic Republic, he said.

UK, France sign deal to curb refugee crossings

WEB DESK / DNA

PARIS: The United Kingdom and France have signed a new agreement to try to stop the undocumented movement of people across the Channel, upping patrols and technology to close off a dangerous route refugees and migrants use in hopes of reaching the UK on small boats. UK Home Secretary Priti Patel said that, under the deal signed on Saturday, the number of officers patrolling French beaches would double and new equipment, including drones and radar, would be employed. "Thanks to more police patrols on French beaches and enhanced intelligence sharing between our security and law enforcement agencies, we are already seeing fewer migrants leaving French beaches," she said. Amnesty International called the agreement "profoundly disappointing".

10m Iraqi children back to school

WEB DESK

BAGHDAD: Iraqi schools have opened their doors to 10 million students for the first time since the country entered a COVID-19 lockdown in late February. Iraq's public schools are expected to operate six days a week, instead of five, in a bid to maintain physical distancing in what were once classrooms that could easily host more than 50 students. Elementary school pupils are set to attend class one day a week, while older students will be required to go twice a week. The rest of their learning will take place online. Mohammed, a young English teacher from the town of Karma in Anbar province, said both he and his students were excited to return to the classroom after eight months of online learning. "COVID-19 is a problem, but we will have the necessary preventions. There will be three metres [nine feet] between students," he said. But keeping excitable children in check can be a daunting task. "We are sure that they won't be careful, and won't wear their masks all the time," 38-year-old Imad Mohammed Farhan said of his two sons, aged 14 and 11. The father of three from Fallujah said he and his wife were "terrified" of their boys returning to school. But added: "They miss school so much."

'Killing of Fakhriyadeh a violation of human rights'

FOREIGN DESK

DOHA: Qatar has condemned Friday's assassination of Iranian nuclear physicist Mohsen Fakhriyadeh, calling it "a clear violation of human rights". Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani expressed his condolences in a phone call with Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif. Iranian media reported on Friday that Fakhriyadeh died in hospital after he was shot in his car in an ambush east of Tehran. Fakhriyadeh served as the head of the research and innovation organisation of Iran's defence ministry at the time of his death. The West has long suspected Fakhriyadeh of being the mastermind of Iranian efforts to develop nuclear weapons, but Iran denies he was involved in any such undertaking. Al Thani stressed that the scientist's murder "will only contribute to pouring more fuel on the fire at a time when the region and the international community are searching for ways to reduce tension and return to the table of dialogue and diplomacy", Qatar news agency (QNA) reported on Saturday. Al Thani "called for restraint," it said.

Police brutality protests turn violent in Paris

FOREIGN DESK

PARIS: Saturday marked a day of widespread protest in France as "The March of Freedoms" saw thousands decry police brutality and a new global security bill that favors protecting police above freedom of expression. The demonstration in Paris started at 2 p.m. (1300GMT) at the Place de la Republique and made its way toward the Place de la Bastille. What was a peaceful march for hours turned increasingly violent as the evening approached, with fires set in the afternoon to barricades and trash cans, and the facade of the Banque de France by nightfall, along with a kiosk, brasserie and several cars. Banners and signs were held by some proclaiming defiant messages against police: "Not see, not caught", "Carrying weapons is out of service", "France: Country of Rights of the Police" and "Police everywhere, justice nowhere." Probably the most pronounced sign of all: The word "Liberte" written in black on a white background encircled by a red noose. Police were present throughout the day yet brigades streamed in as the crowd grew more turbulent, to jeers and "boos" from demonstrators.

Pak support for Palestine will not waver: Munir

"It is travesty of justice that only the Jewish state came into being and the Palestinian people were condemned to immeasurable misery, suffering and grief – by making them stateless in their own land," the Pakistani envoy said

DNA

NEW YORK: Pakistan has renewed its firm support to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and statehood, as the United Nations (UN) marked the annual International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on Sunday. "Our support remains unwavering," Ambassador Munir Akram said in a message for the occasion. The International Day of Solidar-

ity with the Palestinian People is observed each year on Nov 29. Established in 1977, it marks the day in 1947 when the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution partitioning Palestine into an Arab State and a Jewish State. "It is travesty of justice that only the Jewish state came into being and the Palestinian people were condemned to immeasurable misery, suffering and grief – by making them stateless in their own land," the Pakistani envoy said. Pakistan, he pointed out, has al-



ways remained a staunch supporter of Palestinian people. "Supporting Palestinian right to self-determination and calling for an early creation of a viable, contiguous, independent and sovereign Palestinian state, based on internationally agreed parameters – pre-1967 borders and Al Quds Al Sharif as its capital – has remained a cardinal pillar of Pakistan's foreign policy," Ambassador Akram said. "We will continue to impress upon the world that creation of a Pales-

tinian state – on the grounds acceptable to the Palestinian people – remains the only abiding guarantee for peace in the Middle East and for the wider world." Every year, he said, Pakistan tables a resolution in the UN General Assembly's Third Committee on 'universal realization of right of peoples to self-determination. "Through this, and other initiatives, we show our resolve of fighting for all oppressed people who are waging legitimate struggles to earn their freedom."

Briefs

UK secures 2m more vaccine doses

LONDON: Britain has secured two million doses of Moderna Inc's COVID-19 vaccine candidate, to be available in Europe as early as the spring, the government said on Sunday, in addition to the 5 million doses it secured from the U.S. company two weeks ago. The new deal came a day after Prime Minister Boris Johnson named Nadhim Zahawi, a junior business minister, to be minister responsible for the deployment of COVID-19 vaccines. Britain now has access to enough doses of Moderna's vaccine candidate for around 3.5 million people. Overall, it has access to 357 million doses of vaccines from seven developers, according to government statement. "With a wide range of vaccine candidates in our portfolio, we stand ready to deploy a vaccine should they receive approval from our medicines regulator, starting with those who will benefit most," health minister Matt Hancock said in the statement. Moderna's experimental vaccine is 94.5% effective in preventing COVID-19 based on interim data from a late-stage trial. - Agencies

Five-day anti-polio drive starts today

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A five-day national immunization drive will commence from November 30 (Monday) today to vaccinate over 39 million children under the age of five across the country in Pakistan. According to an official of Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI), around 285,000 polio frontline workers will visit house-to-house, observing strict SOPs for COVID-19, to ensure protection of Pakistani children from the crippling polio virus. Inaugurating the nationwide drive, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Dr Faisal Sultan said, "The government is committed to make Pakistan Polio-free. We are determined to close the immunity gap in children which had unfortunately widened because of disruption of essential services due to COVID-19 pandemic." He said, "Ensuring timely and repeated vaccination of children is critical for us to reduce the immunity gap and protect them against polio. I therefore, urge all parents and care givers to ensure polio vaccination to their children during the campaign as well as in routine." Dr Faisal said, "I am confident, together we will achieve our target of making a safer, healthier and polio-free Pakistan for our children." During the campaign, the trained polio frontline workers will reach every child with essential polio vaccine while adhering to strict COVID-19 standard operating procedures.

RUN FOR A BETTER WORLD



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Serena Hotel arranged a walk titled RUN FOR A BETTER WORLD. A number of diplomats and members of civil society took part in the walk. UNODC also partnered with Serena Hotel. The participants gathered at the Jasime Garden and walked up to open theatre in Shakarprian. Prize distribution took place at the end of the event. Full coverage of the event in the coming issue of CENTRELINE magazine. - DNA

Pakistan hails OIC's support for Kashmir

FO Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhry said the declaration explicitly reiterated the Organisation of Islamic Conference's principled position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute for a peaceful settlement in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Sunday said that the inclusion of Jammu and Kashmir dispute in the Niamey Declaration of the 47th session of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers is yet another manifestation of the organisation's consistent support to the Kashmir cause.

the Organisation of Islamic Conference's principled position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute for a peaceful settlement in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The OIC on Saturday reaffirmed its support for Pakistan on the Kashmir cause as it slammed Indian state-sponsored terrorism in the region. According to a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the OIC, in a unanimously adopted resolution at the 47th Council of Foreign

Ministers deplored India's state terrorism. "[The OIC] denounced the use of pellet guns by Indian troops in [India-occupied Jammu and Kashmir]," the statement said, adding that it urged New Delhi to abide by international human rights obligations. Urging the international community to review their engagements with India, the OIC acknowledged the people of Jammu and Kashmir as a principal party to the dispute. The OIC has decided to further consider

the Jammu and Kashmir dispute at the 48th CFM that is scheduled in Islamabad, the statement said. The organisation strongly urged India to implement recommendations of two reports of the United Nations for human rights in the region and also reaffirmed that the final decision of the region would be through a free and impartial plebiscite. The resolution demanded India to "cancel the issuance of domicile certificates to non-Kashmiris" as well as

other unilateral and illegal actions, including "Jammu & Kashmir Reorganization Order 2020", "Jammu & Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate Rules 2020", "Jammu and Kashmir Language Bill 2020" and amendments to the landownership laws. **OIC to hold next session in Islamabad** Positively responding to Pakistan's offer, the 47th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of OIC in Niger has decided to host the 48th CFM Session at Islama-

bad in 2021. As the prospective CFM Chair, Pakistan has also become a member of the 6-member OIC Executive Committee for the next three years. Pakistan is a founding member of the OIC. It has always played an important role in promoting the role of OIC as a collective voice of Muslim Ummah. The OIC is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations, with 57 members and 5 observer states spanning over four continents.

OGRA recommends higher petrol prices in Dec

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Company has advised the petroleum division to raise fuel prices in December. It has sent a summary with higher prices to the division. OGRA recommends raising petrol prices from Rs2.55 per litre from December 1. High speed diesel should be increased by Rs2.70, it has advised. Prime Minister Imran Khan has to approve the higher prices before they come into effect. The Finance Ministry will announce the new prices on November 30. It can also decide to keep prices at the rate they are currently at. Petrol prices in Pakistan are changed every 15 days.

Around 27,000 TB cases every year in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The number of patients diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB) is increasing in Pakistan 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 are missed from treatment while 56,000 deaths are occurred due to TB in Pakistan every year. The official said 1,571 microscopy centers have been working in the country. He added TB treatment success rate is 93 percent. He said the government has 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 are benefiting free diagnostic and treatment facilities every year in Pakistan. He said more than 30 hospitals have been upgraded to take care of multi-drug resistant TB cases and 13 laboratories equipped with state of the art facilities are being established in various parts of the country. He said the government is committed to achieve the target of eliminating the disease from the country and sought support of all stakeholders in this regard. He said the government has planned several activities to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences and to step up efforts to end the disease epidemic. - DNA

Karachi: Lowest Nov temperature in 10 years

KARACHI: The minimum temperature recorded in Karachi on Sunday was 10.5 degrees Celsius - the lowest during the month of November in the last 10 years, according to a statement from the meteorological department. Previously, the lowest temperature was recorded in Nov 2017 when it fell to 11°C. A temperature of 12°C was recorded in Nov 2010. - DNA

Chinese varsity holds symposium on 'Parwaaz Hai Junoon'

The students agreed that they will enhance mutual understanding between the people of the two countries with their practical actions in the future study and life, so as to make people-to-people friendship between China and Pakistan even closer

DNA

BEIJING: To enhance and develop China-Pakistan friendship between people of the two countries and enrich their amateur cultural life, Sichuan Normal University held a symposium on Pakistani film 'Parwaaz Hai Junoon'. It facilitated Pakistani students to watch the movie. The tutor of Pakistani students and some researchers of Pakistani Study Center of the University participated in the activity. In addition, a Faculty member from Pakistan Study Center of Sichuan University was also invited to take part in the activity. During watching the film in the cinema, all the Pakistani students were proud of the beauty of Pakistan presented in the film, and they were



also delighted to share the beautiful connotation of Pakistani culture with the Chinese audience. In the symposium on reflections on watching the film, combined with the content of the film, the students exchanged their sincere feelings for their motherland Pakistan and

their nostalgia for their own nation and family parents. The students also discussed the connotation and significance of people-to-people exchanges between China and Pakistan based on the plot of the film. In combination with the scenes of the film, the students also talked

about their understanding and feelings of the chengdu culture and their special and friendly feelings towards the Chinese people from a cross-cultural perspective. The students agreed that they will enhance mutual understanding between the people of the two countries with their practical actions in the future study and life, so as to make people-to-people friendship between China and Pakistan even closer. The movie tells the story of the Pakistani youth pilot passed through the difficult military quality and flying skills training, thus transformed into excellent, patriotic and dedicated air force pilots growth experience and psychological process. It motivates youth having persistent desire to focus on the dedication to work, the patriotic enthusiasm of national emotion and pride.

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