

Samana

Wednesday, January 06, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Pakistan Army vows to defeat terrorists and their abettors

Detailed News On Page-01

MBS embraces Qatari emir on arrival at summit

Detailed News On Page-01



World should condemn the **Indian crimes**





Briefs

Pak supports Kashmiris RSD: Alvi

DNA



possible support for the just cause of the people of Jammu and Kashmir till the realization of their right to self-determination in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. "The right to self-determination is a vital component of human dignity. Negation of this right is the negation of human freedom, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and UN Human Rights Covenants. India is the biggest violator of this inalienable human right," the president said in a message on the occasion of Kashmiris' Right to Self-determination Day.

Bilawal tells MQM to think of Karachi

DNA



KARACHI: PPP Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said that he is unable under-

to stand why the Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) is standing with the PTI-led federal government, adding that instead of focusing on "its own helplessness which forced it to form a coalition with the government, it should think about the helplessness of people." He was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the second phase of the Karachi Neighbourhoods Improvement Project.

Inzamam concerned about bowling

DNA



per Inzamam ul Haq believes Pakistan team's bowling department

was a matter of concern as the bowlers were unable to pick wickets and have been giving massive runs on the scoreboard. "New Zealand has taken a big lead of 360 runs against Pakistan. The scoreboard is telling the whole situation of the Test match. It is a very big lead and I feel Pakistan will have to play 180 overs in two days. I don't think that Pakistan has a chance of winning," he said.

Inside...

'India should be tried for misleading about Kashmir' - Page 02

Islamabad records 132 fresh corona cases in last 24 hours - Page 03

ICCI demands development of Islamabad as a model city - Page 04

Two-state solution: The opium of Palestinian people - Page 05

Williamson, Nicholls frustrate Pakistan as NZ declare at 659 - Page 06

COVID-hit Italy gripped by new political crisis
- Page 07

Pak slams India's refusal to hand over martyrs' bodies - Page 08

Army vows to defeat terrorists

The Army expresses complete solidarity with resilient and brave Kashmiri brethren till realization of their just cause

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army has reiterated that sacrifices would not go waste as terrorists and their abettors will be defeated at all costs. This resolve was expressed at 238th Corps Commanders' Conference held in Rawalpindi on Tuesday with Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa in the chair.

The Army expressed complete solidarity with resilient and brave Kashmiri brethren till realization of their just cause in accordance with their aspirations and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

The participants undertook a comprehensive review of regional and domestic security environment with special focus on situation along the borders, internal security and other professional matters of the Army. The Forum reiterated that with the blessing of Almighty Allah, the determined Kashmiris shall succeed in their freedom struggle as decades of atrocities by Indian Occupation Forces have failed to suppress their

ever strengthening movement.

The military commanders also expressed satisfaction over positive developments in Afghan Peace Process and efforts made for regional peace and stability.

A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency**

Dilating upon the current security environment, the corps commanders noted that defeat of complete threat spectrum is only possible through a comprehensive national effort, where all segments of the society play their rightful role.

The forum specially discussed the ongoing security situation along the Line of Control, Working Boundary and Eastern Border. It noted that training and professional pursuits must remain our prime focus to enhance operational preparedness and thwart any possible misadventure.

Speaking on the occasion, General Bajwa said highest standards of capability and maintaining cutting edge at all levels is vital to meet all challenges in tandem with other elements of national power.

Continued on Page 06



SC orders to rebuild Karak Hindu temple

Post Report

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday ordered to reconstruct Hindu temple that was set ablaze by mob in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Karak district. According to details, a three-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CIP) Gulzar Ahmed conducted a hearing on a suo

moto notice pertaining to

burning a Hindu temple in



KP. During the proceedings, the top judge has sought a report on the total number of temples and gurdawaras in the country whether they are functional or not. He has also directed to remove encroachments from the lands

of Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB). Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan raised

question over the performance of provincial security departments and intelligence agencies and asked the inspector general in KP police what he was doing at the time of incident. The IG told that local leader of IUI Maulana Faizullah had sponsored a public gathering while Molvi Shareef

Continued on Page 06

Pak, Iran to fight against drugs menace

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran on Tuesday agreed to further extend cooperation with each other to eradicate the menace of drugs from both the countries. The agreement reached between the two countries during a meeting between Minister for Narcotics Control Brig (R) Ijaz Ahmad and Iranian delegation headed by Chief of Iran's Anti-Narcotics Police Brigadier-General Majid Karimi, said a news release. Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, Secretary Anti-Narcotics Control Shoaib Dastagir, Col Omid Sar-

Pakistan and senior officials of the Ministry of Narcotics Control also attended the meeting. Ijaz Ahmad Shah emphasized the need to strengthen Iran-Pakistan border cooperation, and welcomed Iran's initiatives and proposals to effectively combat drug trafficking.

Brigadier-General Majid Karimi stressed the readiness of Iran and its Anti-Narcotics Police to expand cooperation with Pakistan. Welcoming the issues raised by the federal minister, he said,"Our main problem today is the increase in poppy production in the region." The Chief of Iran's Anti-Narcotics Police said, "We have the capacity to face this challenge, but it is necessary to further strengthen relations and bilateral cooperation between the anti-narcotics forces of Iran and Pakistan." He said Iran and Pakistan were victims of the drug problem and at the same time had an active role in the front line of the fight wari, Liaison Officer of Iranian Police Force in against the menace. - DNA

WEB DESK WASHINGTON: Tuesday is

determine whether Republicans or Democrats control Republican Senator David Perdue is facing a challenge from Democrat Jon Ossoff, a television documentary producer, while Republican Senator Kelly Loeffler, one of the wealthiest lawmakers in the country, is going up against the

Baptist minister.



Russia keen to supply its vaccine to Pakistan

Russian Direct Investment Fund's (RDIF) head writes a letter to Special Assistant to the PM on Health Dr Faisal Sultan in this regard

News Desk / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Russia has once again offered to supply Pakistan its Sputnik-V vaccine. Sources privy to he development told dia that the Russian Direct Investment Fund's (RDIF) head wrote a letter to Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan through the country's embassy in Islamabad seeking details of the vaccine registration process. In the letter, the sources

Georgia votes in crucial runoffs

election day for two runoff U.S. Senate races in the state of Georgia that will power in the U.S. Senate. Rev. Raphael Warnock, a

Polls ahead of election day indicate the two Democrats hold slight edges in the contests, both of which were made necessary because none of the four candidates won a majority in the first round of voting in November.

Cabinet approves vaccine procurement

RANA FARRUKH / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Cabinet has approved procurement of Covid-19 vaccine to protect human lives on time and emergency basis.

The cabinet, which met in Islamabad on Tuesday with Prime Minister Imran Khan in the chair, also approved setting up of an inspection committee to improve the quality of country's exports of the fisheries sector. The committee will be responsible for inspection of fish processing plants in the country.

It granted approval to the appointment of members

Press Council of Pakistan.

Pakistan's non-NATO ally' status in trouble

Bill has been referred to House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Foreign Desk

WASHINGTON: A bill has been introduced in the US House of Representatives to terminate the designation of Pakistan as a major non-NATO ally.

It was presented by Republican Congressman Andy Biggs. It seeks to remove Pakistan's special status, which allows access to US defence supplies and participation in cooperative defence research and development programmes. Pakistan was given the designation as a major non-NATO ally

during the Bush administration in 2004 The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. The Economic Times reported that this new bill will also ask the president to certify that Pakistan has shown progress in order to arrest and prosecute senior leaders and

mid-level operatives of the Haggani Network in Pakistan. The bill reads the President "may not issue a separate design nation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as a major non-Nato ally or any other provision of law" unless a presidential certification is submitted that Pakistan continues to conduct military operations that are contributing significantly to disrupting the safe haven and freedom of movement of the Haggani Network in Pakistan. Currently, there are 17 major non-NATO allies. Brazil was the last country to be given this designation by President Donald Trump in 2019.

Continued on Page 06

said Kirill Dmitriev, the

head of the RDIF, evinced

interest in registration of the

Russian vaccine in Pakistan

and sought details regarding

the process thereof and the

country's demand for supply

The locally-produced Sput-

nik-V is the first registered

Covid-19 vaccine in the world

and has emergency-use ap-

proval, the letter said, adding

the vaccine is 91.4 per cent

effective and will be widely

available in February 2021.

Continued on Page 06

World should

condemn

Indian crimes

of the first batch of ja

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Shibli Faraz has urged the international community to shun its silence on the Indian crimes against humanity in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K).

In his tweets on Tuesday, he said the 5th January reminds us that the UN resolution accepting the right to self-determination of Kashmiris has yet not been implemented. The Information Minister said Prime Minister Imran Khan being an advocate and ambassador of Kashmiris is forcefully pleading the case of valiant Kashmiri people at all international forums and unmasking the evil face of India.

Sindh starts vaccine coordination cell

KARACHI: The Sindh government has established a provincial vaccine coordination cell to finalize the arrangements to administer the Covid-19 vaccine across the province. According to the details, the Government of Sindh Secretary Health Dr. Kazim Hussain has been appointed the head of the cell. Provincial Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho said the coronavirus vaccine will be given to Sindh by mid-January with the coordination of the National Vaccine Task Force and NCOC. - APP

GCC leaders agree to end the Gulf crisis

The Al Ula agreement was signed at the 41st session of the Supreme Council of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC)

MBS embraces Qatari

News Desk / DNA

AL ULA: Gulf leaders signed the Al Ula solidarity agreement at the Saudi Arabian city of Al Ula. This agreement will pave the way to end the Gulf crisis.

The Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani signed the declaration along with Kuwait Amir HH Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Saudi Crown Prince HRH Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Bahrain's Crown Prince HE Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Vice President of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid and Omani Deputy Prime Minister HE Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said. The Al Ula agreement was signed at the 41st session of the Supreme Council of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

(GCC), which is being held in Al Ula, Saudi Arabia. The summit has been

named as Sultan Qaboos Sheikh Sabah Summit in honour of the two great leaders - Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimur and Sheikh

Continued on Page 06

RIYADH: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim exchanged a warm embrace on the tarmac at Al Ula airport after the Qatari delegation arrived for the 41st Gulf Co-operation Council

summit on Tuesday. Sheikh Tamim's attendance was another signal of moves towards reconciliation within the GCC, coming a day after Saudi Arabia reopened its borders and airspace to Qatar. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman welcoming Emir of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani upon his arriv

al in the city of al-Ula. AFP Qatar's emir is attending the GCC summit for the first time since 2017, when fellow bloc members Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain, along with Egypt, cut off ties over Doha's support for extremist groups. - DNA

Pakistan welcomes Qatar. KSA development

Ansar M. Bhatti / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan welcomed Qatar and Saudi Arabia's decision to reopen their land, air and sea borders to each other after almost four years.

Pakistan welcomes the decision by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar to reopen the land, air and sea borders between the two countries," said the Foreign Office (FO) in a statement released on Tuesday. Pakistan also appreciated the "other steps being taken" by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to diffuse tensions in the region. It said that the steps will lead to the resolution of the outstanding issues between the countries of the organisation persisting for almost four years".

Wednesday, January 06, 2021

Briefs

KPK IG for arrest of Kifayatullah

DNA

PESHAWAR: Police chief Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has wrote a letter to the IGs of other provinces for arrest of Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl Tamiat (JUI-F) leader Mufti Kifayatullah. IG Police KPK, Sanaullah Abbasi in a letter to police chiefs of other provinces, has said that a FIR has been registered in KPK against Mufti Kifayatullah, seeking his arrest and handing him over to KPK Police as per the

requirement of the law. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has lodged a first information report (FIR) against Mufti Kifayatullah for making defamatory remarks against state institutions. The sources claimed that Mufti Kifayatullah has taken shelter at Madrassa Ishaatul Quran in Larkana to avoid detention. JUI-F Sindh Chapter Secretary General Rashid Mahmood Soomro has facilitated him in Larkana, the sources added. Earlier on December 29, Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad had warned legal action over anti-state remarks of the politicians and said that the first case in this regard will be registered against Mufti Kifayatullah in Lahore. "We will be registering a case against Mufti Kifayatullah in Lahore after complete preparation," he had said. The federal government had decided to take action against Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader Mufti Kifayatullah over his remarks against a state institution.

'Media management system of police being upgraded'

LAHORE: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Inam Ghani Tuesday said the media management system of the provincial police was being upgraded.

In a media talk, he said that the Punjab Police Information Branch (PPIB) was being set up to carry out the task of obtaining and transmitting news and information in a more efficient and orderly manner. He said that the print, electronic and social media sections in the PPIB would be made more strong and functional professionally, and the Chief of Punjab Police Information Branch (PPIO) would be of DIG rank officer, who would also perform responsibilities of official spokesperson for the Punjab Police. DIG Operations Punjab Sohail Akhtar Sukhera has been given additional charge of Punjab Police Information Officer. A standing order was issued under Article 27 of the Police Order 2002 for the establishment of Puniab Police Information Branch (PPIB) and issuance of posts. - APP

Photo exhibition held to mark solidarity day

M ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The Right to Self Determination day for people of Jammu and Kashmir was commemorated in the district for reminding the global community that Pakistanis could not shy away from their responsibilities to wards the kashmiri people. A photo exhibition on various stages of the struggle for independence of Kashmiris was organized by the Arts Council in this regard. Punjab Minister for Colonies/ Culture Mian Khayal Ah mad Kastro inaugurated the photo exhibition and looked the potraits. Divisional Commissioner Saqib Manan, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali, AC City Syed Avuh Bukhari. Director Arts Council Zahid Igbal, Assistant Directors Arts Council Amina Alam, Mohammad Imran Raza, Incharge Control Room Mohammad Sadiq besides people from different walks of life were present. The provincial minister for colonies & culture said that the purpose of celebrating day to self determination was to expose Indian atrocities to the world and reiterate the demand of the United Nations to resolve the Kashmir issue in accordance with the resolutions of the council. He said that rallies and solidarity programs should renew the commitment of the Kashmir Independence Movement to its logical conclusion.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister of Kashmir, Raja Farooq Haider, Chairman parliamentary committee on Kashmir, Shehryar Afridi and others during a seminar on Kashmir solidarity day. - DNA

'India should be tried for misleading about Kashmir'

Addressing at a seminar, He said people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) had asked the United Nations Security Council to materialise its commitment to hold an impartial and free plebiscite to decide their fate

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Kashmir Committee Chairman Shehryar Khan Afridi Tuesday said that India should be tried for criminally misleading the World opinion on Kashmir by spreading dis-information. India was using hundreds of fake Non-governmental organizations, media organisations and websites to Kashmir and EU Disinfo Lab had fully exposed the Indian vicious designs, said Afridi. Addressing at a seminar here in connection with the Kashmiris right to self determination day, he said India could no more keep its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. He said people of Indian

illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) had asked the United Nations Security Council to materialise its commitment to hold an impartial and free plebiscite to decide their fate, but UN had failed to fulfill its promise. He reiterated that Pakistan would continue to expose Indian expansionist designs in Jammu and Kashmir. He said he being Minister for SAFRON, had invited United Nations Secretary General to Pakistan and pledged to stand by the UN resolutions on Kashmir dispute. Afridi said that Kashmir Committee had been reaching out to all stakeholders of Kashmir to develop its policy on Kashmir dispute. The Kashmir Committee he said had representation of all political parties and it was working to help raise the Kashmir issue with

Shehryar said tribal Pashtuns had joined hands with the Kashmiri freedom fighters to help liberate Jammu and Kashmir in 1948 and even today, the people of Pakistan stand by Kashmiris through thick and thin. "Today, even the Indian minorities are saying that Jinnah had taken a right decision by getting an independent state for the Muslims of India. Modi regime has been fully exposed due to its expansionist agenda," he said. Afridi said that no one can think of making a compromise on two major security issues of Pakistan - our nuclear programme and our Kashmir policy.

He urged Pakistani youth to become bloggers, vlogers and

counter fake propaganda by fake Indian social media sites. He said the government was using all modern tools of information technology to expose Indian expansionist agenda. Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider said that Indian forces were present in Jammu and Kashmir even before freedom fighters launched movement. He quoted some incidents from history to point out the fact how Kashmiri freedom struggle continued despite Indian imperialist designs. He said that Pakistan's new political map had been drafted on his advice and Junagadh was added to the map on his proposal.

Haider said that Kashmir issue was debated at the European Union due to efforts by the

Kashmiri diaspora and the sacrifices made by the Kashmiris. He urged the Pakistan government to adopt an effective and robust policy on Kashmir adding that Kashmiris should themselves fight the case of Kashmir. He criticised his own party, PML-N, for being silent during their five year tenure and urged Prime Minister Imran Khan to adopt a strong narrative on Kashmir. He also criticised Shimla Agreeing that this had damaged our case on Kashmir dispute. He urged media to raise Kashmir issue, saying that Pakistani media needs to highlight the sacrifices made by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said media coverage could better raise the awareness on Kashmir dispute.

'Govt to continue supporting Kashmiris' struggle'



Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said the government will continue all-out support to the just struggle of the oppressed people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) for their right to self-determination. In his message, the CM saluted the strong passion and commitment of the oppressed Kashmiris in Occupied Kashmir and

stressed the international

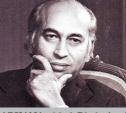
community to take imme-

diate notice of Indian bru-

talities in the valley. The

silence of the international community on the wors barbarities being commit ted by Indians against hapless Kashmiris was regrettable and tragic, he added The CM asserted that Nar endra Modi had left behind even Hitler with regard to the genocide. It was also deplorable that even the United Nations resolutions had failed to prevent Indian atrocities in Occupied Kash mir, he added. Usman Buz dar urged the international community to play its role in granting the right to self-determination to the Kash miris, as a peaceful solution to the core issue of Kashmir will ensure durable peace in South Asia. The people and the government of Pakistan will continue to side with the oppressed Kashmiris till the right to self-determination was granted to them, added the CM. - APP

93rd birth anniversary of ZAB observed



LARKANA: 93rd Birth Anniversary of the Founder Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Ex-Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. was celebrated on Tuesday with great zeal and enthusiasm by PPP leadership and workers. Large number of PPP leaders and workers arrived at the village Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Bhutto to pay homage to the Zulfiqar Ali

Bhutto (Late). In this con-

nection Qura'an Khawani was held in the Mausoleum of the martyrs of Bhutto's family at Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto. On the occasion collective prayers was also offered in Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto, for the departed soul of Shaheed ZulfikarAli Bhutto the Founder Chairman of PPP and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and others.

PPP leaders Aijaz Leghari, Khiar Muhammad Shaikh. Saleem Ahmed Soomro Ghulam Mustafa Leghari MNA Naseebaan Channa, Dr. Ghulam Sakina Gaad, Nasreen Soomro, leaders workers of PPP, students of various schools and all walks life participated in the Qura'an Khawani. – APP

Al-Shifa Trust to organise eye camps in OIC countries

RAWALPINDI: Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital has decided to expand its outreach to the countries member of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to build their capacity, prevent blindness and provide timely eye care. Initially, surgical camps will be held at Kampala (Uganda), Niamey (Niger) and Serrekunda (Gambia) and later the ambit of services will be expanded to other countries, said a press statement issued here today. In this connection, an MOU has been

signed between Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, Rawalpindi and COMSTECH - OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. The two sides agreed to build capacity of deserving nations in ophthalmology and prevent blindness through providing training and conducting eye camps. The MoU ceremony held at COMSTECH Headquarters and signed by Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COM-STECH and Maj. Gen. Rehmat Khan (Retd), President, Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, Rawalpindi. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of The Gambia, Prof. Dr. Faqir Muhammad Anjum and

Mr. Mohammad Adeel, Assistant Director, Science Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan were also present on the occasion. Pakistan Institute of Ophthalmology, the academic wing of Al-Shifa Trust will impart training to doctors and paramedical staff in ophthalmology, optometry, orthoptics and public health etc. Trust will also offer observerships for 4 to 12 weeks and one-year clinical fellowships to candidates from OIC countries in the subspecialties, such as the cornea and refractive surgery, vitreo-retina, paediatric ophthalmology, glaucoma, orbit and oculoplastic.

PCG recover 8644 Kg betel nuts

KARACHI: Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) have recovered 8644 kilograms of betel nuts, 13900 liters of illegal diesel, impounded two trucks and seven vans and arrested 10 accused in different actions.

The PCG recovered 7.20 kilograms of high-quality hashish from a passenger coach at the Naka Khari check post near Winder Balochistan, said a statement on Tuesday. The PCG also recovered

4035 kilograms of foreign cloth, 372 sticks of foreign cigarettes, 128 packets of Indian Gutka, and miscellaneous items during the search of various vehicles. Over 1070 kilograms of betel nuts, 128 packets of Indian Gutka were recovered from a truck while one accused was arrested at Naka Khari check post. Two accused were arrested and 7,574 kilograms of betel nuts were recovered during a search of a truck at Super Highway Karachi. Seven persons were arrested and 13,900 liters of illegal diesel were seized during patrolling in the Jeevani area of Balochistan. - APP

Coca-Cola to establish 17 water filtration plants

ATHUR SUFI

KARACHI: Coca-Cola Pakistan is partnering with Cantonment Board Clifton, Rotary International and 2 other organizations to establish 17 water filtration plants to provide clean drinking water for disadvantaged communities in various parts of Karachi. This project under the CSR leg of Coca-Cola's recent Karachi is Love campaign has a budget of Rs. 26.78 million. All the plants together will provide safe drinking water to over 383,000 people of low-income communities living in areas like Akhtar Colony, Hazara Colony, Machhar Colony, Lassi Goth, KhadimSolangi Goth and Aatma Colony. One filtration plant will also be established at the Karwan e Havvat Psvchiatric Care and Rehabilits tion Center to provide 4000 gallons per day water for the Center's 100 beds hospital for in-house psychiatric patients. Speaking about this CSR project, Fahad Ashraf, VP & General Manager for Coca-Cola Pakistan & Afghanistan region said, "This is not the first time that Coca-Cola has installed water filtration plants in Karachi. Previously also Coca-Cola had partnered with Rotary International to set up 5 solar-powered water filtration plants in several polio high-risk areas in Karachi. The first reverse osmosis water filtration plant installed in Malir, and subsequently a survey carried out by UNDP Pakistan showed that water-borne diseases reduced by up to 75% in the area.' Water is central to Coca-Cola's business and in 2006 the Company pledged that by year2030 it will return to nature an equivalent amount of water that it uses itself in its business, through a diverse range of water conservation projects. - APP

KCCI reposes solidarity with **Kashmiris**

KARACHI: President, Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, M.Shariq Vohra on Tuesday said the business community firmly supports the struggle of Kashmiris for their right to self-determination as per United Nations' resolution, and to live respectful and peaceful life on their home land. In a statement . KCCI President said, " our hearts beat with those of innocent Kashmiris in occupied held Jammu and Kashmir and we pledge our un-conditional support to them." He said the 'Right to Self-Determination Day' marked 72nd anniversary of United Nation's resolution suggestion that the future of Kashmiri people should be decided through a plebiscite under the supervision of the UN. He condemned that Indian attitude had been totally irresponsible to the demands of Kashimiris and the world community as a whole. Instead of giving them the right to self-determination, in 2019 India bulldozed the disputed status of the held Jammu and

Kashmir and announced

its annexation. - APP



Government of Pakistan

PAKISTAN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CORRIGENDUM

No.CIII/AB/TN/01

Dated: 04-01-2021

Reference Advertisement published in National Daily News papers Daily Ausaf, Daily Johar, Islamabad Post and on PPRA vide letter No.CIII/AB/TN/1633 dated 29-12-2020 posted on vide TS440-135E dated 31-12-2020. The following amendments are made:-

Tender documents can be purchased from the office of the undersigned upto 21st January, 2021 against a non-refundable fee of Rs. 2000/-. All bids must be delivered to the office of the undersigned at or before 11:00 hours, on **22nd January**, **2021**. Bids will be opened at **11:30 hours** on the same day, in the presence of bidders on their authorized representatives who choose to attend at the same address. All the remaining terms and conditions shall remain the same.

This corrigendum is also available www.ppra.org.pk

(Mudassar Irshad Rana)

Executive Engineer, Central Civil Division-III. Pak PWD Islamabad

PID (I) No. 3520/20

Briefs

Roads leading to Murree open for tourists

ISLAMABAD: The roads leading to Murree were opened for tourists despite the start of year's first snowfall in central Murree since Monday, a senior official of local district administration said. Talking to APP, Muhammad Badar, an official of district administration Murree said the administration was committed to ensure smooth flow of traffic.

Murree was a center of attraction for residents of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. The tourists from other parts of the country also consider it convenient to visit the site due to easily assessable communication ways including road, train and air link with the federal capital. He informed that a huge influx of tourists was witnessed at Nathiagali, Ayubia and Thandiani during the weekend.

Official asked people to follow the advisory issued for the tourist before planning their journey for their convenience. He said snowfall occurred at the nearby and adjoining areas of the hill station, adding, moderate snow fall was likely to continue for two days in the central parts of Murree. - APP

3200 food outlets checked in 2020

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Food Branch of Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) checked over 2300 food outlets during 2020 and issued noticed to 1950 for unhygienic and poor cleanliness conditions.

According to RCB spokesman, the Food Branch of the board conducted raids in different areas and collected thousands of food samples which were sent to the lab for quality test while over Rs 3.6 million fines were imposed on the rules violators. The cases of substandard food items were also sent to the court of the cantonment magistrate which imposed fines on the rules violators. Food Inspectors on the directive of the Cantonment Executive Officer Muhammad Umar Farooq Ali Malik conducted surprise visits of different markets including Saddar, Peshawar Road, Qasim Market, Chor, Allahabad, Masrial, Tench Bhatta, Peoples Colony, Chungi Number 22, Bakra Mandi and other areas and inspected cleanliness condition with quality of food items at food outlets.

He said, the teams also imposed fines on the stall holders and vendors for unhygienic food and poor cleanliness condition. The raids would continue, he said adding that the teams were directed to also check the health of the workers serving at the food outlets.

IRSA releases 43,800 cusecs water

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 43,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 46,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA. water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1472.31 feet, which was 80.31 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 17.500 cusecs and outflow as 20,000 cusecs.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1165.20 feet, which was 125.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 9,700 cusecs and 5,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 34,000, 16,800 and zero cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 6.400 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 12,400 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala.

Islamabad records 132 fresh corona cases in last 24 hours

According to an official of NCOC, as many as 117 cases were reported on Monday while 126 cases were reported on Sunday

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The COVID-19 cases continued to surge in the federal capital as 132 new corona cases were reported from the city during the last 24 hours, National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) said on Tuesday

According to an official of NCOC, as many as 117 cases were reported on Monday while 126 cases were reported on Sunday.

He said so far 38,395 cases were

reported from the federal capital while 428 deaths were reported from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). He added 35,253 patients had been recovered completely. Meanwhile, on the direction of Ministry of National Health Services, the district administration of Islamabad had continued smart

Citizens urge action against SOPs violators

ISLAMABAD: The residents of federal capital on Tuesday asked the local administration to take strict action against violators of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) related with COVID-19 to avoid further transmission of the coronavirus in the city. According to them, a massive violation of such SOPs has been observed in markets, food establishments and restaurants despite clear direction of the departments concerned as there are chances of further spread of disease due to such negligence. COVID-19 pandemic has struck the world due to rapid human-to-human transmission. Preventive measures play an important role in limiting the spread and can help reducing the infection transmission along with lessening unnecessary burden on healthcare facilities, Arsalan Khan, a citizen said. He said following all such preventive measures was necessary to help mitigate the exposure to the COVID-19. Another citizen, Tariq Saleem said that these guidelines provide practices that address specific health and safety concerns related to the spread of COVID-19. Safdar Bashir, a citizen said that all citizens should strictly follow these SOPs to protect health of others in wake of prevailing high risk situation when corona cases are increasing day by day. He said that the concerned department should conduct surprise visits to markets and shops to check observance of corona SOPs and suggested to take strict action in case of any violation. - DNA

lockdown in different streets of the capital to reduce transmission of the infection in the selected streets and other sectors. They also started taking actions

on violation of standard operating

procedures (SOPs) related with the corona while visiting marriage halls, markets and petrol pumps by its inspection teams. The administration also sealed schools, shops, workshop and

restaurants on violation of SOPs. The inspection teams also issued notices to marriage halls besides imposing fines on owners of different shops. Commenting on the situation, an official of

Ministry of National Health Services said that several local level administrative decisions were made to control the disease. He advised the citizens to continue

following the social distancing, use of mask and other precautionary measures to stop increasing local transmission of COVID-19 in the city. He said the government had adopted effective strategy to combat COVID-19 that resulted reduction in corona cases in the country. He said a strategy was made to control corona keeping in view the global information, focusing on data with integration of local data in a scientific way. He said the ministry had also asked the administrations of public and private organization functioning in the ICT to strictly monitor the SOPs to ensure protection of their employees from the COVID-19.

Forests deptt plants 1.6m saplings in 2020

RAWALPINDI: The Forests Department Rawalpindi planted nearly 1.6 million plants in Rawalpindi district during 2020. According to Conservator Forests Rawalpindi, Sheikh Saqib Mahmood, all out efforts were made to make the Tree Plantation Campaign a success which was kicked off here in 2020 as per the vision of the Prime Minister Imran Khan.

He said, the saplings were planted under spring and monsoon plantation campaign in all tehsils of the district including Murree, Taxila, Kalar Svedan, Kotli Sattian, Kahuta and Gujar Khan. Due to effective awareness campaigns, the trend of planting saplings had increased considerably and the citizens had started playing their due role.

Plants of different species were available at the nurseries of the Forest department at affordable price, he added. He said the officers concerned had been directed to plant maximum saplings with the help and cooperation of the civil society, officials and students during the campaign.

On the directives of the authorities concerned, a comprehensive plan of massive tree plantation had also been evolved to bring maximum area under forest cover which was basic requirement to overcome environmental degradation, he added. – APP

IESCO continues 'E' **Katcharies**

ISLAMABAD: According to IESCO spokesman for immediate solution of valued customers complaints, online 'E" Katcharies in all Operations Circles are being conducted regularly and positive response of customers are being received. According to schedule on 06 January 2021, SE IESCO Islamahad Circle on telephone No. 051-9260194, SE Rawalpindi City Circle on telephone No. 051-9292675, SE Rawalpindi Cantt Circle on telephone No. 051-9292675, SE Attock Circle on telephone No. 051-4950343, SE Chakwal circle on telephone No. 0543-668500 and SE Jhelum Circle on telephone No. 0544-9270276 will attend complaints/suggestions of customers from 10:30 AM to 11:30 PM. IESCO requested valued customers to participate in 'E' Katcharies for

immediate solution of their complaints. - APP

IESCO issues power suspension schedule

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule:-

From 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM,

Ghauri Town, Burma, Sports Complex, Orchard, Waheedabad, Khanna East, Kohsar, Chira, Margalla Tower, G-10/3, Allama Iqbal Open University, I-10/1, G-13/4, E-11/2, Shahpur, Guldana, Gharial, Kotli Sattian, Angori, Chirang Cross, Radio Pak-1, Jhangi, Pind Hoon, Mohanpura, E-Block, B-Block, Shakrial, Sector-4, APHS, Zafar-ul-Haq, Liaquat Bagh, Major Masood, Sarafa Bazar, Gawalmandi, Pirwadhai, Dhok Hasso, Muslimabad, Bagh Sardaran, People's Colony, Zeeshan Colony, Amir Hamza Colony, Azharabad, Noon, Bank Road-2, Dhok Farman Ali. Rehmatabad, Sawan Garden-1, Model Town, National Park, Lal Kurti, Priyal, Kirja-1, Ara Bazair, Old Rawat, Kahuta City-1, Kombali Sadiq, Fazal Ahmed Shaheed, New Choa, Kaliam, Mandra-1, Nishan-e-Haider, Bhangali, Sangjani, Pind Padian, Taxila, Sher Shah Suri. Nawababad, Nisar Shaheed, Hameed, Fawara Chowk, Aminabad, Miskinabad, Waisa, Bolianwal, Mansar, Nika Kalan, Mianwala, Azeem Shaheed, Bahtar, Anjira, Maqsood Shaheed, Galyal, Gul Muhammad Shaheed, F-5 Jeddah, Zubair Shaheed, F-3 Gul Afshan, Shahullah Ditta feeders and surrounding areas will be remain

without power. - APP

Govt committed for development of GB, says Asad Qaiser

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker, Asad Qaiser on Tuesday said that incumbent government was committed for the socio-economic development of Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B). He said this in a meeting with Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Amjad Hussain Zaidi who called on him here. Issues of mutual interest and overall political situation of the country specially Gilgit Baltistan came under discussion.

Speaker Asad Qaiser congratulated Amjad Hussain Zaidi on assuming the office of the Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly. Referring to CPEC, Asad Qaiser said that the projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will usher a new era of development and prosperity in the region.

He further said that GB has immense natural potential which can be used to significantly increase the development of the area. He proposed a committee in GB Assembly to oversee the projects in the area.

measures during air travel.

spread of COVID-19.

SOPs implemented.

strictly," Dr Atta said.

Dr Atta stresses for

social distancing

measures

ISLAMABAD: Famed Pakistani scientist and Chair-

man of Prime Minister Imran Khan's National Task

Force on Science and Technology Dr Atta-Ur-Rehman

on Tuesday stressed for adopting of social distancing

Dr Atta urged the public to strictly adhere to COVID-19

Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) to contain the

Talking to a Private news channel, he said, "We must fol-

low the instructions of the NCOC for avoiding mass gath-

erings, within our families and adhere to the coronavirus

SOPs and take special care of those showing symptoms."

He said that all political parties should avoid public

gatherings and asked the authorities concerned to im-

pose 144 section to limit the political public meetings.

He urged upon the traders, Airports and School admin-

istrations to play their important role in getting the

"As long as the pandemic exists we have to live with

it and the only way to live safely with the virus is

to follow the precautionary measures and the SOPs

The media has been doing exceptional service by

spreading awareness against COVID-19 and has acted

as a valuable stakeholder in helping the government

in its initiatives but there is dire need to extend this

awareness at school levels to educate students about

Replying to a question, he said vaccine is yet not avail-

able in many countries including Pakistan which takes

time but precautions against coronavirus is the key to

Covid-19 precautions after its reopening, he added.

He also informed that public and stakeholders engagement was imperative for achieving the desired results of CPEC. He informed that in this regard a series of consultation with stakeholders, intelligentsia, government officials and business community and a sitting would also be arranged in Gilgit tentatively in March, this year.

Speaker Asad Qaiser said that a component in CPEC amounting to \$1 billion has been reserved for education, vocational training and tourism development, therefore in order to fully materialise the financial allocation necessary planning be done for its full utilisation.

Gilgit-Baltistan Speaker thanks Asad Qaiser for his sentiments for the development of Gilgit-Baltistan. He said that undoubtedly CPEC project was the guarantor of development and prosperity of Pakistan especially Gilgit Baltistan. He said that people of GB had reposed confidence in the PTI in the recent elections and the government will try to come up to their expectation.

ISLAMABAD: The head of anti-narcotics police Iran, Brigadier General Majid Karimi presenting souvenir to federal minister for narcotics control, Brig ® Ijaz Ahmad Shah. - DNA

USC records Rs100bn annual turnover

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The annual turnover of The Utility Stores Corporation of Pakistan (USC) was recorded around Rs100 billion during the calendar year, 2020 as compared to Rs10 billion turnover of last calendar year. On achieving this benchmark, Umer Lodhi, Managing Director USC said that USC was now an almost debt free and self-sus-

tained corporation. He further said that, USC now intended to carry out highly progressive restructuring with a consolidated view to provide customer-centric approach and was expected to acquire another milestone with a turnover of Rs150 billion till fiscal year 2021. From a loss making entity to one of the leading contributors in national exchequer, USC ensured food security through uninterrupted supplies of staple food items during the year, said USC statement is-

sued here Tuesday. The corporation USC contributed Rs. 8.564 billion in national exchequer during the fiscal year 2019-20 as compared to fiscal year 2018-19 in which USC paid Rs. 1.476 billion tax.

AIOU announces free education for Balochistan, FATA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University(AIOU) on Tuesday announced to continue free matriculation education during spring 2021 semester for the students of Baluchistan and former FATA merged with Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa. AIOU has taken this initiative in an attempt to achieve its objective of nation building while continuously providing free matriculation education to the people of both areas. Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Zia Ul Qayyum said that AIOU is hopeful that the people of these areas will utilize this golden opportunity to educate them-

selves to earn their livelihood in a respectable way. He instructed the AIOU regional directors to create awareness in Balochistan and former FATA merged with KP regarding this campaign so that no one was deprived of education.

According to the Director of Admissions, Mian Muhammad Riaz, AIOU commences admissions for the programmes offered in the 1st phase of spring 2021 semester including matriculation, intermediate, ATC, BS (face to face) as well as MS/M Phil and PhD from January 15, 2021 across Pakistan, AJK

Admission forms have been dispatched to 53 regional offices of the university in an attempt to provide admission facilities to the nearby vicinities of the people across Pakistan. Interested candidates can

obtain admission forms from the AIOU main campus, regional offices as well as prospectus sale points established throughout the country. Information related to the prospectus sale points as well as admission forms and prospectuses will be available online on the university website from January 15 onwards. - APP

Cold and dry weather likely

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Tuesday forecast cold and dry weather in most parts of the country during next 24 hours. However, rain-thunderstorm (with snowfall over hills) expected in northeastern Punjab,

Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir and its adjoining areas. Dense fog is likely in plains of Punjab and upper Sindh,a MET office reported.

A strong westerly wave present over upper parts of the country and likely to persist in

upper parts of the country till 24 hours. Moist currents from Arabian sea and Bay of Bengal are reaching northeastern parts of the country. Rainfall(mm) recorded in Punjab: Faisalabad 48, Hafizabad 46, Gujrat 38, Mangla 31,

Jhelum 30, Murree 26, Mandi Bahauddin 24, Gujranwala 18, Lahore (A/P 17, City 03), Sialkot (City 15, A/P 07), Islamabad (Golra12, Bokra, Saidpur 08, A/P 07, Z/P 06), Chakwal 11, T.T Singh 06, Attock 05, Narowal, Rawalpindi (Chaklala), Kasur 03, Jhang 02, Joharabad, Sahiwal 01, Kashmir: Kotli 33, Garhi Dupatta 13, Muzaffarabad 10, Rawalakot 09, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Kakul 20, Malam Jabba 15, Saidu Sharif 06, Dir (upper 05, lower 02), Balakot 05. Takht bai 03. Cherat 02 and Bannu 01.

Snowfall (Inches): Malam Jabba 05, Astore, Kalam and Skardu Trace.

Minimum temperature's recorded in (°C): Gupis -11, Leh -10, Skardu, Quetta, Kalat, Astore -07, Bagrote, Kalam, Parachinar -06 and Dalbandin -05. - APP

CEO PIA lauds RCCI efforts to promote trade

President Nasir Mirza also gave a briefing to CEO Arshad Malik on the ongoing activities of the Chamber On this occasion, RCCI President

DNA

control the disease. - DNA

RAWALPINDI: A delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) led by President Mohammad Nasir Mirza called on Chief Executive of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Air Marshal (retired) Arshad Malik at his office in Islamabad.

Group Leader Sohail Senior Vice President Usman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik and Former President Zahid Latif Khan were also present on the occasion.

Talking to the delegation, CEO PIA Arshad Malik lauded the Rawalpindi Chamber's efforts to

promote trade activities and im- role in helping PIA to come out prove Pakistan's image abroad. The business community should come forward and play their due

of crisis, he added. with the Rawalpindi Chamber un-

der which PIA will also give special discounts for the convenience PIA will soon sign an agreement of the members and their families,

It is also our national identity the CEO further added around the world. The business community will play its part in overcoming this challenge. He appreciated the special facilities provided by PIA for RCCI Gwadar Conference and Turbat visit and expressed hope that it would continue to work with PIA.

He also invited PIA for partnerships for RCCI conferences and exhibitions for the year 2021. President Nasir Mirza also gave a briefing to CEO Arshad Malik on the ongoing activities of the

Nasir Mirza said that PIA is our

national airline.

Briefs

Police arrested more than **300 POs**

DNA

ATTOCK: Police during the last year have arrested more than three hundered proclaimed offenders, recovered drugs, illegal arms and cash in different attempts. A press release issued from Attock Police Headquarters says this. As per details police arrested 378 proclaimed offenders, recovered 27 mound charas, 42 kg heroin , 25 kg opium , 02 kg ice and 2580 bottlesof liquor, registering 818 cases.Police also recovered illegal arms which include 599 pistols, 74 kalashankovs, 78 rifles, 13 revolvers , 14 repeaters , 19 daggers 32108 rounds of different calibre, 44 motorbikes, 03 vehicles one trawler and Rs 120 million looted cash.

'Rape incident not committed on motorway'

ISLAMABAD: Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) on Tuesday clarified that condemnable and tragic incident of rape of a Christian girl on December 28 did not take place on Lahore-Sheikhupura Motorway.

A spokesman of the NHMP said that the incident took place on a local road about one and a half km away from the motorway, Sam Nulla, village Fatehpuri jurisdiction of Faroogabad police station, Sheikhupura district, which was clearly mentioned in the FIR.

He said that the affected family was traveling on a rickshaw from Faroogabad to their village Kakkar Gul on the local road, which as per rules could not enter the motorway.

He said that Motorway Police has to correct the statement of Christian leader Simon Pyare in the Supreme Court in which the location is mentioned as Lahore,

Sheikhupura Motorway. Motorway Police are ready for any kind of legal guid ance related to the incident, he said adding that Motorway Police was always striving for the safety and service of the people.

Police arrest seven for immoral activities

RAWALPINDI: Naseerabad police on Tuesday arrested seven including three women allegedly involved in immoral activities, said a police spokesman. He said, Naseerabad police acting on a tip-off conducted a raid in their jurisdiction and arrested Imran, Raheel, Asghar and Tamoor and three women. A case has been registered against all the accused while further investigation is underway, he added. – **APP**

PUCAR marked Kashmir solidarity day

RAWALPINDI: A photographic exhibition & Rally was arranged at Punjab Council of the Arts in connection with Kashmir Right to Self Determination day. Chairperson Peace and Cultural organization Mishal Malik was the Chief Guest of the ceremony. While addressing the ceremony Mishal Malik Said, No one can know the value of inde pendence better than Kashmiri. Kashmiri have been fighting for independence for 72 years. Kashmir's independence movement has intensified despite the atrocities of Occupied India; the sun of independence will soon rise in the Occupied Kashmir Valley, she added. She further said Occupied Kashmir has been under curfew since August 5, 2019. 8 million Kashmiri are imprisoned in their own homes, the United Nations has failed to implement its resolutions in 72 years. The Kashmiri people demand from the international community and the United Nations to urge the occupying India to give Kashmiri the right to vote. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that the occupying Indian forces were inflicting atrocities on Kashmiri. Pakistan stands with Kashmiri in their struggle for independence. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, president Islamabad chamber of commerce and industry pose for group photo with S.M Siddiq Hassan, president Islamabad citizens committee and delegation members during their visit to ICCI. - DNA

ICCI demands development of Islamabad as a model city

SardarYasirIlyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that cities were playing an important role in the economic development of countries around the world and emphasized that CDA should focus on developing Islamabad as a model city

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Islamabad Citizens Committee (ICC) led by its President S.M. Siddig Hassan visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and held a meeting with SardarYasirIlyas Khan, President ICCI to discuss matters for the better development of the federal capital. Shafeeq Siddiqui Vice President, Shams UlHaq Awan Secretary General, AjazKaleem Ashraf Finance Secretary, Chaudhry Tahir Mehmood Information Secretary and Ali Ahmed Farooqui IT Sec-

DNA

Town and Aabpara police

stations Islamabad have

reunited two missing boys

with their families, a police

According to details, Mu-

hammad Younas informed

Shehzad town police that

his four-year old son Mu-

hammad Fahad had been

missing and could not be

traced despite hectic efforts

by family members. Fol-

lowing this information, SP

(Rural) Farooq Amjad Butar

constituted special team

under supervision of DSP

Mubarik Ali to trace the

missing boy. This team in-

cluding SHO Shahzad Town

police station Sub- Inspec-

tor Tipu Sultan searched

various under-construction

buildings, houses and gar-

bage heaps. Various people

were inquired about the

missing boy Muhammad Fa-

had and finally police team

succeeded to recover him

safely following which he

was reunited with his par-

ents. Meanwhile, Muham-

mad Qasim lodged report

with Aabpara police station

ISLAMABAD:

spokesman said.

Two missing boys

reunited with

their families

Shahzad

that his four years old neph-

ew Rehan had been miss-

ing. He stated that he along

with family members tried

to trace him but no clue was

found. Following this com-

plaint, Aabpara police reg-

istered First Information

Report (case no. 03) on Jan-

uary 3, 2021 under section

SP (City) Umer Khan con-

stituted a special team un-

der supervision of SDPO

Sectt Iqbal Khan headed

by Station House Officer

(SHO) Aabpara police sta-

tion Sub-Inspector Saleem

Raza, ASI Muhammad Nus-

rullah along with others.

This police team started

the investigation, worked

hard and succeeded to trace

the missing boy Rehan and

arrested three kidnappers

including a lady identified

as Allah Rakhai, Hassan

and Faisal Mir. The kidnap-

pers were trying to shift

the abducted boy at their

hideout through rickshaw

when police team inter-

cepted him and recovered

the boy. Later, police re-

united him with his family

after completing the legal

compliant

364-A/34 PPC.

Following this

retary were in the delegation. Abdul Rehman Khan, Vice President ICCI, Khalid Chaudhry, MianRamzan and others were also present at the occasion.

Speaking at the occasion, SardarYasirIlyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that cities were playing an important role in the economic development of countries around the world and emphasized that CDA should focus on developing Islamabad as a model city to make it a hub of business and economic activities and to provide a conducive living environment to the citizens. He said that capital cities of many

countries have become driving ronment. He assured that ICCI force in the economic development and urged that CDA should focus on modernization of infrastructure in the federal capital including carpeting of all major roads, repair of footpaths, providing parking in markets, restoration of all faulty streetlights, setting up filtration plants and public toilets in all commercial and industrial areas that would facilitate better growth of business activities. He said that CDA and MCI should focus on establishing more public parks and playgrounds in Islamabad and provide better amenities to provide citizens a healthy envi-

in collaboration with Islamabad Citizens Committee would make efforts for better development of Islamabad.

S.M. Siddiq Hassan, President, Islamabad Citizens Committee (ICC) highlighted the role and responsibilities of his Committee. He said that realizing their problems and issues, the citizens of Islamabad had constituted ICC in 2977 to act as an association and forum of citizens of Islamabad to bring their difficulties and problems into the notice of relevant authorities for redress. He said that ICCI and ICC were working for some common objectives to make Islamabad modern looking and well-developed and these objectives could be achieved more effectively by developing close collaboration between both associations. He said that the collective voice of ICCI and ICC would help in addressing the key issues of the business community and the citizens.

Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Shams UlHaq Awan Secretary General ICC, Chaudhry Tahir Mehmood Information Secretary ICC, Khalid Chaudhry and others also spoke at the occasion and shared ideas for making joint efforts to promote the cause of the business

Six injured in road mishap in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: Six persons including five women of a family received several injuries in road mishap on G.T road near Mandra here on Tuesday. According to Rescue 1122, the incident took place due to the carelessness of car driver as he lost the control over vehicle due to over speeding and struck with a truck, resultantly six people namely Manzoor Ahmed 40, Nusrat BiBi 50, Muskan 17, Nabeela 34, Adil 28, Samima Shahzad of 25 received several injuries. On information, Rescue teams rushed to the spot and shifted the inured to Rural Health Center (RHC) for treatment where there condition is stated to be stable. - APP

IHC seeks report from PTA regarding blasphemous content

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday directed Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to submit detailed report pertaining to the measures to stop blasphemous contents on social media and other sites.

Justice Aamer Farooq of IHC conducted hearing on a case filed by Shuhada Foundation seeking to ban Netflix site on uploading sacrilegious movie.

At the outset of hearing, PTA's official informed the court that the department had contacted the site's management to remove controversial material from Netflix. The PTA said that they were taking measures to make the You Tube open its office here in Pakistan, adding that the PTA itself couldn't block any content on it. Justice Faroog remarked that it would be good if all social media sites opened offices here. If there would be offices then the court could seek reply from them on controversial material, he said. The bench said that the controversial film would be banned in Pakistan when it would be released here. It had no connection with information ministry net, he said.

Justice Aamer Faroog asked that whether a common citizen could file such complain to PTA to this the official said that citizens were authorized to move complain with department.

Petitioner's lawyer Tariq Asad adopted the stance that PTA could block the Netflix itself as it closed You Tube in the past. The court noted that the PTA had already contacted the site to remove controversial material before this petition moved. The court sought detailed report from PTA regarding measures against controversial material and adjourned hearing for two weeks. - APP

CDA restores water treatment plant in I-9 STP treated water will be utilized in gardening, department of

environment, and for construction purposes. This step will reduce the water necessity of the city, he added



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) restored water treatment plant (STP) in I-9 on Tuesday. Chairman CDA, Aamir Ali Ahmed visited the said plant and inspected the water recycling. Speaking at the occasion, Chairman

CDA said that the water plant was not functional for last four years. But, the the city, he added. current administration of CDA repaired STP in just 2 He said that prior to this the months. STP was treating 2 MGD sewerage water in past. Now it has the ability to treat 6-7 MGD sewerage

water. STP treated water

will be utilized in garden-

ing, department of environ-

ment, and for construction purposes. This step will reduce the water necessity of

sewerage water was being wasted either by going down in the earth or through nullahs. 10-12 MGD sewerage water will be recycled in coming three months through this treatment plant. Sewerage pipelines are also being improved. A tank having capacity of 20,000 gallons water will also be constructed. Cameras and heavy lights will also be installed to ensure the security of the STP. Latest laboratory has also been established to check the quality of the treated water, he

IGP reviews annual performance

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfigar on Tuesday reviewed the annual performance of Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) and Anti-Car Lifting Cell of Islamabad police and directed for effective measures to eradicate crime from the city. According to details, a meeting presided over by IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar was held to review crime situation in Islamabad and annual performance of CIA and ACLC. The meeting was attended among others by DIG (Operations), AIG (General), AIG (Special Branch), SSP (CTD), Zonal SPs, SDPO Ramana (Saddar Circle), SHOs of Golra and Ramana police stations and Inspectors as well as Sub-Inspectors of CIA. The meeting reviewed the an-

nual performance of CIA wing of Islamabad police and was also briefed by the SP (Investigation) Malik Naeem Iqbal about its achievements. The meeting was told that 64 gangs were busted during 2020 and 191 gangsters were arrested. Moreover, CIA police recovered valuables worth Rs. 124.2 million including gold ornaments, vehicles as well as cash and returned all these items to their owners. In addition, CIA police recovered 81 kilogram hashish, 200 gram opium, five kilogram heroin, one kilo ice, 2000 wine bottles and also 111 weapons of different kinds from the various nabbed accused. It also succeeded to nab 34 proclaimed offenders and eight court absconders. - APP

Iraqi envoy stresses need for practical coordination

The Centre for Middle East and Africa (CMEA) of the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) aims to promote and provide quality research, analysis, policy input and dialogue on issues related to the Middle East and Africa

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Pakistan, H.E. Hamid Abbas Lafta expressed his desire to translate friendly sentiments between Iraq and Pakistan into practical cooperation and coordination through increased research and dialogue. He was hosted by the Centre for Middle East & Africa (CMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) here on Monday. The ambassador was received at the Institute by Chairman BOG, ISSI Ambassador Khalid Mahmood and Director CMEA. Ms. Amina Khan. First Secretary of the Iraq Embassy in Pakistan, Mrs. Wassan Jabbar Abdullah and Attache, Mr. Asseel Noori Talib were also present on the occasion. Director CMEA, Ms. Amina Khan

gave a briefing to the Ambassador action between both sides is key on activities of ISSI and CMEA. Welcoming the Ambassador's visit, Ms. Amina Khan remarked that academic and research inter-

to strengthening Pakistan-Iraq bilateral relations. The ambassador lay emphasis on the importance of Centers such as CMEA

for promoting cooperation and coordination. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BOG ISSI said that the people of Pakistan regard the land and people of Iraq



with high respect and reverence and the Pakistani government is keen to forge lasting ties with the Government of Iraq. Both sides pledged continued exchanges and collaboration in future.

The Centre for Middle East and Africa (CMEA) of the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI) aims to promote and provide quality research, analysis, policy input and dialogue on issues related to the Middle East and Africa. It envisions synergy of inquiry and cooperation with these important regions as envisaged in Pakistan's foreign policy. Fostering closer comprehensive ties with the Muslim countries in the Middle East and identifying areas of mutual interest between Pakistan and Africa in keeping with Pakistan's Engage Africa policy are key priorities that underline the vision of CMEA.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily Massacre in Niger

🕽 HE attacks on two villages, Tchoma Bangou and

lamic State (IS) still looms large. The group's capacity

to slaughter and terrorise has yet to be destroyed. Many

believe the IS orchestrated the latest carnage. If this

assumption is correct, then the attacks reveal that the

organisation's inroads into Africa are growing. Despite

the militant group's continuous penetration, the threats

to Africa's stability do not find any space in the inter-

national community's imagination. The world needs to

notice the ever-increasing terrorist threat that has been

A few experts had rightly warned the triumphalist nations

to be wary of IS' potential. Driving the group out of the

Middle East (ME) was not a permanent solution to IS-in-

duced terrorism. Nowadays, we see that the group has

metamorphosed in a far more deadly entity. It can now

attack anywhere in Africa. The international community

does not take immediate action. The subsequent expan-

sion of the militant outfit in West Africa is troubling, given

the impunity with which Boko Haram still operates there.

According to analysts who are closely observing the

developments in Niger, the state's efforts to dam IS in

the Greater Sahara are failing. The law enforcement

agencies' pulling back from the region provide IS more

breathing space and encouragement to consolidate its

base in the continent. The world must come together

against the terrorists in West Africa lest the spillover

effects destabilise the already volatile North Africa.

The best way to eliminate the terror threat perma-

nently is to provide logistical and financial support to

spreading across the African continent.

Zaroumadareye, in Niger resulting in more than a hundred deaths, inform us that the threat of Is**Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti Deputy Editor: Abid Raza**

ABC CERTIFIED

Vol: 01 Issue: 243 Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com Phone: **051-2266165** / **051-2261960** Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Reopening schools

N a meeting conducted by education ministers in the country, it has been decided that all educational institutes will be reopened in phases. According to Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood, the initiative was taken after careful consideration of the health conditions prevailing in the country and on account of the colossal educational loss suffered by students across Pakistan. However, considering that transmission rates haven't gone down and new strains of COVID-19 are manifesting, there is a dire need for strict safety measures to be endorsed and adopted.

According to details released, the first wave allows for the return of students from grades nine to 12 on January 18, the second phase for grades one to eight on January 25 and the third for higher education students on February 1. Furthermore, a 50 percent attendance policy, which would entail sectioning the total number of students into halves, has been implemented. This is the best course of action, and a well thought out one at that, for the circumstances we are living in. Given the complications that were arising from online instruction, many students found themselves at a natural disadvantage by virtue of their economic standing, social environment, geographical location, mental health and the like. On top of all this, the quality of education dispensed also suffered in quality. Through this, some sense of normalcy is expected to return.

In the same breath, it is imperative that we do not forget that the second wave is still raging, and infection rates don't seem to be going down. If authorities do not approach this step cautiously, the situation may worsen rapidly. As such, comprehensive protocols are needed within institutions that highlight the importance of taking preventative measures like social distancing, wearing masks and using sanitisers. Only through making this process foolproof can we truly make some progress and protect the health of our children.

Two-state solution: The opium of Palestinian people

Haidar Eid

the states fighting against terror threats.

The de-Osloisation of Palestine, for most Palestinian activists, has become a precondition for the creation of peace with justice. That requires a redefinition of the Palestinian cause as an anti-colonial struggle against a system of settlercolonialism and apartheid, and reunification of the three components of the Palestinian people, namely, Gaza and the West Bank residents, refugees, and Palestinian citizens of Israel. The WCAR declaration, in a very peculiar way, demanded from Palestinians to offer guidance to the most effective tool of int'l solidarity with their struggle to end apartheid in historic Palestine

AST month, Saeb Erekat, chief Palestinian negotiator and secretary-general of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, passed away at the age of 65. His death has been seen by some Palestinians as a metaphor for the end of the Oslo era and its twisted logic. Erekat and many Palestinian political functionaries of his generation have firmly stood by the so-called two-state solution, insisting that the Palestinians will be able to strike a fair deal with the Israelis and their American patrons to establish an independent Palestinian state on parts of historic Palestine. The illusion that this is actually possible has

been maintained through decades of continued colonisation and disastrous agreements. It is "the opium of the Palestinian people". The accords with Israel signed by Egypt in

1978 at Camp David, by the Palestinians in 1993 in Oslo and Jordan in 1994 in Wadi Araba were supposed to be necessary steps towards Palestinian self-determination and towards "peace" in the Middle East in general.

But all these agreements ignored the existence of the Palestinian people as a people and their basic rights, including the right of return of Palestinian refugees and equality for Palestinian citizens of Israel.

Instead of insisting on those fundamental rights and following the example of South Africa's anti-apartheid movement, which mobilised international civil society around the idea of one person, one vote and the establishment of a secular democratic, non-racial, non-sectarian state, the Palestinian political leadership reduced the Palestinian people to only those living in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. This resulted in the formation of a Palestinian Bantustan of incongruous territories, where Palestinians live under the constant terror of a military occupation and where the Palestinian Authority does not actually exercise full authority. The insistence on continuing down the Oslo path towards an illusory two-state solution has persisted even after Israel passed a Nation-State law, in which it explicitly declared the right to self-determination in "the Land of Israel" to be "unique to the Jewish People" - i.e. according to the Israeli state, the Palestinians cannot enjoy that right. And it has persisted even as Arab states have pressed forward with normalisation with Israel without any concessions along the formula "peace for land" and as the United States has put forward yet another "peace deal" in which it offers the Palestinians nothing more than humiliating subsistence.

Oslo and its derivative processes ignore the elephant in the room – the apartheid regime which Israel has effectively imposed on historic Palestine. They also do not pay attention to the consciousness of sumud that has emerged out of the Palestinian struggle. Nor do they take into account the long Palestinian legacy of civil and political resistance.

Over the years, many Palestinians have come to see Oslo for what it is and have opted to draw alternative paths to secure Palestinian rights. In 2001, just a year after the Second Intifada erupted, the NGO forum of the World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) was held in Durban, South Africa. It offered a very clear diagnosis of the nature of the Zionist project and paved the way for a much more practical but also progressive path to a new intersectional cooperation between the oppressed Palestinians and other marginalised groups.

In 2005, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement was created and two years later the BDS National Committee was formed to map its forward trajectory. BDS, along with the establishment of the One Democratic State Campaign and the Great March of Return – to give but a few examples – all represent the beginning of a process of de-Osloisation of the Palestinian mind. And in this process, Gaza has played a central role. Most events that have taken

place in the strip since the 2006 legislative elections represent an outright rejection of the Oslo Accords and their consequences. When we bear in mind that 75-80 percent of Gaza residents are refugees, the anti-colonial and anti-Oslo context of the election results becomes that much clearer.

In the following years, the calls for an alternative paradigm that divorces itself from the fiction of the "two-prison solution" intensified. It is a paradigm that takes the sacrifices of the people of Gaza as a turning point in the struggle for Palestinian liberation, one that builds on the growing global anti-apartheid movement that has been given an impetus by the 2009, 2012, 2014 onslaughts on Gaza and by the Great March of Return.

The de-Osloisation of Palestine, for most Palestinian activists, has become a precondition for the creation of peace with justice. That requires a redefinition of the Palestinian cause as an anti-colonial struggle against a system of settler-colonialism and apartheid, and reunification of the three components of the Palestinian people, namely, Gaza and the West Bank residents, refugees, and Palestinian citizens of Israel. The first steps of this process were taken in Durban in 2001. The WCAR declaration, in a very peculiar way, demanded from Palestinians to offer guidance to the most effective tool of international solidarity with their struggle to end apartheid in historic Palestine. The language used in the declaration was clear, diagnostic, strong, and - most importantly uncompromising on basic human rights:

"We declare Israel as a racist, apartheid state in which Israel's brand of apartheid as a crime against humanity has been characterized by separation and segregation, dispossession, restricted land access, denationalization, 'bantustanization' and inhumane acts." And this has, to all of us in Palestine, been the beginning of our South African moment, a step in our long walk to freedom, equality and justice.

- Courtesy: Al Jazeera

COVID-19 and its impact on society

Osama Malick

I have come to know that compassion for humanity, charity for the destitute, tolerance to accept people with different views are such commendable traits that benefit the person who practices them the most and help make this world a better place for everyone to live in. With the arrival of 2021, it really seems like we —who have been lucky enough to survive the pandemic—are now living a second life with the first one being left in the turbulent 2020. Though the second wave of this pandemic is still in it's full swing, everyone is advised to enjoy this "second" life responsibly

OME the year 2020 and nobody knew that it would bring in its wake a disastrous pandemicnamely coronavirus-, leaving the people with no option but to remain indoors and avoid mass gatherings.

To a great extent it was feasible for the bourgeoisie and creme de la creme to adapt themselves to such conditions but it was the poor who had to bear the brunt of the havoc caused by this merciless contagion. The major concern for the latter was as to where to eat from, unless the bread winners would go out to eke out their livings. In this whole scenario, the students were also no exception, for they had to stay home and study via online classes. Study is a process through which a person evolves gradually. Yet this process requires undivided attention, so it was improbable for a large number of students to have desirable conditions during these unprecedented times, mainly owing to the presence of all family members all the time.

For some students, absence of proper room to study, dearth of resources to fund their education were the mind-boggling problems whereas others have had unavailability of Internet services like issues in their respective regions. On the flip side, there have been a number of students too who had to grapple with these It has been rightly put that there are alpredicaments all together to turn this online education into a reality.

Much to our sadness despite agitations in miscellaneous parts of the country, government did nothing to redress the students' grievances and so universities went on to hold online classes. Eventually in the first some months of this virus, more than 1.5 billion students and around 65 million teachers from 180 countries of the world had shifted to online classes leaving the institutes unoccupied.

Online learning has never been an optimal option, yet after so many ifs and buts students have become inured to it in the fullness of time as they know that this pandemic's total termination from this world is nowhere on the horizon.

We are already experiencing the second wave of this death-dealing virus and this time it's been more aggressive and lethal in wreaking havoc as far as exterminating human lives is concerned. Reports of Covid-19's variant being found, first in England and now in different parts of the world including Pakistan, further consolidate this view that this contagion is not going to leave humanity anytime soon. Therefore "transition" is the only alternative we as students and other human beings are left with. The sooner we adapt ourselves to this new normal, the better. ways two sides to every story.

Ergo the other side of this pandemic has been that it gave students like me—whose more than four hours of a day were spent in commutation in order to reach university and come back home— the opportunity to spend more time with their family members and friends to know and create a stronger bond with them. We had had never before such a good amount of time for ourselves too since the start of our degree education. Covid-19 compelled me to renew my views on life, success and other worldly matters and after that period of contemplations, I feel myself a better person now.

I have come to know that compassion for humanity, charity for the destitute, tolerance to accept people with different views are such commendable traits that benefit the person who practices them the most and help make this world a better place for everyone to live in. With the arrival of 2021, it really seems like we -who have been lucky enough to survive the pandemic-are now living a second life with the first one being left in the turbulent 2020.

Though the second wave of this pandemic is still in it's full swing, everyone is advised to enjoy this "second" life responsibly.

Army vows

to defeat terrorists

The forum voiced extreme respect and appreciation for all those who are putting their lives at stake fighting

COVID-19 pandemic. The

participants paid special

tribute to all shuhada and

their families for supreme

sacrifices rendered for peaceful and secure Paki-

stan, especially the recent

GCC leaders

agree to end the Gulf

Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber

Al-Sabah - from Oman and

Kuwait who passed away

last year. As part of the

agreement Saudi Arabia

has already opened the air-

space, land and sea border

with Qatar and more steps

to end the crisis are expect-

Dr Anwar Gargash, the UAE

Minister of State for Foreign

Affairs, said the summit at

Al Ula would be a "historic'

meeting "through which we

restore Gulf cohesion and

are keen to ensure that the

security, stability and pros-

perity of our countries and

peoples are the first priority". "We have more work

[to do] and we are [going] in

the right direction," he said

on Twitter on Monday after

ed in the coming days.

From Page 01

incidents in Balochistan.

From Page 01

Briefs

SC orders to rebuild Karak Hindu temple

From Page 01

had provoked the people to hold protest. Over hundred people involved in the mishap have been arrested while 92 security personnel including superintendent in police and deputy superintendent in police have been suspended, he went on to say. Chief justice remarked that money for the renovation of the temple should be taken from Molvi Shareef. Meanwhile, the CJP said that ETPB employees are doing business on the land of temple. On the other hand, Ramesh Kumar told that over 300 to 400 pilgrims pay visit to this temple which was also tried to be demolished in 1997. The Hindu council had paid money for the renovation after refusal from ETPB, he stated. Justice Ijaz-ul-Hassan while expressing resentment said that ETPB has money to build their own buildings but they are lacking resources for Hindus. CJP Gulzar Ahmed had taken notice of setting the Hindu shrine ablaze in Karak area and sought a report on the incident from chief secretary and inspector gen-

eral of KP police. According to a statement released by the apex court, Patron-in-Chief of Pakistan Hindu Council and Mem ber National Assembly Dr. Ramesh Kumar had informed the CJP about the mishap during a meeting at Supreme Court (SC) Karachi registry. "The chief justice of Pakistan showed grave concern over the tragic incident and informed the member of parliament that he has already taken cognisance of the issue and has fixed the matter before court on 05.01.2021 at Islamabad with directions to one-man Commission on Minorities Rights, KP chief secretary and KP inspector general of police to visit the site and submit [a] report

on 04.01.2021," it stated. Pakistan's ally' status in

From Page 01

The designation gives the countries entry into cooperative research and development projects with the Department of Defence on a shared-cost basis, participation in certain counter-terrorism initiatives, purchase of depleted uranium anti-tank rounds, priority delivery of military surplus (ranging from rations to ships).

Russia keen to supply its vaccine to **Pakistan**

From Page 01 One dose of the vaccine will cost less than \$10 in the international market, it said and added the vaccine is cheaper and easily transportable and can be stored at a temperature ranging between minus 2 degrees Celsius to eight degrees Celsius. The sources said Russia has already provided Pakistan with details about clinical trials of Sputnik-V.

Turkey next to Azerbaijan in its just struggle

Foreign Desk

ANKARA: Turkey is next to Azerbaijan in its just struggle to the end, Turkish Minister of National Defense Hulusi Akar said, Trend reports.

Akar made the remark at an event dedicated to the memory of the martyrs of the Sarikamysh battle. "Following the example of our ancestors, who became the bearers of peace and justice on three continents, the glorious Turkish army is fighting to ensure the security and well-being of friendly and fraternal countries," noted the minister.

Within the framework of the UN, NATO, OSCE, as well as bilateral agreements, Turkey is making great efforts to contribute to the achievement of peace in Azerbaijan, Libya, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Qatar, Somalia, Sudan, and many other countries. Akar stressed. The Turkish defense minister emphasized the importance of the slogan that Turkey and Azerbaijan are one nation, two states.



ISLAMABAD: Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul call on to chief minister Gilgit Baltistan Muhammad Khalid Khursheed Khan at Chief minister camp office. -DNA

Williamson, Nicholls frustrate Pakistan as NZ declare at 659

Williamson and Nicholls took complete advantage of the situation and put up a strong partnership to put New Zealand in the driving seat as they declared their first inning at 659-6

SPORTS DESK

CHRISTCHURCH: Kane Williamson and Henry Nicholls scored 369 runs together to frustrate Pakistan and help New Zealand take 362 runs lead here in the second Test. Resuming at the

DNA

BAKU: Dilgam Asgarov's

mother is buried in Kalbaiar

district, the region in Azerbai-

As a young man, still grieving

and in pain, he used to visit

her grave frequently. But in

the early 1990s, when Arme-

nia-backed forces captured

the area as part of a bloody

war with Azerbaijan over Na-

gorno-Karabakh, making that

visit became seemingly impos-

sible. Yet still determined to

pay his respects, Asgarov and

others risked their lives to en-

ter their old home towns and

villages, then occupied by eth-

nic Armenians, to pray at the

On many occasions, Asgarov,

now 60, made the journey un-

scathed. To go unnoticed, he

took long and winding routes,

graves of their loved ones.

jan where he was born.

Azerbaijani prisoner

released by Armenia

alleges torture

overnight score of 286-3, New Zealand opened their batting on Day 3 with Williamson and Nicholls batting at 112 and 89 respectively. The first session went wicketless for Pakistan, meanwhile, yet another catch was dropped by the fielding side. Williamson and Nicholls took complete advan-

through mountains he knew

In July 2014, however, as they

visited Kalbajar to visit their

relatives' graves, Asgarov and

another Azerbaijani, Shahbaz

Guliyev, were seized by Ar-

menia-backed troops. A third

Azerbaijani, Hasan Hasanov

At the time, Asgarov had been

living and working in Russia

cutting trees and selling wood

managing to come home only

infrequently to see his family

and tensions between Baku

and Yerevan were high, with

several clashes between Arme

Armenian officials said the

three men were performing

accusing them of crossing the

line of contact, and kidnapping

and torturing a 17-year-old -

charges Asgarov and Guliyev

operations.

nian and Azeri soldiers.

reconnaissance

have always denied.

was shot to death.

like the back of his hand.

tage of the situation and put up a strong partnership to put New Zealand in the driving seat as they declared their first inning at 659-6. New Zealand's skipper scored his fourth double hundred and fell to Faheem Ashraf after scoring 238 runs. Nicholls provided solid

support to his captain and got out

after scoring 157 with the help of 18 boundaries and a six. Daryl Mitchell, coming down the order, also smashed a century to further strengthen New Zealand's position. He scored 102 runs off 112 balls with the help of eight boundaries and two sixes. Shaheen Shah

Afridi, Mohammad Abbas, and Fa-

heem bagged two wickets each for Pakistan. In reply, Pakistan lost Shan Masood earlier, the third duck for the left-handed opener in this series. Kyle Jamieson struck to give early breakthrough to the hosts. Pakistan closed Day 3 at 8-1, heading into the fourth day

C.Punjab and KP share Quaid title after spectacular tie

LAHORE: Hasan Ali's scintillating century resulted in the final of the first-class Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2020-21 ending in a dramatic tie and Central Punjab, the title defenders, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa sharing the coveted trophy at Karachi National Stadium on Wednesday. The Central Punjab captain blasted to his maiden triple-digit score in first-class cricket as he scored 106 not out from just 61 balls. Hasan's stay at the crease was studded with 10 fours and seven sixes, said the information made here by the Pakistan Cricket Board. He arrived at the crease in the first over after Lunch with Central Punjab 154 runs away from the 356-run target with four wickets in hand and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa dominating the proceedings. The 26-year-old turned the tide quickly into his team's favour as he spanked Sajid

Khan, the highest wicket-taker of the season with 67 scalps at 25.09 runs per dismissal, for two sixes and three fours in the 102nd over, before smashing pacer Irfanullah Shah for a six and a four in the next over. He crossed the 50-run mark with a massive six off Arshad Iqbal on his 27th ball and brought up his century on 58th delivery. Hasan won the Best Player of the Tournament award for his all-round

contribution in Central Punjab's epic resurgence, which saw them win four of their last five group-matches and play the final of the competition after being at the bottom of the six-team points table at the halfway stage. He took 43 wickets - the most for a pacer – in nine matches at 20.07 and scored 273 runs, which also included two half-centuries, at 24.82. He was also named Player of the Final. Over the course of his stay, Hasan stitched a match-defining partnership of 70 runs from 50 balls with Ahmed Safi Abdullah, who made 35 from 23 balls, after he had spearheaded a 47-run stand for the eight-wicket with Bilawal Iqbal (seven off 18 balls). With the scores tied, Waqas Maqsood, in his attempt to clear the mid-on fielder, handed a catch to Kamran Ghulam off Sajid as the match ended in a dramatic finish in the afternoon session of the final day's play. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had gotten off to a perfect start with Arshad accounting for Mohammad Saad in the first over of the day. Five overs later, Sajid, the off-spinner who was named the Best Bowler of the Tournament, dismissed Saad Nasim, which compounded Central Punjab's woes. – **APP**

* CRICKET

the Saudi-Qatari decision was announced. Bahrain's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad was the first regional leader to arrive for the summit. He was followed by the Omani delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Fahad bin Mahmoud attending on behalf of Sultan Haitham. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, the UAE Vice President and Ruler of Dubai, arrived next with a delegation that included National Security Adviser Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed; Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs; Minister of Cabinet Affairs Mohammad Al Ger-

gawi; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Anwar Gargash; Ali Mohammed Al Shamsi, Deputy Secretary General at the Supreme National Security Council; and Sheikh Shakboot bin Nahy an, the UAE Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. The UAE contingent was followed by the Kuwaiti delegation led by Emir Sheikh Nawaf, who said last week that he was optimistic about the meeting. The summit will bring GCC leaders together to strengthen their solidarity against the challenges in the region, he said.All the delegations were received by Saudi Crown Prince Mo-

- (Related picture on

Gayle, Steyn placed in Platinum category

hammed bin Salman.

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Chris Gayle has returned to Pakistan Super League (PSL) and being named among 25 other foreigners in the Platinum roster of the tournament's sixth edition, scheduled in Febru-

ary-March this year. The list includes big names such as Gayle, Rashid Khan, Dale Steyn, Lendl Simmons, Carlos Brathwaite, Evin Lewis, Dwayne Bravo, Chris Jordan, Alex Hales, Moeen Ali, Dawid Malan, Tom Banton, Colin Ingram, Imran Tahir, Rilee Rossouw, David Miller, Rassie Van Der Dussen, Dale Steyn, Morne Morkel, Chris Lynn, Thisara Perera, Isuru Udana, Rashid Khan, Mohammad Nabi, Mujeeb ur Rehman, Mustafizur Rehman, Sandeep Lamichhane.

Out of these players, some players will be partially available for the tournament due to their other commitments following a packed international calendar during February -March. All the franchises will now have an opportunity to trade and retain players before the players' draft which is likely to take place in the second week of January. Each team can retain up to eight players. Director Commercial Babar Hamid: "We are delighted to release a star-studded list of players in the Platinum category even though we are dealing with an unprecedented situation due to Covid-19 and player availabilities are also hampered by a packed FTP calendar. "The HBL Pakistan Super League 2021 will be another exciting season once again being played in Pakistan.

South Africa beat Sri Lanka in 3 days

SPORTS DESK

SANDTON: Dimuth Karunaratne moved to his first overseas century since 2017, before Sri Lanka lost their final six second-innings wickets for 35 runs, Lungi Ngidi taking 4-44. That left South Africa needing just 67 to win and Dean Elgar and Aiden Markram wrapped up the 10-wicket win in just 13.2 overs. Sri Lanka's two-Test series against England starts on 14 January. Former wicketkeeper-batsman Boucher took over as South Africa head coach in December 2019 and lost his only previous Test series against England 3-1. Sri Lanka, who were ranked fifth in the world - above South Af-

rica - before the series, have suffered two heavy defeats on this tour after losing the first Test by an innings and 45 runs in Centurion last week. They started day three with a slender five-run lead, and Karunaratne and wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella added 26 before the former was dismissed by Anrich Nortje's short ball. Dickwella fell to the impressive Ngidi four balls later before pace bowler Lutho Sipamla, in just his second Test, took three wickets to wrap up the tail. Markram and Elgar - who made a century in the first innings - made light work of the required target to seal a convincing Test and eries win.





KARACHI: Captain of Central Punjab, Hasan Ali and Khyber Pakhtunkha, Muhammad Rizwan sharing Quaid e Azam trophy after spectacular tie. - DNA

Iran rebukes EU criticism of uranium enrichment

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iran has rejected European criticism of the country's enrichment of uranium to 20 percent as China urged restraint and the United States slammed the move defying the nuclear accord.

During his weekly press conference in Tehran, government spokesman Ali Rabiei said Iran's announcement on Monday that it started enriching uranium to a purity of 20 percent is fully in line with legislation mandated by parliament and article 36 of the nuclear deal it reached with world powers in 2015.

"So long as all parties [to the nuclear deal do not stand by their commitments, Iran deems its right to react appropriately," Rabiei said, adding Iran can quickly reverse the decision as soon as others implement their pledges. "Instead of issuing statements and expressing

concern about Iran using its rights, the European Union should think something about its own commitments left on the ground." Shortly after Iran announced it had resumed enriching 20 percent uranium at the Fordow nuclear plant and would have the first batch of end product UF6 within hours, the EU warned the move was a "considerable departure" from Tehran's commitments under the nuclear deal. The European Commission said on Tuesday it regretted Iran's decision. "We are highly concerned by the measures taken by Iran. This action is in breach of Iran's nuclear commitments and will have serious implications," a spokesman for the Commission told a regular briefing. "It is regrettable but it is also highly important ... that we maintain the agreement." China on Tuesday urged "all sides" to exercise calm and restraint and "to stick to the commitments of the agreement and

Iran issues Interpol notice for 48 US officials

TEHRAN: US President Donald Trump has had a "red notice" request for his arrest issued through Interpol by Iran. Iranian judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili announced during a press conference on Tuesday that Iran has requested the international police organisation to arrest Trump and 47 other American officials identified as playing a role in the assassination of top general Qassem Soleimani last year. "The Islamic Republic of Iran is very seriously following up on pursuing and punishing those who ordered and executed this crime," Esmaili told reporters. Soleimani, Iran's top general who led the foreign operations arm of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, was assassinated on January 3, 2020, in a US drone strike in Baghdad ordered by Trump. The assassination was deemed to be against international law by Agnes Callamard, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions. - DNA

to refrain from taking actions that might escalate tensions" in an effort to let diplomatic efforts prevail. Under the nuclear deal, Iran committed to capping uranium enrichment at 3.67 percent while also limiting its uranium stockpiles and advanced centrifuges. As verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 12 reports, Iran commitments. After top Iranian nuclear and military scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was assassinated near Tehran in late November, parliament passed a bill that obligates the government to increase enrichment and uranium stockpiles. As US President-elect Joe Biden assumes office on January 20 on promises of restoring the nuclear deal, the legislation also calls on the government to expel IAEA inspectors in two months

if other parties to the deal fail to

abide by their pledges.

remained fully committed to the nu-

clear deal until May 2019, when it

announced it would gradually scale

down its commitments in response

to shortcomings by other parties.

A year earlier, the US unilaterally

exited the deal and imposed harsh

economic sanctions on Iran while

Europe shunned business dealings

with Iran for fear of US reprisals.

Iran was only enriching uranium up

to 4.5 percent after scaling down its

Business / World



Briefs

Proud Boys leader arrested

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: US police have arrested the leader of the right-wing Proud Boys group who is accused of burning a Black Lives Matter banner that was torn down from an historic Black church in downtown Washington last month.

Henry "Enrique" Tarrio, 36, was arrested by Metropolitan Police Department officers after he arrived in Washington, DC, on Monday ahead of protests planned by supporters of President Donald Trump to coincide with the congressional vote expected on Wednesday to affirm Joe Biden's election victory. Tarrio was taken into custody after a warrant was issued for his arrest for destruction of property, police said. He also faces a weapons charges after officers found him with two high-capacity firearm maga zines when he was arrested, a police spokesman said.

A pro-Trump rally in December ended in violence as hundreds of Trump supporters - some wearing the signature black and yellow of the Proud Boys - sought out confrontations with a collective of activists and counter-protesters attempt ing to bar them from Black Lives Matter Plaza, an area near the White House.

By nightfall, vandals tore down a Black Lives Matter banner and sign from two historic Black churches in downtown Washington and set the banner ablaze.

At least 22 killed in eastern Congo village

Foreign Desk

BENI, Congo: At least 22 people were killed in an overnight raid on a village in a part of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo plagued by Islamist rebel attacks, local authorities said on Tuesday. The militants struck late on Monday, killing residents of Mwenda village with machetes and guns, its civil society leader Jeremi Mbweki said. He blamed the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a Ugandan Islamist group which has emerged as the most lethal militia in Congo's eastern borderlands and is suspected of hacking to death at least 17 people in a nearby village last week.

Polls open in Georgia election

Foreign Desk

DALTON: After a gruelling month of campaigning, millions of Americans from the southern state of Georgia head to the polls again on Tuesday to vote in a double runoff election, the outcome of which will determine control of the US Senate and shape the first years of Joe Biden's presidency. Georgians will vote to fill two Senate seats: One race is between Republican Senator Kelly Loeffler, a wealthy businesswoman who was appointed to the seat in 2019 to replace a retiring senator, and Democrat Raphael Warnock, a pastor in Atlanta. The other pits Republican Senator David Perdue, a businessman and cousin of former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue, against Jon Ossoff, a documentary filmmaker who ran unsuccessfully for a US House seat in 2017. Democrats need to win both races to even the number of Republicans in the Senate and take effective control of the upper chamber. Incoming Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, a Democrat, would cast a deciding vote for any vote ties in the chamber after she is sworn in on January 20. The runoff elections will serve as an important test of party power in this rapidly changing state where Democrats have only recently gained an edge after decades of Republican control. In November, Biden became the first Democratic president to defeat a Republican in a generation, when he bested President Donald Trump by just 11.779 votes. Georgia was the only southern state to slip out of Republican hands in the presidential race, a sign that Democrats could have a promising future if they continued to mobilise voters.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf Saeed Al Malikiy in a group photo with the military attaché and other staff of the embassy. – DNA

COVID-hit Italy gripped by new political crisis

Renzi has threatened to withdraw his small but pivotal Italia Viva (Italy Alive) party from the centre-left coalition that Conte heads, which would force its collapse. "The situation is, in technical terms, a disaster

Foreign Desk

ROME: Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has more than enough on his plate as he deals with a raging coronavirus pandemic, but also faces the more immediate challenge of staying in office. Despite a soaring COVID-19 death toll and with a deadline looming to come up with a credible plan to spend billions of euros in EU recovery funds, the government has been consumed for weeks by internal sniping from former Prime Minister Matteo Renzi.

Renzi has threatened to withdraw his small but pivotal Italia Viva (Italy Alive) party from the centre-left coalition that Conte heads,

which would force its collapse. "The situation is, in technical terms, a disaster," the politician, who led Italy from 2014 to 2016, said in an interview with the Rete 4 channel broadcast late on Monday. Asked about the chances of Conte keeping his job, he said: "We'll see." Renzi has complained about slow progress in rolling out coronavirus vaccinations and delays in school reopenings and has lambasted Conte for seeking to concentrate power in his hands. This includes setting spending priorities without enough consultation for the 196 billion euros (\$240bn) Italy expects to receive as part of a post-virus EU recovery plan, which is due to be submitted to Brussels by mid-April. Italy has



recorded more than 75,000 deaths from the novel coronavirus, the highest toll in Europe, and the associated lockdowns and restrictions have hit the economy hard. The leaked draft spending plan includes more than 50 priori-

ties, with only nine billion euros (\$11bn) for Italy's cash-strapped health system. "This cannot work, there's too much money on handouts and too little on investments," Renzi said. The showdown with Conte is expected to come to a head in the coming days when ministers meet - possibly as early as Wednesday - to discuss the EU plans. Conte could try to placate Renzi with a cabinet reshuffle, either by persuading some ministers to step down or by resigning himself to seek a new mandate from President Sergio Mattarella with a revised list of cabinet ministers. But this option is, of course, fraught with risks.

Once Conte resigns, Renzi could insist that the governing coalition - which includes the populist Five Star Movement (M5S), the centre-left Democratic Party (PD) and the leftist Free and Equals (LeU) - can survive only under a new prime minister. However, there are no obvious alternative candidates. Former European Central Bank President Mario Draghi is often mentioned as a possible saviour for the country, but he has shown no appetite for a political career, at least in public. "Personally, I think that a government without Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte would be folly," tweeted Federico D'Inca, a minister and member of M5S, the biggest party in Parliament.

Conte, a once-obscure law professor who has never himself been

of the U.S. killing of a top

Iran tests

drones in military

exercise

Foreign Desk DUBAI: Iran launched ex-

ercises featuring a wide array of domestically pro-

duced drones on Tuesday,

Iranian media reported,

days after the anniversary

Iranian general by a drone strike in Iraq. Iran and the regional forces it backs have increasingly relied in recent years on drones in Yemen, Syria, Iraq and the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf. Iran's armed forces are to test combat drones used as bombers, interceptors and in reconnaissance missions in the two-day exercises in central Semnan province, the semi-official Fars news agency said. Bevond surveillance, Iranian drones can drop munitions and also carry out a "kamikaze" flight when loaded with explosives and flown into a target, according to a U.S. official who spoke to

Sources last year here. Iran has developed a large domestic arms industry in the face of international sanctions and embargoes that bar it from importing many weapons. Western military analysts say Iran often exaggerates its weapons capabilities, though concerns about its long-range ballistic missile programme contributed to Washington leaving Tehran's 2015 nuclear pact with world powers.

Al-Qaeda branch claims killings of French soldiers

WEB DESK MALI: Al-Qaeda's branch

in North Africa has claimed responsibility for killing two French soldiers who died when their armoured vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device in eastern Mali. The soldiers were on a reconnaissance and intelligence-gathering mission in the eastern region of Menaka when the blast occurred. The attack came iust days after three other troops from France were killed in a similar fashion. Group to Support Islam and Muslims (GSIM), said it "detonated an explosive device" as the vehicle was passing, "bringing the toll to five in less than a week", in a statement released by its propaganda platform Al-Zallaga late on Monday. The deaths brought to 50 the number of French soldiers killed in the West African nation since France first intervened in 2013 to help drive back armed groups. The GSIM condemned the "indiscriminate" killing of 100 civilians in two villages in western Niger over the weekend, the Site Intelligence Group also reported. "This attack, whoever carried it out, is not different from the massacres of the French occupiers and criminal militias," GSIM said, adding its "jihad" has not turned against the people and vowing reprisals. The group appeared to be referring to the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (EIGS), its rival in the region and with whom it has clashed

Abu Dhabi launches free vaccine campaign

Foreign Desk

ABU DHABI: A coronavirus vaccination campaign has launched in Abu Dhabi under the supervision of the Abu Dhabi Department of Health and the Abu Dhabi Public Health Centre. The "Choose to Vaccinate"

campaign asks everyone to get vaccinated to protect themselves against COV-ID-19, with the understanding that together we are protected.

All UAE nationals and residents can receive the free coronavirus vaccine. Abu Dhabi's rigorous ap-

proach to managing the pandemic, including mass screening and testing and active tracing, has allowed the emirate to successfully maintain a low rate of 0.39 percent of confirmed cases out of total tests conducted in the emirate.

The vaccination campaign aims to preserve the health achievements attained so far in curbing the spread of Covid-19, and ensures Abu Dhabi will continue to lead the way in comprehensively protecting the population. Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Hamed, chair-

man of the Abu Dhabi Department of Health, said: The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the world in an unprecedented manner. In Abu Dhabi, we are proud to have prioritized protecting our community and curbing the spread of the virus, while being active in finding solutions by partnering with other global leaders to participate in clinical trials that have contributed to ensuring a vaccine is now

"As we enter 2021, we want to ensure our people continue to be safe, which is why the vaccines have undergone rigorous trials to ensure their safety, efficacy, and quality. I hope vou choose to vaccinate to protect your health and the health of our nation."

Dr. Jamal Mohammed Alkaabi, the undersecretary of the Abu Dhabi Department of Health, said: "The approved COVID-19 vaccines are safe and will give recipients the immunity needed to protect themselves. I hope everyone chooses to vaccinate to help get our lives back to normal." Matar Saeed Al Nuaimi, director-general of Abu Dhabi

Public Health Centre, said:

Indonesia to launch mass vaccination drive

Foreign Desk

JAKARTA: Indonesia will begin its nationwide COVID-19 mass vaccination program on Jan. 13, with President Joko Widodo leading from the front. Jokowi, as he's popularly known, is set to be inoculated against the coronavirus on the first day of the campaign. The president will receive the shots along with public and army representatives as a way to build confidence

in the vaccine, the country's health minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin said on Tuesday. According to the minister, vaccinations in other regions are set

to start in the next two days. The government has previously said 1.3 million frontline workers are set to be among the first to receive the vaccines made by China's Sinovac Biotech. The Chinese company has shipped 3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to the country. Now, the government is waiting on the local food and drug regulator to issue emergency use authorization for the shots to begin inoculating its population, with a target of reaching 181.5 million people by March 2022. Jokowi has called on the Cabinet to shorten that timeline further. Even before the regulator's approval, the government has started distributing the vaccines to its 34 provinces spread across the world's largest archipelago.



AL ULA: Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman meets Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. Both leaders discussed bilateral relations and cooperation. Emir of Qatar arrived in the Saudi city of Al-Ala to attend the summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council. - DNA

Johnson announces new national lockdown

Johnson said that the measures were necessary to avoid the UK's health service from being overwhelmed, as the country sees a surge of cases of the deadly virus

Foreign Desk

LONDON: Boris Johnson has announced a new lockdown for England that will last until at least mid-February as the country reels from a faster-spreading new version of the coronavirus.

Britain's prime minister said that the restrictions will require people to stay at home and primary and secondary schools to close alongside all non-essential shops.

University students will not return to campus and restaurants will only be permitted to provide takeout services. Johnson said that the measures were necessary to avoid the UK's health service from being overwhelmed, as the country sees a surge of cases of the deadly virus. "As

I speak to you tonight, our hospitals are under more pressure from COV-ID than at any time since the start of the pandemic," he said. "I know how tough this is. I know how frustrated you are. Now more than ever we must pull together." It comes as Britain announces a record 58,784 new cases of coronavirus and 407 deaths as the spread of the virus raises fears of a tough new lockdown across the nation. In a statement, Yvonne Dovle, medical director for Public Health England, said that the "continuous rise" in cases should be a "bitter warning for us all". "We must not forget the basics - the lives of our friends and family depend on it," she said. "Keep your distance from others, wash your hands, and wear a mask. This virus will transmit wherever you let your

UK offers bussiness bailout

Foreign Desk

LONDON: Britain offered a 4.6 billion pound (\$6.2 billion) support package for businesses on Tuesday to soften an expected recession caused by a surge in COV-ID-19 cases that has prompted a third national lockdown. Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the lockdown on Monday, saying a highly contagious coronavirus variant risked overwhelming the health service within 21 days. Most people must work

from home and schools have closed for almost all pupils. Hospitality venues must stay shut, as well as non-essential shops. Britain's economy now looks likely to tip back into recession - shrinking in the final quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021 - after suffering a record 25% fall in output in the first two months of lockdown in 2020. The new downturn is expected to be far smaller, with most businesses now much better adapted to working remotely and construction sites and factories expected to stay open.

British opposition leader Sir Keir Starmer earlier also called for a full, nationwide lockdown, claiming that the government's tier system - under which the UK is split into four tiers with stricter restrictions in each depending on the spread of the virus – was not working. "The virus is out of control and we know that the tier system isn't working. I know that, the prime minister knows that, and therefore tougher national restrictions are inevitable," Starmer said. In recent weeks, Britain's government has been criticized for failing to impose restrictions on those entering the UK, including - as in other European countries - a requirement for new arrivals to provide a negative test before they are allowed entry.

S.Korea to send delegation to Tehran

violently in recent months.

WEB DESK

SEOUL: South Korea is sending a delegation to Iran to seek the release of a tanker seized in Gulf waters by Iranian forces, with a senior diplomat set to go ahead with a scheduled visit to Tehran on Sunday amid tensions over \$7bn in Iranian funds frozen in Korean banks due to sanctions imposed by the United States. 'In the earliest possible time, a working-level delegation led by the regional director will be dispatched to Iran to try to resolve the issue on the ground through bilateral negotiations," South Korea's foreign ministry spokesman Choi Young-sam told a briefing in Seoul on Tuesday. Iranian state TV previously cited a Tehran government official as saving South Korea's Vice Foreign Minister Choi Jongkun was already scheduled to visit before the seizure of the tanker Hankuk Chemi to discuss Iran's demand that the frozen funds be released.







WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 06, 2021 | WWW.ISLAMABADPOST.COM.PK

Briefs

Punjab issues school reopening schedule

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training on Tuesday issued a schedule according to which educational institutes will reopen across Puniah.

According to an official notification, a copy of which was shared by the Punjab Education Minister Murad Raas on Twitter, the 25th meeting of the Inter-Provincial Education Ministers Conference (IPEMC) was jointly held with the Punjab Healthy Ministry and the National Command Operations Centre (NCOC) during which the phased reopening of schools in the province as well as the schedule of examinations in 2021 was announced.

January 11, 2021: Schools across Punjab will reopen only for teachers and staff members. January 18, 2021: Schools across Punjab will reopen for grade 9 to grade 12 only. January 25, 2021: Schools across Punjab will reopen for grade 1 to grade 8. February 1, 2021: All universities and colleges will reopen across Punjab.

Per the new schedule, all schools in Punjab will reopen on January 11 for teachers and staff members so that they can prepare the term's academic calendar and devise a plan for the implementation of coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs) before the commencement of classes.

Hazaras refuse to bury miners. set demands

DNA

QUETTA: Thousands of Hazaras have been protesting in western bypass near Quetta alongside the bodies of miners killed in an attack in Machh. The protest entered its third day on Tuesday.

Eleven labourers from the Hazara community were killed and three injured at a coal mine in Balochistan's Machh, the police said on Sunday. According to the Levies force, the incident took place late Saturday night near Bolan. Bolan Deputy Commissioner Murad Kasi revealed that the labourers lived in Hazara Town.

The protesters said that they will not bury the miners till the attackers are arrested. Prime Minister Imran Khan should meet us and personally assure us that security will be provided to us, a protester said.

"We have lost many of our loved ones in bombings and targeted attacks," said Hameeda Fida, a protester. "We have picked up bodies of our loved ones for far too long but this case is the worst because of the government's negligence.

"The men were attacked and killed at 11pm or 12am between Monday night and Sunday morning but it was reported at 8am. This just shows how little they care

about our lives, she added.

COVID-19 claims 59 lives

ISLAMABAD: The national tally of total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Tuesday reached 35,707 with 1,947 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,903 people recovered from the Coronavirus during the last 24 hours. Fifty Nine corona patients, 50 of whom were under treatment in hospital and Nine in their respective homes or quarantines died on Monday, according to the latest update

issued by the NCOC. During the last 24 hours most of the deaths had occurred in Punjab followed by the Sindh. It added that out of the total 59 deaths during last 24 hours 31 patients died on ventilators.

Some 35,073 tests were conducted across the country on Monday, including 10,165 in Sindh, 16,203 in Punjab, 4,197 in KP, 3,713 in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 122 in Balochistan, 357 in GB, and 316 in AJK. - APP

Pak slams India's refusal to hand over martyrs' bodies

The Foreign Office said it is "doubly inhuman" that the bodies of the three Kashmiri boys are not being handed over to their families for a proper burial

SAIFULLAH / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on condemned the Tuesday "doubly inhuman" move by the Indian government, which, after the extra-judicial killing of three Kashmiri youth, is now refusing to hand over the bodies for burial. "Pakistan has strongly condemned the latest extra-judicial killings by the Indian occupation forces of three Kashmiri youth in Srinagar on 29 December 2020," read a statement by the Foreign Office. According to the Foreign

Office, the families and

neighbours of the martyred Kashmiris - Aijaz Maqbool Ganie, Zubair Ahmed Lone, and Athar Mushtaq Wani (aged 16 and students of Class-11) - "have affirmed that the young boys were innocent, who visited Srinagar on the fateful day and became victims of Indian state-terrorism".

The Foreign Office said it is "doubly inhuman" that the bodies of the three Kashmiri boys are not being handed over to their families for a proper burial, despite repeated appeals by the families. "This is a new form of oppression that the Indian occupation forces are now

FM reaffirms Pakistan's support to Kashmir cause

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has reiterated Pakistan's resolve to continue extending political, moral, and diplomatic support to Kashmiris' just struggle for right to self-determination. Speaking in the Senate, he said we have to give a clear and strong message to our Kashmiri brethren and the international community that Pakistan will stand by the people of Kashmir till resolution of Kashmir dispute in light of the UN Resolutions. The Foreign Minister said India has deployed 900,000 troops to subjugate voice of the people of Kashmir, but it will not succeed in breaking Kashmiris' resolve and determination. He said today the entire Kashmiri nation has become sick of New Delhi's Hindutva policies. He said every citizen of Pakistan is an advocate of Kashmiris' freedom struggle and he will continue this mission till resolution of the Kashmir issue. – DNA

resorting to in order to break the will of the Kashmiri people. They will never succeed in this attempt," it said.

The statement called upon the "people of conscience across the world" to take stock of the "killing spree" in India-occupied Kashmir which continues unabated and the "reprehensible refusal" by the Indian government to hand over the bodies. It should be a matter of grave concern, the statement added. "The morally bankrupt RSS-BJP regime should not be allowed to act with such impunity," the FO stressed. It emphasised Pakistan's

position on the gross and systematic violations of human rights being perpetrated by the Indian occupation force, saying that an investigation by a UN Commission of Inquiry as recommended by the OHCHR in its Kashmir reports of 2018 and 2019 is warranted.

"Pakistan reiterates its call for an independent inquiry under international scrutiny to investigate the extra-judicial killings of Kashmiris by Indian occupation forces and to bring the perpetrators of these heinous crimes to justice," the statement concluded by saying.

PM allows **PDM** protest

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has allowed PDM to protest in front of the ECP and directed the Interior Ministry to not be of any hindrance. The PM gave this directive during a meeting with Federal Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Tuesday.

The political situation in the country was also discussed during the meeting. According to sources, the Prime Minister, after consulting with the Interior Minister, allowed PDM's planned protest in front of the Election Commission.

He said that the opposition may exercise its right to protest, however, no one would be allowed to take the law into their own hands. - DNA

UNAMA welcomes second round of peace talks

DNA

KABUL: The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) on Tuesday welcomed the peace negotiator's return to Doha for the resumption of talks between the government and the Taliban teams. In a statement issued, UNAMA stated that these negotiations are critical in helping to bring about an end to the fighting and creating lasting peace.

'The negotiators are con-

fronted with some daunting challenges and much work remains. But the two teams cooperated well in the historic first round of talks that commenced in September, making incremental but genuine progress. They agreed a code of conduct for future negotiations and exchanged draft agenda items before taking a 20-day recess for consultations with their constituents and leadership," the statement read. Meanwhile, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA, Deborah Lyons stated: "I urge both sides to use this opportunity to move ahead to create the conditions for a reduction in violence that will end further loss of Afghan lives and reach a political settlement that is acceptable to all segments of Afghan society." "A cessation in fighting would create a better atmosphere for talks, provide hope to the people, and allow humanitarian actors to deliver much-needed winter assistance to Afghans across the whole country,' she noted. The UN will remain in close contact with both parties and, as the Secretary-General said at the opening of the talks in September, stands ready to assist as necessary, the statement concluded.

NAB files reference against Fazl's close aide

DNA

PESHAWAR: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has filed a reference against Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman's close associate Musa Khan.

As per details, the reference alleges Musa Khan of illegally appointing scores of people including his son and nephew. On the other hand, another investigation by the anti-graft watchdog is underway regarding assets beyond means.

NAB accuses Musa Khan and other of corruption in several projects.

Earlier, DFO Musa Khan was arrested and presented before an accountability court on September 24 in assets inquiry.

CCECC shares experience with Pakistan

BEIJING: China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) Deputy General Manager of Asia Pacific Division, Dong Zhihong said on Tuesday that his company worked out measures to adapt to local conditions and shared its experience with the Pakistani side during the construction.

The natural, geographical and cultural environments of China and Pakistan are very different from each other, so during construction, we worked out measures to adapt to local conditions and shared our construction experience with our Pakistani friends.he said in an interview with China Economic Net.

Take the mountainous areas in Pakistan as an example. It is difficult to conduct construction work there as the geological conditions are not that favorable.

Therefore, blasting, protection and support of high slope, tunneling and excavation technologies are applied to the construction project site after certain improvement and optimization, Dong added. As per Dong, a joint venture led by CCECC signed a construction contract for the upgrade and renovation of the main runway 18L-36R of Allama Iqbal International Airport (AIIAP) with Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) last August. – **APP**



Govt launches drive against unnecessary use of injections

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Tuesday launched awareness campaign in achieving the objectives set out in the National Action Plan to reduce injection overuse, curtail reuse of syringes, institute proper waste disposal and promote oral medication. This initiative was planned to address the unnecessary and unsafe injection practices in Pakistan.

The Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), in line with its Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), is supporting this initiative. The initiative is an evidence-based policy response to the problem of blood borne infections and unnecessary, and unsafe injections in the country. Recent studies and documentations have established the association between unsafe therapeutic injections and transmission of dangerous diseases like Hepatitis and HIV/AIDS. It is also known that patients who receive higher number of injections are at a higher risk of contracting these illnesses primarily due to syringe reuse. It has been found that 94% of injections in Pakistan are unnecessary and can be avoided by preferring oral medication. The problem is widespread and has been documented from different corners of the county. A study published in 2019 about private health care providers in Sindh and Punjab had revealed a very high percentage of syringe reuse and specific factors associated with it. The major reason was demand by patients to which providers complied. - DNA

UN must play role for Kashmiris RSD: Malik

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) senior leader Senator Rehman Malik Tuesday urged the United Nations (UN) for Kashmiris their legitimate right of self-determination in line with the resolutions passed by its Security Council. Expressing solidarity with Kashmiris on the Day of Right to Self-Determination, he said the international community especially the UN should play their role in giving justice and their birth right of self-determination.

He said today was the 519th darkest day of Indian curfew, oppression and barbarism in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the UN must take notice of human rights violations and Modi's atrocities in the occupied valley. Rehman Malik said Indian forces had intensified atrocities in IIOJK and the valley had become world's largest jail and torching cell with longest curfew in the history. The Senator said the blood of brave martyrs of Kashmiris

would not go waste as sooner or later India would have to give Kashmiris their right of self determination.

"Let's pledge today that we will continue extending all possible support and cooperation to the people of Kashmir in getting their right to self-determination," he added. – DNA

OIC condemns incarceration of Kashmiri leader Asiya Andrabi

The Commission urged the UN, OIC countries, and int'l community to lean on the Indian govt to immediately release Ms. Andrabi

RIYADH: Organization of Islamic Cooperation has condemned incarceration of Kashmiri leader Asiva Andrabi and her two female associates in Tihar Jail in India on baseless charges. OIC's Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission, in a statement, rebuked the prolonged illegal and inhuman of detention of Asiya Andrabi and others under the controversial Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. The Commission reiterated its strong concerns over the growing incidents of illegal

and political activists, members of civil society and journalists by the Indian security forces under the impugned draconian laws such as the Armed Special Forces Power Act, Public Safety Act and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. The Commission urged the

United Nations, OIC countries, and international human rights community to lean on the Indian government to immediately release Ms. Andrabi and her associates and all other political prisoners. It emphasized on ensuring a

free and fair trial, revocation of discriminatory laws, and restoration of all fundamental freedoms of Kashmiris. It demanded immediately halting of gross and systematic human rights violations in IIOJK and access to UN and OIC fact-finding missions and establishment of a Commission of Inquiry under UN auspices. The Commission stressed the need for implementing relevant UN Security Council and OIC resolutions allowing Kashmiris to exercise their legitimate right to self-determination. Meanwhile. Pakistan has also urged the European Union to seek immediate release of Asiya Andrabi, a Kashmiri human rights activist and political leader, imprisoned in the notorious

Tihar Jail in India.

its role to stop imminent risk of conviction of Andrabi by a sham court that would take up the case on January 18. Ambassador Janjua called upon the EU to raise its voice to convince India to stop illegal and sham trail. drop all fabricated cases against Andrabi, her husband and associates, paving

In a letter addressed to the

chairs of the political groups

in the European Parliament

and EU Special Representa-

tive for Human Rights, Paki-

stan's envoy to the European

Union, Belgium and Luxem-

bourg, Ambassador Zaheer A.

Janjua urged the EU to play

the way for their honourable and immediate release.

Karachi among most polluted cities

detentions of human rights

DNA

KARACHI: The metropolis ranked atop in pollution in Pakistan while at 5th on a global Air Quality Index (AQI) on Tuesday morning, placed among the world's most polluted cities.

According to recent reading of the Air Quality Index Karachi was ranked 5th with 209 particulate matter at noon. AQI as high as 151-200 is considered unhealthy, while an AQI between 201 to 300 is more harmful and an AQI over 300 is dubbed extremely hazardous.

development" NAB motto 2021: Honorable Mr. Jus-

tice Javed Igbal, Chairman NAB has said that NAB believes in "Zero Corruption, 100% Development".

NAB absolutely committed to root out corruption as our Father of the Nation Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had termed "One of the biggest curses... is corruption and bribery. That really is a poison. We must put it down with an iron hand".

The Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB said that NAB was established to eradicate corruption, recover looted money in order to have Pakistan corruption free.

"Zero corruption, 100%

He said that NAB officers should double their efforts in nabbing corrupt elements and recover from them hard earned looted money of the innocent citizens of Pakistan. He directed that the qual-

ity of inquiries and investigations of NAB should be based on documentary solid evidence as per law after establishment of NAB's Forensic Science Lab (FSL) in Islamabad which has all facilities of Digital Forensics, Questioned Documents and

Fingerprint Analysis. He said that NAB has devised Monitoring & Evaluation System (MES) in order to monitor NAB performance of NAB and all Regional Bureaus in qualitative and quantitative terms which will be helpful in further improving the performance of NAB.

He said that NAB accords its top priority of imparting capacity building of its investigation officers and prosecutors. He said that NAB is the focal institution of Pakistan under United Nations Convention against

Pak wants unity, stability of Islamic world: Ashrafi

Pakistan aims unity and stability of Muslim world and OIC should be made more effective and imperative to address confronting issues of Islamic world

ISLAMABAD: Special Aide to Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi Tuesday said Pakistan wants unity and stability of Islamic world to address all conamicably through dialogues.

fronting issues of Muslim world Talking to media, he said that all the prevailing issues and challenges of Muslim world could be settled through unity and stability of Islamic world as it required desperate need for unity and reconciliation to addressed amicably through diadress the issues of Kashmir and logues and peaceful talks.

Palestine and to make an end to

foreign interference in internal issues of Islamic world. He stressed ensuring effective role of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was need of the hour to resolve the issues. Pakistan aims unity and stability of Muslim world and OIC should be made more effective and imperative to address confronting issues of Islamic world. He expressed the hope that all the confronting issues of Islamic world would be ad-

Responding to a question, he



said reconciliatory process has been started in Gulf countries with efforts of Ameer-e-Kuwait to address the confront-

ing issues and in this regard, positive response from the leadership of Qatar and Saudi Arabia was very welcoming and encouraging.

Pakistan endorses reconciliation process among Gulf countries and role of Ameer-e-Kuwait and Khadim-e-Harmain Al-Sharifain Shah Salman bin Abdul Aziz in this regard was very laudable and welcoming.

Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, said that Ameere-Kuwait and Saudi Crown Prince Ameer Muhammad bin Salman have strengthened Islamic Um-

towards reconciliatory process to address issues. Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi also stated

mah and Arab world for moving

that coordination and consultation should also be made with Khadim-e-Harmain Al-Sharifain Shah Salman bin Abdul Aziz and Ameer-e-Kuwait to resolve confronting issues of Islamic world. Ashrafi said that a forum was being established on informal level between leading personalities of Pakistan and Arab countries to improve and strengthen ties between Pakistan and Arab Islamic Countries. - APP

Published by Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, Printed at Rohani Art Press, Islamabad: Ph: 051-2266165, Email: newsroomisbpost@gmail.com