



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Japan remains 2nd largest economic partner of Pakistan

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UN chief hails Pakistan's anti-terrorism efforts

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Malaysian envoy assures his full support to RCCI

Detailed News On Page-03



Briefs

Politicians 'steal money' when in power: PM

SAIFULLAH



PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Imran Khan said Monday that the country is still lagging behind because politicians come into power to "steal money" instead of utilising it for public service. The prime minister's comments came during his meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's lawmakers following the ruling PTI's loss in the Nowshera by-polls. During the meeting, the premier said that the real aim behind politics is public service, however, politicians have been using it to "make money" instead of serving the masses.

Independent EC need of the hour

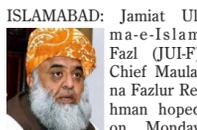
DNA



LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Senator Sirajul Haq has said that a powerful, independent Election Commission is the need of the hour and the political parties should sit together for electoral reforms. Addressing a press conference at Mansoor here on Monday, he said that using delaying tactics in announcement of results, disappearance of polling staff, violence, and the use of money were the tactics which had been adopted in every election. He said there must be check on these evil tactics to secure the future of coming generations.

PDM to win Islamabad Senate seat

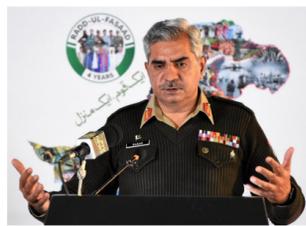
DNA



ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman hopped on Monday that former PM Yousaf Raza Gillani will secure a Senate seat from Islamabad. Speaking to the media, he said there has been restlessness among the government ranks since the PPP's announcement of fielding Gillani on a Senate seat from the capital Fear among the ranks of the govt and the ruling party's lack of trust in its members are evident, the JUI-F chief opined.

Radd-ul-Fasaad restored faith of the people

The DG ISPR says that war against terrorism could not be won without support of masses – denies reports that the DG ISI was being replaced



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The Director-General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar has said that Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad was launched to restore people's confidence in the State and make terrorists completely ineffective. In a media briefing in Rawalpindi on Monday on the completion of four years of Radd-ul-Fasaad, the DG ISPR said that the security forces carried out the operation under the two-pronged strategy of counter-terrorism and counter-violence with the support

of people which has produced positive results in various areas. The DG ISPR said that the war against terrorism could not be won without the support of the masses and unflinching resolve. While giving details of the operation and its dividends, the DG ISPR said that significant achievements have been made in all the domains of Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad to ensure durable peace across the Country. Major General Babar Iftikhar said that a total of 375,000 Intelligence Based Operations (IBOs) were carried out across the Country since the start of the operation in 2017. He said that the State's writ was restored over 7,500 square kilometers through this operation. The DG ISPR said that 353 terrorists were killed and hundreds of others were arrested during the operation. The director-general ISPR said that most of the over 5,000 threat alerts were neutralized before their materialization during the last four years. He said that over 72,000 illegal weapons and five million ammunition were recovered.

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PPP's claims evidence of vote buying: Shibli

The minister said it was evident that both parties were opposing people-friendly legislation

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ECP issues code of conduct

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz on Monday said the PPP leadership had already initiated the bidding process for vote purchase by making open offers of money despite lacking requisite numbers to sail through their candidates in Senate elections and added PPP was even claiming victory of former Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani despite not having required numbers. Talking to media outside the Supreme Court, he said that emphasis on secret vote balloting in Senate elections by

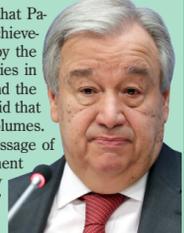
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UN chief hails Pakistan's anti-terrorism efforts

Antonio Guterres said that Pakistan's open borders and the open heart of the people speak volumes

NEW YORK: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said that Pakistan's evolutionary journey towards peace is excellent. Its achievements against terrorism are impressive. In a statement issued by the UN Secretary General, he said that the borders of many countries in the world are still closed but Pakistan has opened its borders and the people have opened their hearts and homes. Antonio Guterres said that Pakistan's open borders and the open heart of the people speak volumes. All religions unite us for peace. The Kartarpur Corridor is a message of religious harmony from Pakistan. On the other hand, a statement issued by US Senator Lindsey Olin Graham said, "I am deeply impressed with the Pakistan Army and the people of this region."

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mr. Kuninori Matsuda called on President Dr Arif Alvi. – DNA

Birthday anniversary of Japan emperor celebrated

Ambassador Matsuda says Japan has remained one of the major bilateral development partners of Pakistan since 1954, extending assistance in multi-faceted sectors

ANSAR M BHATTI

Amb. Matsuda calls on President Alvi

ISLAMABAD: On the auspicious occasion of February 23rd, which marks the 61st Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito, MATSUDA Kuninori, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, has expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and the people of Pakistan for extending their messages of felicitation and good wishes for His Majesty the Emperor and his family. In the midst of COVID-19 pandemic, the Embassy this year does not host a grand reception in Islamabad which is usually an

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Monday while highlighting Pakistan's investment potential, underscored that Japan could avail abundant business opportunities in Pakistan, especially in sectors like agriculture, automobile, information technology and textile. The president asked the ambassador to convey his heartfelt felicitations and best wishes to Japanese Emperor Naruhito on his birthday falling on Tuesday (February 23). Talking to Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Kuninori Matsuda, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr here, the president said Pakistan attached great importance to its ties with Japan as both the countries enjoyed cordial relations in various fields for decades, a President House press release said. He said Japan enjoyed tremendous goodwill in Pakistan as the government and people of Pakistan highly valued the important contribution made by Japan in supporting development efforts in Pakistan. – DNA

annual feature to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor. Since his accession to the throne on 1st May 2019 as the 126th Emperor of Japan, His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito stands as the symbol of Japan and of the unity of the people. His Majesty and the Imperial Family facilitate the fostering of good relations with foreign countries including Pakistan. Ambassador MATSUDA, while recalling the cherished memories of Pakistan's relationship with the Japanese Imperial House, said that His Majesty the Emperor Emeritus Akihito and

Continued on Page 06

Gillani says establishment is 'neutral'

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Yousaf Raza Gillani on Monday stated that it appeared as if the establishment is "completely neutral", as the Pakistan Democratic Movement's (PDM) parties, the PPP and the PML-N beat the ruling party in the by-elections for three seats. "I am extremely grateful to the PDM for expressing confidence in me," he said. "The PDM gave me its ticket [for Senate elections], I will represent the PDM," he added. The former prime minister said that he had gotten elected in 2008 as the prime minister of the country through a consensus, adding that he had secured 264 votes to become prime minister after the 2008 general elections. "I secured the votes on the basis of my cordial relations [with parliamentarians]," he said. The ex-premier said he would go individually to meet each member of the PDM. – APP

Strong political parties vital for democracy: SC

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court judge Justice Umar Ata Bandial on Monday remarked that strong political parties were necessary for good democracy. During the course of proceedings, PPP Senator Raza Rabbani argued that the bill to amend Article 226 was pending in the Senate. He said that the government had also issued ordinance to not to apply Article 226 to the Senate elections. In the 1973 constitution, every election was not secret except for the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister, he said and added that elections for the Prime Minister and the Chief Ministers were again held by open bal-

lot after 18th Amendment. He said that the constitution was amended to hold elections for the Prime Minister and the Chief Ministers through secret balloting in 1985 elections. He said that the purpose of holding the election of the Prime Minister through open ballot was to ensure party discipline. The elections of the Speaker and the Chairman of the Senate were held through secret ballot because these positions were above political affiliation, he added. He said that there was no provision in the constitution for holding Senate elections through open ballot. The rights of provinces and political parties were two different things, he added.

Continued on Page 06

COVID-19 infects 1,160 more people

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: The national tally on Monday of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 24,226 with 1,160 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 1,384 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Sixteen corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 14 of them were under treatment in hospital and two in their respective quarantines and homes on Sunday, according to the latest update issued by the NCCO. During the last 24 hours most of the deaths had occurred in the Punjab followed by Sindh. Out of the total 16 deaths, five people died, were under treatment, on ventilators. Around 535,491 people have recovered from the disease so far across Pakistan making it a significant count with over 90 percent recovery ratio of the affected patients.

FM slams false Indian propaganda

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has urged the international community to take a serious look into the malicious Indian propaganda aimed at defaming Pakistan. Addressing a webinar in Islamabad on Monday, he said revelations of EU DisinfoLab, corroborates our long-held position about India's incurable obsession with Pakistan. Shah Mahmood Qureshi also urged the EU authorities to take notice of massive campaign against Pakistan, and not to let their legal frameworks and institutions be misused.

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KKAWF launches EU drug abuse prevention education initiative – Page 04

Justice for the Palestinians can unlock peace – Page 05

PSL-6: Lahore Qalandars beat Zalmi by 4 wickets – Page 06

Iran lawmakers call for president's prosecution over IAEA deal – Page 07

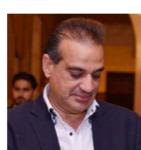
Japan donates \$3.7m to support refugees – Page 08

By-election results: Soul searching needed: P-II

The incumbent government of PTI has a mandate of five years to rule this country and serve the countrymen and one should not have reservations even if PTI can win another term provided it is able to dispense justice

ANALYSIS

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI



ISLAMABAD: The PTI candidate who lost election in Nowshera has challenged the election results. According to him serious 'irregularities' were committed in the by-election. On the contrary, Liaqat Khattak, brother of Defence Minister Pervez Khattak, has something else to share. He claims PTI voters cast their votes in favour of PML N candidate so he had nothing to do

with the defeat of PTI in the said constituency. Now matter is taken to court of law therefore we have to wait and see as to what comes out of it at the end of the day. One thing however is clear that all is not well in PTI KPK. As mentioned in the Part I, Pakistan's political and electoral history is replete with anomalies and rigging stories. Not even a single election has been held so far where political parties did not accuse one another of gerrymandering. Even during PML N time by-elections were managed in favour of the sitting government. And PPP rule is no exception either, when it comes to manipulating the elections, especially the by-elections. During dictatorial regimes similar methods were adopted to get own candidates

elected. The irony of our political parties and leaders is that they present themselves as messiah and true well wishers of the country and people when they are in the Opposition, but as soon as they enter power corridors, they suddenly rare become commodities. Unfortunately this practice continues unabated. Now all political parties are blaming the Election Commission for mess created recently and in the previous elections, which is quite intriguing because the Election Commission is chosen by these political parties. In the past the President of Pakistan used to appointed the Chief Election Commissioner and the members of the ECP but now after amendments in the Constitution the President does so on the recommendations of the Prime Minister

and the Leader of the Opposition. The PML N while being in power and the PPP in the opposition had introduced this amendment with a view to pick men of their choosing for the posts of CEC and the Chairman NAB. This arrangement, as we have observed, has backfired. The man picked up for these coveted slots becomes controversial immediately after his election for it is not possible for him to remain neutral. This system of picking up men for these highest and important offices therefore needs a review. The incumbent government of PTI has a mandate of five years to rule this country and serve the countrymen and one should not have reservations even if PTI can win another term provided it is able to dispense justice. Common folks are

least bothered about who is the man in charge. They are only concerned about resolution of their problems. There is no denying the fact that even the die-hard PTI workers now appear to have lost interest in party affairs, which should ostensibly be a source of concern for the party leadership. The PDM leadership on the contrary, is hell bent upon getting some relief from the government. It seems least bothered about ordeals of masses, who have been leading a difficult life for so many years. Mere lip service cannot heal their wounds. The Opposition had to highlight and champion for the rights of hapless people of Pakistan, if it really wants people to be on its side when it comes to making a movement against the government successful. (Concluded).

Briefs

UNICEF
condemns
killing of aid
workers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: UNICEF is saddened and shocked at the reported killing of four women who were reportedly staff members of Bravo College Bannu, and were travelling to North Waziristan, one of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Merged Districts, earlier Monday.

Their driver was reportedly injured in the attack after unidentified assailants fired at their vehicle. "UNICEF condemns in the strongest possible terms this senseless attack on women and aid workers and joins the families in mourning this tragic loss of lives. The perpetrators must be brought to justice," said Ms. Aida Girma, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan.

Earlier Australian High Commissioner in Pakistan Dr. Geoffrey Shaw also condemned the attack on women aid workers and offered sympathies and prayers for the families of victims.

Rashid
summons
report from
CS Sindh

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has taken notice of alleged ill-treatment of Opposition Leader of Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Sheikh and summoned a report from Chief Secretary of Sindh. Sheikh Rashid, while taking notice of media reports, said that Haleem Adil is a respectable member of Sindh Assembly and basic human rights of the opposition leader should not be violated. The minister also directed to provide all necessary medical facilities to Haleem Adil Sheikh. Earlier, Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry demanded immediate release of Opposition Leader of Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Sheikh. Fawad Chaudhry, in a tweet, said that arrest of Haleem Adil Sheikh in a political case and attack on him by goons in highly condemnable. It is to be noted here that Haleem Adil Sheikh was shifted to hospital due to heart pain. According to sources, Haleem Adil Sheikh had complained of heart pain and requested the jail superintendent to take him to the hospital due to ill health. It is to be mentioned here that an anti-terrorism court (ATC) has on Friday sent Leader of the Opposition in the Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Sheikh to jail on judicial remand in a case pertaining to interference in official affairs.

PR going to
upgrade the
ML-1 track

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly resumed its session at the Parliament House in Islamabad this afternoon with Speaker Asad Qaiser in the chair. The National Assembly was informed that Pakistan Railways is going to upgrade the Main Line-1 (ML-1) track from Peshawar to Karachi under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, enabling the train to ply at a speed up to 160 kilometres per hour. Responding to a question, during Question Hour, Railways Minister Azam Swati told the House that the track will be fenced from both sides and level-crossings will be converted to overhead bridges or under passes to prevent accidents in order to protect human lives. He said the ministry of Railways has written to all the Chief Ministers to construct level-crossings or overhead bridges in their respective provinces as this is the responsibility of the provincial governments. Answering another question, Azam Swati said the government will leave no stone unturned in making the Railways a profitable organization. Replying to a question, Parliamentary Secretary for National Health Services Dr Nausheen Hamid said that the federal government is providing financial resources for the implementation of Sehat Sahulat Programme in Azad Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Islamabad Capital Territory, district Tharparkar of Sindh, and merged districts of KP, while Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments are implementing the programme from their own financial resources.



KARACHI: Sri Lanka Naval Ship 'Gajabahu' participated in the Maritime Exercise 'Aman 2021' organized by the Pakistan Navy, from 12th to 16th February 2021. The Call on with the Commander Pakistan Fleet and the visit of the Chief of Naval Staff aboard SLNS Gajabahu, were two significant events during the exercise. - DNA

AEO Australian edu expo
attracts hundreds of students

This February once again AEO Education Expo is being organized across 9 major cities of Pakistan i.e., Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi, Multan, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Abbottabad, Peshawar and Hyderabad

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: With world gradually moving back to normal, the day when international borders of top study destinations of the world will open for foreign students, is coming closer. It is time that the students gear up and start preparing themselves to realize their dreams to study at top ranked international universities. With over 5000 alumni and 200,000+ IELTS registrations, AEO Pakistan over the past two decades has established itself as Australian & Global Education Specialist, the most trusted IELTS Official Test Centre and now the official OET Test Centre in Pakistan. AEO Pakistan operates as the official Liaison office for over 40 leading Australian Universities/Institutions and



facilitates the enrolment of International students at these Universities / Institutions. Since 2002, AEO

Pakistan has been conducting Australian Education Expos providing an excellent opportunity to Pakistani

students planning to Study in Australia. Over the years thousands of students have benefitted from AEO

expos held twice annually, across all major cities of Pakistan.

This February once again AEO Education Expo is being organized across 9 major cities of Pakistan i.e., Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi, Multan, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Abbottabad, Peshawar and Hyderabad. The AEO expo is providing an ideal platform to prospective students across the country, to get free expert advice and counselling about how to apply to study in at top ranked international universities in Australia, USA, Canada and UK. Representatives of more than 19 universities/institutes are participating at the expo providing golden opportunity for Pakistani students to get free guidance and counseling for their future study endeavors. Information about IELTS test and preparatory classes is also being provided at the expo.

NAB unearths
Hamza's bank
transactions

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: PML-N leader and Punjab Assembly opposition leader Hamza Shahbaz received more than Rs181 million through 23 "suspicious transactions", a National Accountability Bureau (NAB) report revealed on Monday. It said he could not account for these transactions nor could he present any evidence in this regard. The report further disclosed that the Shehbaz Sharif family set up fourteen big companies between 2005 and 2016 using the money received through suspicious transactions, adding Hamza, being a shareholder in these firms, kept receiving huge monetary benefits from the companies. The bureau said that the opposition leader amassed more assets than his sources of income justify and was found involved in corrupt practices. A two-judge Lahore High Court (LHC) bench will take up a bail petition filed by Hamza on Feb 23. Its reply submitted to the LHC, the national graft buster called for the PML-N leader's bail petition to be dismissed. The bureau stated that the high court had already dismissed the bail plea of the accused. He filed the fresh bail petition on the same grounds that were given in his previous plea, it said.

Australian
HC, wife visit
VAWC Multan

MULTAN: Australian High Commissioner in Pakistan Dr. Geoffrey Shaw accompanying his wife paid a visit to Violence Against Women Centre (VAWC) here on Monday. Manager VAWC Muneza Manzoor gave a detailed briefing to the visiting dignitaries and apprised them about the complain redressal mechanism of any violence victim, says an official release issued here. She informed that VAWC Multan was a unique facility of its own kind in South Asia where violence-stricken women were provided all facilities including legal assistance under one roof. She informed the distinguished guests that the provincial government was taking result-oriented steps to bring women to mainstream and addressing their issues genuinely. The Australian High Commissioner lauded the initiative and appreciated the facilities made available to women at VAWC.

Stacks gives
LUMS a
research
grant of 5M
STX tokens

SAIFULLAH

LAHORE: What is now the Stacks ecosystem started in 2013 as a research project at Princeton University. Those academic roots continue to be of central importance to the founders of Stacks and central to the culture of several leading entities within the Stacks ecosystem. Stacks remains committed to these roots and to the future engineers and entrepreneurs who will continue to drive this technology forward. As part of this commitment, the company is supporting LUMS with a Stacks research grant of five million STX tokens, worth approximately \$4.1 million USD and over PKR670 million, that aims to fuel research on blockchain technology and distributed applications. LUMS, one of Pakistan's leading research universities, will use Hiro's grant (formerly Blockstack PBC), to develop and build out educational programs that will enable faculty and students to research blockchain, cryptocurrencies, distributed-ledger technology and more. The program intends to have a decidedly practical feel, with a focus on emerging markets and others areas where these technologies can most successfully be applied. Experienced in providing full-scale support for a wide variety of funded and collaborative projects, staff at the LUMS Office of Research will work closely with the faculty and researchers. Research and programming, moreover, will be carried out in cooperation with the LUMS Syed Babar Ali School of Science and Engineering (SBASSE).

'PM visit to SL to further
cement trade relations'

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: President SAARC chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik Monday said that 2-days maiden official visit of Prime Minister Imran to Sri Lanka will further cement bilateral ties with special focus to gear up trade and strengthen economic cooperation between two countries. Talking to media here today he said it's good omen for the private sectors of either countries that PM Imran Khan will also participate in a joint 'Trade

and Investment Conference' aimed at promoting trade and investment between the two countries followed by a number of MoUs to enhance bilateral cooperation. Iftikhar Ali Malik who remained actively associated with SAARC Chamber for the last three decades having deep insight said current visit is poised to help further strengthen the relationship and enhance mutual cooperation in diverse fields. He said that the current trade between both countries is not entirely encouraging, but both countries have markets for each other's primary products.

SAARC Chamber Chief observed that Pakistan is an important market for tea products, which also happens to be a top Sri Lankan export item, and Pakistan is also a significant importer of copra and rubber, both items are important Sri Lankan exports. Similarly, Sri Lanka is an important market for textile products, machinery, and pharmaceuticals along with other products that Pakistan records significant exports. He said therefore there exists a huge trade potential between both countries if the FTA is utilised properly he remarked.

Ashrafi appointed
convener Yarn
Trading Committee
Farhan Ashrafi is also the Vice
Chairman of Pakistan Yarn
Merchants Association(PYMA)
and most recently served as
Vice President of the Site
Association of Industry

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Mian Nasser Hyatt Magoo, President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), has appointed prominent businessman Farhan Ashrafi as a convener of FPCCI's Central Standing Committee on "Yarn Trading" for the year 2021. The notification issued by the FPCCI states that the committee will consist of 9 members. Mian Nasser Hyatt Magoo advised that the committee should hold at least one meeting in a quarter and hoped that Farhan Ashrafi, by using his experience and services, should play a vital role in solving the problems facing the business community regarding the Yarn sector. Farhan Ashrafi is also the Vice Chairman of Pakistan Yarn Merchants Association (PYMA) and

most recently served as Vice President of the Site Association of Industry. In addition, his services in the field of charity are commendable. He is also the Joint Secretary of Al Mustafa Welfare Society Trust.

Farhan Ashrafi for his nomination, has shown gratitude to BMG leadership and Mian Nasser Hyatt Magoo, President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Muhammad Hanif Lakhany, SVP FPCCI & Senior Vice Chairman PYMA.

Mr. Ashrafi said that he would use his full potential to solve the problems faced by the Yarn sector, which is the basic raw materials of the Textile industry. He will raise taxes related and other issues at the Federal Board of Revenue & relevant forums so that it can be resolved through mutual consultation.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid exchanging views with Mutliq Bin Majed Al Qahtani, Special Envoy of Qatar on Combating Terrorism and Mediation in Conflict Resolution. - DNA

SC refers Justice Isa's petition to CJP

It stated as a matter of law and settled practice it was for the CJP, as the master of the roster, to determine the composition of a bench and he might, for like reason, constitute a larger bench for hearing the review petition

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday referred the matter of Justice Qazi Faez Isa regarding inclusion of three minority judges in the bench hearing review petitions to the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP). Justice Umar Ata Bandial, who headed the six-member larger bench, announced the 28-page judgment. The bench comprising Justice Manzoor Ahmed Malik, Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Miankhal, Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar and Justice Qazi Muhammad Amin Ahmed had reserved the decision on the petitions filed by Justice Qazi Faez Isa, his wife Mrs Sarina Isa and different bar associations regarding inclusion of three judges includ-

ing Justice Maqbool Baqar, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Yahya Afridi in the bench hearing review petitions against SC's judgement announced on June 19, 2020. The judgement had directed the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to conduct inquiry into the matter regarding non-disclosure of Justice Qazi Faez Isa's family members' assets abroad. Justice Manzoor Ahmed Malik disagreed with the today's verdict. "I have read the order. I agree with the conclusion drawn in Para 31(ii)(a) (numerical strength of review Bench). However, I would attach my separate note for remaining findings/observations given in the order." The review jurisdiction could

be invoked only in relation to the court judgments, namely, unanimous and majority judgments and as a matter of the current law and practice of the court for the purposes of Order XXVI, Rule 8, the minimum numerical strength of the bench that delivered the judgment or order under review was the numerical strength of the bench which heard and decided the original matter, regardless of whether the judgment under review was passed unanimously or by majority; and the review bench should comprise the author judge, if still on the court, as its member, and in case he was unavailable then any other judge who agreed with the author judge should be included in the bench."

It stated as a matter of law and settled practice it was for the CJP, as the master of the roster, to determine the composition of a bench and he might, for like reason, constitute a larger bench for hearing the review petition. Therefore, the office was directed to place the review petitions before the CJP for such orders as were deemed appropriate, the court order read. The judgment further read that petitions sought reconstitution of the bench hearing several review petitions filed against the majority judgment in Justice Qazi Faez Isa Vs. President of Pakistan and connected petitions. The petitions were heard by a 10-member bench and were

disposed of by means of a short order dated 19.06.2020, which was reported as Justice Qazi Faez Isa and 14 others Vs. The President of Pakistan and others (PLD 2020 SC 346) ("Short Order"). Subsequently, five judgments giving reasons were released. Seven members of the bench were party to the whole of the Short Order. They released a common judgment (authored by Justice Umar Ata Bandial) on 23.10.2020 ("majority judgment"). One of them, Justice Faisal Arab, added his concurring judgment. The remaining three members, who did not join in the paras 3 to 11 of the Short Order, authored their separate minority judgments. - APP

Briefs

Secure Capital on top priority; says SSP

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Senior Superintendent of Police (Operations) Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanweer on Monday said that Islamabad Police were taking strict action against anti-social elements and those involved in unlawful activities. Following directions from IGP Islamabad Qazi Jamil Ur Rehman and DIG Operations Afzal Ahmad Kausar, he said the police were taking every possible step to secure the city and ensure safety and security of the citizens. According to details, a police team headed by SHO Khanna Kamal Khan under supervision of SP Rural Rana Abdul Wahab raided on a kite making factory in Sanam chowk, arrested the owner of the factory namely Muhammad Sabir s/o Allah Dad and recovered 10,000 kites and 700 metal and other strings. Likewise, Lohi Bher police team arrested a kite seller Ibrar and recovered 107 kites and strings. In another activity, Aabpara police team under supervision of SP City Muhammad Umar Khan arrested a kite seller namely Nasir Shehzad and recovered 95 kites and 12 metal strings. Cases have been registered against all the accused. Meanwhile, Ramna police arrested a drug peddler Ramzan and recovered 1260-gram hashish. Shamas colony police arrested four accused namely Jawad, Numan Ameen, Mohsin Khan and Zahid Khan and recovered three pistols and one dagger. Aabpara police arrested an accused Imran.

IHC serves notices to police in Osama case

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday served notices to respondents in a case filed by plaintiff in Osama Satti murder case. The petitioner had prayed the court to issue directives for presentation of JIT and judicial inquiry report pertaining to the incident. The petitioner had named Inspector General of Police (IGP), Chief Commissioner ICT and others as respondents in the case. The petitioner said that the both reports should be attached with the case challan. The court served notices to respondents and adjourned the case till April 1. Chief Justice Athar Minalah heard the case. It may be mentioned here that the police had submitted interim challan of the murder case to ATC and the court had fixed March 5, a date to indict the accused.

PAL holds Josh Malihabadi Seminar

GHULAM MURTAZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) on Monday organized a "National Josh Malihabadi Literary Seminar" in connection with his 39th death anniversary to pay tribute to his tireless contributions towards Urdu poetry. On the occasion, Chairman PAL Dr Yousuf Khushk said there were many aspects of poetry of the Joh Malihabadi that need constant research. He said that he made humanity the subject of his poetry, adding that he was an eloquent poet. He had a vast vocabulary. He knew the meaning and background of the written word, he added. He said his poetry was full of thunder, accents, and passion. The revolutionary poems of Josh Malihabadi included call for revolution, the current situation, the national slogan of the states, the rebellious man and the new system. Josh Malihabadi's well-known autobiography "Yadoon Ki Barat" is a very valuable asset in biographical literature.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister, Chairman Kashmir Committee Sheharyar Afridi, Ambassador of Azerbaijan Ali Alizada and others posing for a picture during a seminar organised by Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution. The speakers highlighted Khojaly genocide and atrocities perpetrated upon innocent Azerbaijani people by Armenian forces. — DNA

Malaysian envoy assures full assistance to RCCI

Later the Malaysian High Commissioner Ikram Bin Muhammad Ibrahim planted a sapling in the chamber premises to mark Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) tree plantation drive 2020

SHUJAAT HAMZA

RAWALPINDI: The Malaysian High Commissioner Ikram Bin Muhammad Ibrahim paid a visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) on Tuesday. Addressing the business community, the High Commissioner lauded RCCI efforts in promoting trade activities in the region. Muhammad Ibrahim said, there is a need to intensify efforts for improving two-way trade between Pakistan and Malaysia that would bring far better results for their economies. "Both countries have good potential to enhance cooperation in many fields including auto-mobile, construction, pharmaceutical,

halal food, tourism, telecommunication and renewable energy" he added. The High Commissioner informed that Malaysia's famous auto brand Proton will make its pre launch in December 2020 in Karachi. He assured full cooperation and assistance for Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) upcoming events including Rawal International Expo 2021 and other events. Ikram informed that Pakistan and Malaysia were the first two Islamic countries that had signed the FTA a



long time ago, but the bilateral trade was still confined to few products. He also appreciated Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) for its recent tree plantation drive and assured full support from the embassy in this regard. In his welcome address, President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Muhammad Nasir Mirza said that Pak-Malaysia are enjoying cordial relations and stressed that both countries should focus on new products to improve two-way

trade. He informed that Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) is going to organize Gawadar Business Conference focusing on Central Asian Republics (CARs), Build 2020 Construction Trade Fair and Rawal Expo in near future. He said many Pakistani products including rice, wheat, mangoes, halal food, seafood, meat products, cutlery and sports goods, spices, handicrafts, light engineering goods, hospital and surgical equipment, pharmaceuticals and gems and jewelry could find a good market in Malaysia. Later the High Commissioner planted a sapling in the chamber premises to mark Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) tree plantation drive 2020.

Rehman Malik calls for inter-faith harmony, unity

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Christian theologians and activists headed by Fr. James Channan, O.P. Monday called on senior Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Senator A. Rehman Malik and discussed the minority issues in the country. The delegation condoled with him on the death of his sister and prayed for the departed soul, said a press release issued here. The delegation comprised Fr. James Channan former Adviser to Pope John Paul II, Gibran Masih Gill, Fr. Tufique Younis and Aheer Nazir.

Rehman Malik urged that people from all religious faiths should work harder for the promotion of inter-faith harmony as India was spreading propaganda against Pakistan for minority persecution. He said that there was no religious discrimination in the coun-

try as people of all faiths had the freedom in teaching, practicing, worshipping and celebrating their faiths and festivals. "The Indian propaganda against the country for religious discrimination must stop as under the flag of Pakistan we all (faiths) are one and united," he added. He said that Christians played fundamental role in the Pakistan making and had rendered exemplary services and sacrifices for the country's betterment. Rehman Malik applauded the services of Fr. James Channan, O.P. and said that he had been defending and



advocating the interest of the country to negate the Indian malicious propaganda against Pakistan. He said that James had played a role of bridge between government and Christian community while working with Shehbaz Bhatti who sacrificed his life while fighting against terrorism. Fr. James Channan, O.P. showed his resolve to continue his work for Pakistan especially in projecting its soft image across the world, adding that India was worst religious freedom violator where minorities were being victimized on daily basis. He assured his entire support to promote interfaith harmony and protect the rights of minorities in the country. Rehman Malik said that FATF should revisit its earlier decisions of placing Pakistan in its grey list and in the ongoing session should declare the removal of Pakistan from grey list.

Gold prices increase Rs 400 to Rs 110,750

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD, Feb 22 (AP-P): The price of 24 karat per tola gold increased by Rs400 on Monday and was sold at Rs110,750 against sale at Rs110,350, Karachi Sarafa Association reported. The price of ten gram 24 karat gold also increased by Rs343 and was traded at Rs94,950 against Rs94,607 while that of ten gram 22 karat gold increased to Rs87,0378 from Rs86,723. The price of per tola silver increased by Rs20 and was traded at Rs1400 against its sale at Rs1380 while that of ten gram silver increased by Rs12.15 and was traded at Rs1200.27 against Rs1183.12. The gold price in the international market witnessed increase of \$14 and was sold at \$1798 against its sale at \$1784, the association added.

CCP, IPO sign MoU for info sharing

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) and the Intellectual Property Organisation of Pakistan (IPO) on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on sharing of information and capacity building of enforcement staffs to effectively deal with the intellectual property violations. The MoU was signed by the Chairperson, CCP Ms. Rahat Kaunain Hassan and Chairman IPO, Mujeeb Ahmed Khan in a ceremony held here at the CCP office, which was also attended by Ms. Bushra Naz Malik, Member CCP, and other senior officers from CCP and IPO, said a press release issued here. The major thrust of the MoU is to promote mutually beneficial cooperation between the CCP and IPO in the areas of advocacy, research, capacity development, awareness-raising, and outreach. The MoU will also allow the two regulators to not only exchange information on pertinent issues but also do consultations on matters relating to their statutory mandates. The MoU further covers training of staff of both regulators with regard to their respective mandates, and to develop and bolster partnerships with other organizations that may assist in capacity building of both parties to the MoU. Addressing on the occasion, the CCP Chairperson Ms. Rahat Kaunain Hassan said "IP law creates and confers exclusivity on proprietor whereas competition laws seek to promote competition by keeping markets open through fair play. In this regard, however, innovation and creativity contribute in promoting competition and allowing consumers a fair share of the resulting benefit." She welcomed the signing of the MoU, adding that it would help build the capacity of both organisations in the enforcement of the respective laws. — DNA

PIA offers 10% discount to ICCI members

ICCI will extend support for promotion of PIA products and services from all its platforms including electronic, print and social media. ICCI members will declare PIA as Official Travel Partner and PIA will be preferred travel airline for all their visits on both international and domestic sectors

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Air Marshal Arshad Malik, Chief Executive Officer, PIA visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry along with its team and signed an MoU with Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President ICCI to offer 10 percent discount to ICCI members and their immediate families on domestic and international flights. Addressing the business community Air Marshal Arshad Malik said that PIA was now focusing on corporate customers for business gen-

eration and signing of MoU with ICCI was part of such efforts. He said that with the improvement in airline's financials, PIA would consider offering up to 25 percent discount to ICCI members. He said that the business community should facilitate PIA in improving its cargo business. He said that PIA was ready to dedicate aircrafts for cargo flights if private sector supported it with more business volume. He said that PIA needed an advisory board with representation of chambers in it. He said that PIA would soon start direct flight to Baku

from Lahore and to Uzbekistan from March this year. Air Marshal Arshad Malik said that PIA was a very challenging organization, but he



was determined to address its challenges. He said that PIA in the past was not given commercial sense, but now with the efforts of his

professional team, PIA has been put back on track. He said that unfortunately Covid-19 has badly hit the aviation industry. He said that the outlook of PIA would be changed and old aircraft would be swapped with better quality and competitive aircrafts. He said that PIA HQ was not being shifted, rather there was a shift in its business model as 70 percent commercial activity was now biased towards north and south regions due to which PIA was focusing on these regions for business promotion. He said that regulator should facilitate

airlines. He said that a consultancy team has arrived Pakistan to prepare a business plan for PIA that would come out within 8 weeks. Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, ICCI appreciated the initiatives of Air Marshal Arshad Khan for bringing crucial reforms in PIA to revive its old glory. He said that airlines played an important role in business and economic development of a country, therefore, improving the performance of PIA was vital to promote Pakistan's trade and exports to international markets.

Golra-Attock Safari Train to promote tourism: DS

ZUBAIR AHMED

ISLAMABAD: Divisional Superintendent (DS) Rawalpindi Munawar Shah on Monday said that joyful 'Safari Train' trips from the Golra railway station to Attock Khurd would promote local tourism and extend quality entertainment for travelers towards historic recreational sites. Being launched by Pakistan Railways in collaboration with the Tourism Development Corporation of Punjab, 'safari train' would be a milestone step towards promotion of tourism and through this historic service country would earn more foreign exchange from the arrival of foreign tourists, he said while talking to a private news channel. Pakistan Railways will continue supporting tourism in the country and more such projects would be launched in other cities as well, he added. He said that tangible step under the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan was being launched for the promotion of heritage and local tourism to create more employment opportunities for the youth and revenue generation. He said safari train would take its tours three-days in a week, adding, it would charge Rs 1000 for adult and Rs 500 for the kids, though it would charge half of the prescribed rates for a month to attract the customers. A special discount will be given to disabled persons, adding, special routes have been approved for the train where it would ply. Special signboards would shortly be installed across the routes to inform visitors where the train would arrive, he added.

Nine accused wanted in two murder cases arrested

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Nine accused of two murder cases registered in Naseerabad and Sadiqabad police stations were arrested during two raids conducted in Chakra and Sadiqabad areas. According to a police spokesman, Naseerabad police team under the supervision of Station House Officer (SHO) conducted a raid and managed to arrest three including prime accused namely Shahbaz, Tamoor and Bilal. The accused were allegedly involved in a murder and injuring three others including two women. Meanwhile, Sadiqabad police raided and rounded up six accused, Numan, Naqash, Syed Ali Raza, Muhammad Umair, Muhammad Ahsan and Muhammad Saddique who were allegedly involved in murder of a young boy namely Asim. Police also recovered four 30 bore pistols and ammunition from their possession.

IESCO issues power schedule

DNA

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:- On 23 rd February From 09:00am to 02:00pm, CDA Flats, Pandorian, Bani Gala, Scheme I, Lehtar Road, F-10/4, G-9/2, H-8/2, Police Line, G-11 / 1, Railway Road, Shahpur, Sunny Bank, Cecil, Gharial, Bilwara, Bari Imam, E-Block, Affandi Colony, Shaheed Muhammad Din, Gangal, Muslim Town, Dhok Khabba, Westridge, Muslimabad, Bagh Sardar, Tench Bhata, Millatabad, I-14/3, Cheering Cross, Officer Colony, Chakra, Sir Syed Road, Jail Park, NPF 2-, National Park, Lalkurti, Adiala, Rajar, Quaid-e-Azam Colony, Sihala, Ghazan Khan, Abrar Shaheed, Lehtar II, New Kalia, ECM, Bhangali, Chak Bailey Khan, Nishan Haider, Sher Shah Suri, Burhan, Islampura, CS Khan, People Colony, Adhi, Bhangali, feeders and surrounding areas will be remain without power.

Briefs

PTA advises public not to share personal info

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has advised people to be careful while sharing their computerized National Identity Card (CNIC), financial information in response to an unknown call and SMS.

"Do not share your personal or financial information like ATM PIN code, CNIC etc. in response to an unknown call/SMS" the PTA said in a message. The message said, report the suspected number to your service provider first. In case of no response from your service provider, report to PTA on 0800-55055 or https://complaint.pta.gov.pk/Register-Complaint.aspx

If a financial/banking fraud has occurred, contact State Bank of Pakistan: cpd.helpdesk@sbp.org.pk. The PTA message further advised people to contact Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on 051 910638. PTA also asked public to share their fingerprints and computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) with authorized franchises, sales shops, customer service centres and retailers. The public must keep proper information of sales shops, franchises and customers service centers and retailers with whom they have shared the information. Fraudsters collect fingerprints and CNIC copies by targeting innocent people, the PTA said in an advisory on its official twitter account. The fraudsters offered small rewards, such as free SIMs, rations, prizes and cash. These stolen fingerprints can be used in criminal activities, the PTA warned. — APP

SNGPL, SSGC detect Rs5.62bln gas theft in three years

ISLAMABAD: The two-state companies, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) and Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), have collectively detected theft of around 6431.84 MMCF (Million Cubic Feet) gas amounting to Rs 5.62 billion during the last three years.

According to official data available with APP as of September-2020, the SNGPL identified the theft of 5,518 MMCF gas causing a Rs 4,698 million loss to the national exchequer. As per the breakup, the company detected 3,086 MMCF gas theft of Rs 2,296 million in 2018-19, around 2,028 MMCF gas of Rs 1,930 million in 2019-20 and 404 MMCF of Rs 472 million in 2020-21 (as of September). Similarly, the SSGC noted that the gas volume of 913.84 MMCF amounting to Rs 930.63 million had been stolen from its network during a three-year period. The company faced the theft of 179.83 MMCF gas worth Rs 217.65 million in 2019-20, around 289.53 MMCF of Rs 303.77 million in 2018-19 and 444.48 MMCF of Rs409.21 million in 2017-18. — APP



ISLAMABAD: EU ambassador to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara interacted with students & presented prizes for activities at conclusion of KKAWF drug awareness week at Mashal Model School Islamabad. — DNA

KKAWF launches EU drug abuse prevention education initiative

The President's statement came in reference to the bill passed by the French parliament's lower house on Tuesday with overwhelming majority that would strengthen oversight of mosques, in an act of discrimination against Muslims

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: In continuance of its mission to fighting the war on drugs in Pakistan, the Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation launched on February 17th the European Union best practice drug prevention education initiative "Unplugged - adapted in Pakistan as Hum Saath Hain", at Mashal community school, Bari Imam, Islamabad. KKAWF is the first civil society outfit to bring this prevention awareness programme to local schools in Islamabad. Delivered by KKAWF Board member and education advisor Ms. Lubna Hayatuddin a UN certified life-skills trainer, the programme will have participation of 100 students and run for 12 weeks with one session

each week. This interactive life skills program is targeted at 12-15 years old, where the students during the course of the programme are exposed to the knowledge on drugs and their ill-effect on the physical and social health of the individuals and others associated to these people. The youth are equipped in skills such as communication, problem solving, critical thinking to handle peer pressure and make wise decisions, raise drug use awareness and understanding to promote healthy behavior. The student participants will receive their completion certificates at a concluding ceremony with attendance of distinguished guests. KKAWF plans to continue implementation of Hum Saath Hain programme among teachers and students in schools across



Islamabad and other areas. Schoolteachers are trained on the Unplugged modules and enabled to deliver to more students, which will allow for benefits of the programme to outreach more students continually. Speaking at the occasion Cristina von Sperling Afridi, Chairperson KKAWF said that drug use is

nately have started to indulge on drugs resulting in this big epidemic menace in our society and the future of the Country. It is imperative that stigma is broken and prevention is used as a powerful tool to fight the menace of the drug problem.

KKAWF is working since 2015 with rich experience on promoting healthy behavior among youth regarding adverse effects of drug abuse. KKAWF implements its mission by equipping youth with better knowledge and awareness, breaking taboos through prevention education using its five pillars of drug abuse, arts, sports, environment, civic sense to build protective factors for youth and engage with them to make healthy life choices and better identify, understand and manage emotions.

Pakistan to host 60SIFF by Youth

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Critically acclaimed 60 Second International Film Festivals will open for the first for public voting to choose best films for the year 2020-21. RINSTRATECH, Pakistan's first short-form digital media platform will host the festival. 60 Second Intl. Film Festival (60SIFF) is a platform for young talented filmmakers from all over the world that is one step closer to bridging the gap between cultures and creating strong global ties among aesthetically driven individuals, encouraging filmmakers to step up and 'film' their thoughts in 60 seconds. 60 Second International Film Festival received more than fifteen hundred entries. The best 60 films were shortlisted by a jury panel. These films will be made available for public viewing and vot-

ing on RINSTRATECH's state-of-the-art digital platform. The films shortlisted are in the genres of Action, Comedy, Fiction, Drama, Animal, Arts and Culture, Social and COVID. RINSTRATECH is hosting the festival on its interactive platforms where films will be voted on five scales i.e. Direction, Cinematography, Editing, Scripting and Sound. RINSTRATECH is the outcome of the thought leadership of Dice Foundations USA's Creative Arts and Media Initiative (DICE CAM). It is part of Dice Foundations National Innovation Basket NIB program, which aims to create media as corner stones of Pakistan's growth Strategy. Speaking on the occasion Abrar-ul-Hassan Founder & Festival Director 60SIFF said "This year we have partnered with RINSTRATECH for public voting of the films which will motivate the filmmakers to create more human centric stories.

CDA admin demolishes several encroachments

PERVAIZ HUSSAIN

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) administration in an operation against the land mafia on Lehtrar Road right of way demolished several encroachments. The chartered goods were confiscated and deposited in the CDA store. According to the details, the influ-

ential land Mafia has taken over the right of way from Lehtrar Road, Taramri Chowk to Khanna Bridge on a large scale and set up huts, dhabas, fences, stalls, tucked away stalls, puncture shops, toys, vegetable and fruit stalls, moving wheelbarrows. The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has issued notices to the land Mafia several times to end its encroachments. Although operations were carried out

against them, however, the influential land Mafia would have re-occupied the aforesaid right of way and resumed commercial activities. With the help of dozer, 56 sheds, 11 concrete walls, a wooden hut, 8 hut cabins, 5 iron fences, 10 goat markets, 6 cooking pots, locomotives including 13 billboards and dynamic encroachments have been demolished. Four truckloads of goods have also been seized on the spot.

'Ring Road to be constructed in 2 years'

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Ring Road would be constructed on private public partnership basis in next two years for which the bidding process would be initiated and advertised in local and international newspapers. The project was presented before the public private partnership authority for approval in January this year which was approved by the Punjab government after reviewing all its technical and economic aspects. Commissioner Rawalpindi Capt (R) Muhammad Mehmood told this while chairing an important meeting on Rawalpindi Ring Road here Monday. The Commissioner told that land for the project would be acquired by the government and its construction company would be granted grace period of 25 years for toll collection, road maintenance work and its look after. The government will have authority to provide NOCs for the project and in this regard, 25 out of 30 NOCs have been received, he expressed and added that a grant of Rs 6 billion was released for land acquisition during the current year. The meeting was also attended by Chairman RDA Raja Tahir Mehmood, Director Finance and Planning Nadia Parveen Sundhan, officials and representatives of NESPAK, Lahore Ring Road Authority and Public Private Partnership Authority. — APP

District admin takes action against encroachers

RAWALPINDI: Assistant Commissioner city Waqas Sikandari on Monday conducted an operation against encroachers in Raja Bazaar. During the operation, an old temple was taken back from illegal encroachers with the help of local community. Walls of the encroaching shops were also demolished. The District Administration handed over the possession of the temple to Hindu Aqaf. — APP

Government to upgrade 3 hospital to A class

ABBOTTABAD: KP government on Monday notified the upgrade of three B class hospitals of the province to A class including two in Hazara division. Following the directives of KP chief minister Mahmood Khan health department has notified the upgrade of Benazir Bhutto Hospital Abbottabad, District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) Haripur and DHQ hospitals Bajaur has been upgraded to A-Class hospital. It was also directed to ensure the upgrade process of the three hospitals smooth, hire all necessary staff and purchase machinery to fulfill the need of the hospitals. Commissioner Hazara division and C&W have also been informed through a letter about the upgrade of hospitals. Speaker KP Assembly Mushtaq Ahmed Ghani and MNA Ali Khan Jadoon have played a vital role in the degradation of DHQ Abbottabad while provincial minister Akbar Ayub got the approval for the upgrade of Haripur DHQ. — APP

Back 2 Pakistan initiative draws huge interest

DR MAZHAR HUSSAIN

ISLAMABAD: Having lived more than 30 years abroad and in PK since 2002, I repeatedly get the same questions from Non-Resident Pakistanis: We want to move back to PK, but have concerns about security, safety, education, source of income, legal system, health system and many more questions along the same lines. Taking people out of Pakistan is easy, but taking Pakistan out of people's mind is not easy. With all its problems and issues, many NRPs start considering moving back after some years. Even if they are otherwise very successful and have done well for themselves, they start playing with the idea of moving back. At which point the questions start popping up. Questions that are often fuelled more by the biased coverage by international media than ground realities.

Despite all the problems in Pakistan, the land has still a lot to offer. Especially, feeling at home from a religious, cultural and linguistic point of view. At the same time, people may also feel that migrant minorities are not treated equally abroad. So, whether it's a push or a pull factor, Pakistan starts popping up in the minds of NRPs: Can we move to Pakistan and what potential issues will we face, if we take the step. This is where Back 2 Pakistan comes in. We want to bridge the gap between NRPs and people that have already taken a leap of faith and moved to Pakistan. There is no need for NRPs to start from scratch each time someone wants to try to settle in Pakistan. B2P wants to close the gap and provide

NRPs access to other people's experiences going through the very same process. With B2P, NRPs can speak to people that can understand the questions much better than many locals would be able to, if they've not spent time abroad. Will my children be able to adjust if they don't speak English or Urdu? Where to live? What are the expenses for a good standard of living? How is the service sector? What problems will we face? Is it safe for our children? Any leisure and sports facilities? How is the work place environment? Is it easy to do business? What

about falling sick? Health and car insurance? Corruption? Mortgage? House rentals? And many other questions returnees are likely to face. For people that are already considering to take the plunge, many questions revolve around practicalities, prices, availability of services and products.

It's not a secret, that Pakistan has a bad press, particularly in the West. Some of that bad press is due to Indian undercover operations, uncovered by EU Disinfo Lab. In its report, "Indian Chronicles", EU Disinfo Lab found a disinformation campaign running since 2005

which was aimed at giving Pakistan a bad name. Unfortunately, they've been quite successful at that.

Regardless of the source of bad press, it's a fact, that Pakistan has had a bad press for quite a few years. This has led many NRPs to see Pakistan in a much more negative light than realities justify.

With B2P, people can ask about other peoples' experiences directly from the source without having a filter with biased or vested interest in portraying Pakistan in a certain way.

As the B2P family grows, we hope to be able

to have key-contacts addressing more specific questions and needs: Housing, health, legal matters, education, job and employment, business, city-specific questions, social and professional networking and many more.

B2P will only be as strong as the members make it. This is a platform by the members, for the members and in the wider perspective, for Pakistan. The more intellectual, financial, technical resources are brought into Pakistan, the better.

We've had brain drain for many years. Let's try to work for brain gain!



Covid spike

THE district authorities have sealed seven more areas in Lahore due to the spike in Covid-19 cases. The situation in Lahore can go out of control if the officials do not take prompt action. The health department has reported 301 new cases of infection in Lahore alone in the last twenty-four hours. Such a high number of cases signals that there is a serious lapse on the part of the district management regarding the containment measures against the pandemic. Unfortunately, the care the officials once used to show regarding transmission prevention is nowhere in sight at present. Even worse is their lack of attention to those who are at high risk of exposure to the virus. The government's lethargic behaviour and negligent attitude to stop the spread of the virus can prove fatal. This virus is going to remain with us for a long time. As long as we do not have any concrete remedy available against it, we need to abide by the government's instructions. Though much of our fears have reduced as vaccines are available, and many more doses are arriving soon, the government needs to strategise for an effective countrywide vaccination drive. The authorities must work to expand the drive to include those who are living below the poverty line. People living in poverty remain the most vulnerable ones in the face of diseases. In the present case as well, the poor being unable to afford following infection control methods make them one of the highest risk-prone segments of the population for transmission and contraction. Thus, the responsibility of protecting them lies in the state. Pakistan can follow Romania's lead that vaccinated 300 homeless people for the immediate transmission cut downs. It is great seeing that the authorities have already implemented smart lockdowns. Nonetheless, sole reliance on smart lockdowns cannot bring the situation back under control. Ensuring the practising of safety protocols, continuing the inoculation at full pace along with smart lockdowns should be our strategy against the virus.

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The grey list

THE upcoming Financial Action Task Force meetings hold high stakes for Pakistan. The three-day virtual meetings, to be held from February 22 to 25 from Paris, will have on the agenda to discuss and decide whether or not to keep Pakistan on the grey list. Pakistan has come a long way since it was placed on the grey list in June 2018. The placing on the grey list came as a bit of a wakeup call to politicians, who then put a lot of effort over the next three years in undertaking unprecedented measures to get our name removed from the list. Those have included passing game-changing new laws, including the Anti-Money Laundering (second amendment) Bill 2020, Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) (third amendment) Bill 2020 and Islamabad Capital Territory Waqf Properties Bill 2020. These laws have caused some backlash, particularly amongst Madrassahs and conservative right-wing factions but the government has stood strong against the protests, realising the urgency of these reforms. It thus came as a blow when Pakistan was not approved for being removed from the grey list in October 2020, when it submitted the report showing that it was complying with FATF requirements, including 21 of the 27 remaining recommendations provided by FATF. Now, in February 2021, officials report that Pakistan had already complied with the six recommendations, and has worked on the implementation of the FATF-related legislation it has passed as well. Considering Pakistan's commitment and compliance with FATF's requirements, it is now time that Pakistan should be removed from the grey list. It is clear as day that Pakistan wants to comply and is doing so as a responsible country. Considering FATF's increasing demands from Pakistan, which appear to be influenced by other countries' lobbying, there is a risk that it is not Pakistan's credentials that are preventing it from being removed but world politics, where countries can leverage the FATF grey and blacklist for their own diplomatic benefits. We can only hope that the upcoming review proves that Pakistan has done more than enough to be taken off the grey list.

Justice for the Palestinians can unlock peace

Nadim Shehadi



The Palestinian leaders bear some of the responsibility for the current situation.

Throughout the years, they have alienated much of the Arab world from the cause by being on the wrong side. From the attempt to overthrow King Hussein in Jordan to destabilizing Lebanon, supporting Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, and opposing the Camp David agreement with Egypt and the current rapprochement between Israel and the Gulf states

IT is obvious that the Palestinian cause has lost its centrality in the Arab world. There was a time when the Palestinian-Israeli conflict was indistinguishable from the broader definition of an Arab-Israeli dimension, but this is no longer the case. Whatever the reasons, this is not a healthy situation: In the long run, there can be no peace in the region without a just solution that takes the rights of Palestinians into consideration. The height of the impact of the plight of the Palestinians was probably in 2009, when the aftermath of a brutal Israeli war in Gaza divided the Arab world. The Arab League itself broke up into two separate meetings: One emergency meeting of the "radicals" was held in Doha, with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as the guest of honor and attended principally by Hezbollah, Hamas and Bashar Assad; and an economic summit in Kuwait shortly afterwards, where King Abdullah called for reconciliation with Assad. The Saudi rift with Assad was over the assassination of Rafik Hariri and the rapprochement was over the question of Palestine, which no one could afford to be on the wrong side of at the time. Contrast this with recent years, such as when the US moved its embassy to Jerusalem with hardly any reaction from the proverbial "Arab street." The Palestinian leaders bear some of the responsibility for the current situation. Throughout the years, they have alienated much of the Arab world from the cause by being on the wrong side. From the attempt to overthrow King Hussein in Jordan to destabilizing Lebanon, supporting Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, and opposing the Camp David agreement with Egypt and the current rapprochement between Israel and the Gulf states. No one understands their position on Syria and they are also out of tune with their own population. A crisis of leadership, stagnation in the negotiations and internal divisions among the Arabs

and the Palestinians are only part of the problem. The world has drastically changed in the last 10 years and so have the demands of the new generation of Palestinians: The emphasis is now more on equal rights and justice, while internationalizing support through the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement. This has replaced the pursuit of an armed struggle and the use of violence. Such a change in the narrative, with all its shortcomings, should be seen as a positive development. Just causes can attract the worst type of support – those that exploit the tragedy to further their own aims. The injustice done to the Palestinians for more than 70 years should not be left to be exploited by the "Axis of Resistance" in support of tyrannical regimes, criminal organizations and an agenda of perpetual war. The best way to fight those is to resolve the issues they play on. It is the equivalent of legalizing cannabis and other drugs to pull the rug from under the feet of illegal cartels. Even in Israel there is a peace camp demanding justice and the end of occupation. In the Arab world, there is a war camp and an apathy camp and this is bound to backfire at a later stage. The just cause of the Palestinians is not only the prerogative of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the Assad regime, Hezbollah and Hamas. Most serious is the perceived ambiguity toward the tragedy in Syria; there can be no zero-sum game between the rights of Syrians and Palestinians. The support of the Assad regime from the so-called "anti-imperialist" advocates among the Palestinians is indeed alarming and very harmful to them. The gravity of this contradiction was encapsulated in a tweet by the Syrian-Mauritanian activist Nasser Weddady during the 2014 Gaza War, which coincided with the use of chemical weapons, barrel bombs and starvation sieges against civilians in Syria: "That moment when you have to check on the identity of the child before expressing outrage."

Nine months from now, in October of this year, it will be the 30th anniversary of the Madrid Peace Conference. I was a young man then and the majority of today's Arabs were not yet born. The world was also a very different place in 1991. Madrid was the last conference attended by the USSR before its collapse, Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali had barely settled as the president of Tunisia, Libya was under Muammar Qaddafi, Egypt under Hosni Mubarak, Hafez Assad was at the height of his influence, having destroyed Hama, and Saddam Hussein was still busy killing his own people after crushing the uprisings of March and April of that year. America had liberated Kuwait, declared a new world order, and dial-up internet and cable TV were a novelty. Yet, as far as the Palestinians are concerned, we are still repeating the same things and are nowhere near a satisfactory outcome. The two-state solution is there; 30 more years of negotiations will only take us farther away from it. There is now an opportunity to use the leverage created by the Abraham Accords and the Gulf Cooperation Council reconciliation to turn the page and move forward. The new administration in the US should realize that the way to deal with Iran is not through appeasement. The pursuit of peace in the region is the best antidote to the pursuit of perpetual war. This is how the problems of the Middle East should be seen: In one comprehensive picture with two opposing narratives and agendas. Peace in the whole region includes Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen and Palestine, especially Gaza. All are conflicts in which there is Iranian involvement through proxies that consider it to be one single conflict and not a series of unconnected issues. The war on terror against Daesh and the IRGC, as well as the pursuit of freedom and human rights, are also linked to these conflicts and the Palestinian question is what links them all.

– Courtesy: Arab News

Central to Global empowerment; supporting women daily

Wajeeha Bilal



National Women's Day on February 8 saw several organisations calling for pro-women laws to be implemented in word and action. After the 18th amendment in the constitution of Pakistan 2010 which also empowered provinces to replicate federal laws or define and pass laws according to their needs

MANY people say that they want to achieve greater things in their lives and make connections with more people. They are ready to sacrifice their personal lives and work hard to be known for their services. They want to serve humanity but what they fail to see are the small connections that bond them in their lives. People are ready to ignore the values that they can give to the people that are already in their lives for a greater purpose that they might achieve. Man is a social animal; since the moment you are born you rely on one connection or another for support and help. No matter wherever you are in the Eco sphere, there will always be something or someone whom you can support and aid if you desire to make it a better world all around. Many times, you feel dejected as you realize what you are doing is so little and how can you reach and change the whole world. "Charity begins at home but should not end there", says Thomas Fuller. One of the things that interests me most these days is the slogan for women empowerment, where women are willing to go extra miles to raise this slogan on a universal level. National Women's Day on February 8 saw several organisations calling for pro-women laws to be implemented in word and action. After the 18th amendment in the constitution of Pakistan 2010 which also empowered provinces to replicate federal laws or define and pass laws according to

their needs, there was a ray of hope and a gaiety towards the protection of women. Pakistan's historic moment for pro-women legislation came in December 2011 when three important bills were passed. There is an urgent requirement for mass awareness regarding these laws and it would be good if they can become a part of our lives as these laws are important to set legal benchmarks and accountability for a state to honour and fulfill. However, laws alone do not guarantee full protection of women's rights, especially when such laws operate in the backdrop of a senile society and weak rule of law. Supporting other women doesn't only show compassion, but it's also important to remember that we can learn from each other, every single day. If you are not willing to support the women around you, then how can you come to truly accept them globally. Abuse doesn't have to be physical to be acknowledged, it can be emotional or verbal as well in daily communication. Until women are ready to support and uplift each other as sisters, daughters, in-laws and co-workers, the fight for any uniformity can not be achieved. This is the perfect example for supporting the people in your life and around you. Those who confront objectionable attitudes from their colleagues whether male or female, will have no one to turn to in the light of a lawless scenario. They would either suffer harassment in silence or look for jobs elsewhere while living a misera-

ble life. Their main support are the people who feel for them or think and act in ways that can make lives easy for them. Traditionally we have been taught to be competitive with one another, because that is how societies are trained to work. The truth is that raising each other up and channelling the power of collaboration is truly how we can make better working societies. If the efforts of a few can bring about the change, imagine what great things can happen if each of you starts supporting the other. If YOU continue to view each other as competition or as enemies, chances of achieving success will always be thin. "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love", so says Mother Teresa. Ultimately, we all want to help and make a difference, it's a question of just how we choose to do so. Our everyday dealings with women are the practical application of pro women laws. While the media and the government can play a positive role, WE all definitely contribute much more significantly through our own actions. It all starts with taking one small step every day with the people in your life right now. Deal with love with the people around you and make better connections everyday.

– Wajeeha is the author of "The Conscious Ego" and "The Beautiful Pre ent". She also runs "A Purposeful Life" blog

Briefs

UN chief hails Pakistan's

From Page 01

The Pakistan Army is working hard to improve the situation in the region. US Senator Lindsey Olin Graham said that Pakistan Army and the people of the region had eradicated terrorism and these achievements could not be forgotten. US Senator Sheldon also praised Pakistan's sacrifices in the fight against terrorism, saying "I never thought I would be able to go to a peaceful South Waziristan." Congratulations to the Pakistan Army on this achievement. In his statement, General Sir Nicholas Carter said that he had heard a lot about the efforts and achievements of the Pakistan Army in the region. Clearing and holding Waziristan from terrorism is a great achievement of the Pakistan Army.

Strong political parties

From Page 01

Raza Rabbani said that the Senate was for the protection of federal units, not for political parties. If the right to secret ballot was taken away, the members of the Assembly would be in trouble at the hands of the deep state, he added.

The Chief Justice remarked that Article 63-A also applied to the election of the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers. The Constitution of Pakistan was similar to the Constitution of Ireland and according to the Irish court, the state owned the cast votes, he added.

Birthday anniversary of Japan

From Page 01

Her Majesty the Empress Emerita Michiko, who are the parents of His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito, visited Pakistan as the then-Crown Prince and Princess in 1962, on the 10th anniversary of our diplomatic relations which became the first visit by the members of the Imperial House to Pakistan. Also, President Dr. Arif Alvi and the First Lady Mrs. Samina Alvi on the invitation of the Government of Japan, paid an official visit to Japan to attend the enthronement ceremony of His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito in October 2019.

Highlighting the decade's old historical and amicable relations between Japan and Pakistan, the Ambassador said that Japan has remained one of the major bilateral development partners of Pakistan since 1954, extending assistance in multi-faceted sectors. The total amount of Japan's economic assistance to Pakistan by March 2020 amounts to USD 13 billion and this makes Japan the second largest economic partner of Pakistan, said the Ambassador. As the year 2022 will mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan, the Ambassador has invited all Pakistani people to come forward and join hands with the Embassy to celebrate this historic relationship in a splendid way. Cultural and people-to-people exchanges, the Ambassador said, are the foundation of our friendship from a long-term perspective.

The Ambassador, on this occasion of the birthday celebrations of His Majesty the Emperor, stressed that we must renew ourselves to further develop our close relations and make a firm resolve to deepen our cherished ties, which will amplify the welfare of people of both the countries.

Turkish UAV surpasses 300,000-H flight

DNA

BAKU: A Turkish armed unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) surpassed 300,000 hours of flight, the producer company, Bayraktar's chief technology officer, said on Monday, state News Agency reports. Selcuk Bayraktar tweeted that the UAV, named Bayraktar TB2, was used for several Turkish military operations, such as Euphrates Shield, Olive Branch, and Spring Shield. The country's cutting-edge drone technologies provide cost and strategic advantages and reduce casualties in military operations.



Match-4



PSL-6: Qalandars beat Gladiators by 9 wickets

DNA

KARACHI: Fakhar Zaman (82*) and Mohammad Hafeez (73*) consolidated for a match-winning partnership as Lahore Qalandars beat Quetta Gladiators by nine wickets in fourth match of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season 6. The left-hand-right-hand combination thrashed Gladiators' bowling line as they were completely speechless in front of the two in-form batters. Earlier, Chris Gayle and Sarfaraz Ahmed scored 101 runs together as Gladiators scored 178-6 in 20 overs.

Sent into bat first, Gladiators lost their openers earlier for just 12 runs. Shaheen Shah Afridi followed Haris Rauf and picked his first wicket as Gladiators were reduced to 20-2 in three overs. Tom Banton fell to Rauf while young Saim was removed by Afridi.

But, Gayle and Sarfaraz joined the crease and scored a match-building partnership. Sarfaraz scored 40 runs with the help of five boundaries before falling to Rauf. However, Gayle continued for long and smashed 68 runs off 40 balls laced with five boundaries and as many sixes.

Mohammad Nawaz remained not out for 33 runs and raced the score of Gladiators.

For Qalandars, Rauf bagged three wickets while Rashid Khan, Ahmed Daniyal, and Rashid Khan took a wicket each. In reply, Qalandars were on song with openers Sohail Akhtar and Fakhar Zaman scoring 64 runs



together. Skipper Akhtar gave away his wicket to Zahid Mehmood after scoring 21 runs. Thereon, Hafeez and Fakhar smashed the ball all around the park after getting a couple of chances. Chris Gayle and Sarfaraz Ahmed scored 101 runs together as Quetta Gladiators scored 178-6 in 20 overs in fourth match of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season 6. Sent into bat first, Gladiators lost their openers earlier for just 12 runs. Sha-

heen Shah Afridi followed Haris Rauf and picked his first wicket as Gladiators were reduced to 20-2 in three overs. Tom Banton fell to Rauf while young Saim was removed by Afridi. But, Gayle and Sarfaraz joined the crease and scored a match-building partnership. Sarfaraz scored 40 runs with the help of five boundaries before falling to Rauf. However, Gayle continued for long and smashed 68 runs off 40 balls laced with five boundaries and as many six-

es. Mohammad Nawaz remained not out for 33 runs and raced the score of Gladiators. For Qalandars, Rauf bagged three wickets while Rashid Khan, Ahmed Daniyal, and Rashid Khan took a wicket each.

Toss Lahore Qalandars' skipper Sohail Akhtar has won the toss and decided to bowl first against Quetta Gladiators in the fourth match of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season 6.

Squads

Quetta Gladiators: Sarfaraz Ahmed, Chris Gayle, Tom Banton, Azam Khan, Saim Ayub, Ben Cutting, Mohammad Nawaz, Zahid Mehmood, Anwar Ali, Mohammad Hasnain, Usman Shinwari

Lahore Qalandars: Sohail Akhtar, Fakhar Zaman, Salman Ali Agha, Mohammad Hafeez, Ben Dunk, Samit Patel, David Wiese, Rashid Khan, Ahmed Daniyal, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf

PCB takes control of illegally occupied LCCA Ground

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has taken the control of the Lahore City Cricket Association (LCCA) Ground. The ground is spread across 51 kanals of land and is situated near Gaddafi Stadium. It was illegally occupied by a club. The ground was taken back from the club and now has been handed over to the PCB after an operation took place under Lahore's Deputy Commissioner Mu-

hammad Riaz Malik. Meanwhile, the nets will be closed due to the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season six matches. The ground will be part of the bio-secure bubble as the teams will train here. PCB officials will provide alternative venues for clubs where they can continue to train. Note, PCB had requested the district government to provide LCCA ground as it was taken over by a club after dissolution of LCCA. — Sports Desk

China urges United States to stop interference

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has outlined Beijing's vision for improving ties with the United States, urging Washington as a first step to stop meddling in its internal affairs, including the sensitive issues of Tibet, Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Taiwan. Speaking at a foreign ministry-sponsored forum on "Bringing China-US relations back to the right track", Wang said on Monday Beijing stood ready to reopen constructive di-

alogue with the administration of US President Joe Biden, after years in which relations between the two countries "ran into the biggest difficulties since the establishment of diplomatic ties". He also called on Washington to lift "unreasonable tariffs" on Chinese goods and remove restrictions on people-to-people contacts, including those on Chinese media outlets as well as educational and cultural groups. The minister's comments came as China presses the Biden administration to drop many of the confrontational measures adopted by

his predecessor, Donald Trump. These include pressure over trade and technology grievances that had prompted Trump to hike tariffs on Chinese imports in 2017 and impose bans or other restrictions on Chinese technology companies and academic exchanges. Trump also upgraded military and diplomatic ties with Taiwan, the self-governing island democracy claimed by China as its own territory, while sanctioning Chinese officials blamed for abuses against Muslim minorities in Xinjiang and a crackdown on freedoms in Hong Kong.

Ambassador Sajjad meets Belarusian traders

DNA

MINSK: Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan held a meeting with Mr. Andrey Dobrovolsky, Director General of Unitary Enterprises of Belkoopvneshtorg Belkoopsoyuza. The Head of Wholesale Trade Mr. Zhdanov Andrey, Deputy Director General Mr. Raguev Illarion and Deputy Head of Mission Abdullah Amin, also attended the meeting. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the possibilities of importing Pakistan Rice, Oranges and Fish products. Briefing on the

operations of company, the Director General offered to start importing Pakistani Rice to the tune of 2100 tons during the next one-year subject to negotiation on the price and quality. A list of Pakistan's top exporters of rice was also shared with the official on this occasion. Belkoopvneshtorg Belkoopsoyuza is the major wholesale enterprises of the Belarusian Republican Union of Consumer societies, primarily involved in import/export of goods, wholesale and retail trade. Currently it serves more than 9000 retail outlets, across Belarus.



MINSK: Pakistan ambassador to Belarus, Sajjad Haider Khan held a meeting with Andrey Dobrovolsky, Director General of Unitary Enterprises of Belkoopvneshtorg Belkoopsoyuza. The Head of Wholesale Trade Zhdanov Andrey, Deputy Director General Raguev Illarion and Deputy Head of Mission Abdullah Amin, also attended the meeting. — DNA

Int'l recognition of 'Khojaly genocide' urged

The rights commissioner added that indifference and double standards in relation to this horrible crime against humanity intensified the impunity syndrome in the aggressor, prompting him to pursue a policy of ethnic cleansing and occupation

BAKU: Human Rights Commissioner Sabina Aliyeva has urged international organizations and states to recognize as genocide the mass killing of Azerbaijanis by Armenians in Khojaly settlement in Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh region in 1992. Aliyeva made the remarks in the February 22 statement posted on the website of the Azerbaijani ombudsman's office on the eve of the 29th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre. Aliyeva said that the Khojaly genocide that took place before the eyes of the world powers in the late 20th century is a crime committed against not only the Azerbaijani nation but humanity. "Although 29 years have passed since the genocide, unfortunately, the international community has

not given the necessary political and legal assessment to this act of genocide, and the perpetrators have not yet been brought to justice... I once again call on international organizations and states to recognize the Khojaly massacre as genocide and a crime against humanity to ensure that its perpetrators are brought to justice," she said. The rights commissioner added that indifference and double standards in relation to this horrible crime against humanity intensified the impunity syndrome in the aggressor, prompting him to pursue a policy of ethnic cleansing and occupation. Aliyeva described as unacceptable the lack of adequate reaction to the Khojaly massacre as it creates a basis for the recurrence of such crimes in



the future. "This horrible crime against humanity was organized by the then political leadership of the Republic of Armenia," the statement said. The genocide was committed on the night of February 25 to 26 in Khojaly by units of the Armenian armed forces, Armenian terrorist groups in Nagorno-Karabakh and personnel of the former Soviet army's 366th

motorized rifle regiment deployed in Khankandi, Azerbaijan. Aliyeva drew attention to the fact that the population was killed with special cruelty. "This crime is a gross violation of the norms and principles of international law and fundamental human rights," she noted. "As a result of this horrific crime against humanity, 613 peaceful Azerbaijanis were killed, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 elderly people. At the same time, 487 civilians were seriously injured and 1,275 people were taken hostage," the statement added. Aliyeva noted that the fate of 150 hostages, including 68 women and 26 children, is still unknown. During the genocide, 56 people were killed with special cruelty, people's heads were peeled off,

various limbs were cut off, their eyes were removed, and pregnant women's bellies were pierced with bayonets. As a result, eight families were completely destroyed, 25 children lost both parents and 130 children lost one parent. "The Khojaly tragedy is another terrible example of the policy of occupation, ethnic cleansing and genocide of the Armenian nationalists and their supporters against the Azerbaijani people," Aliyeva said. She added that in the early 1990s Armenia also pursued the ethnic cleansing policy in northwestern Gakh region's Baghanis-Ayrim village, in Nagorno-Karabakh region's Imarat Garvand, Tug, Salaketin, Khojavand, Karkijahan, Jamilli, Meshali, Akhullu, Nabilar, Hasan-

PSL-6 Fixture

Tuesday, February 23: Peshawar Zalmi v Multan Sultans (7pm)
Wednesday, February 24: Karachi Kings v Islamabad United (7pm)
Friday, February 26: Lahore Qalandars v Multan Sultans (3pm); Peshawar Zalmi v Quetta Gladiators (8pm)
Saturday, February 27: Karachi Kings v Multan Sultans (2pm); Peshawar Zalmi v Islamabad United (7pm)
Sunday, February 28: Karachi Kings v Lahore Qalandars (7pm)
Monday, March 1: Islamabad United v Quetta Gladiators (7pm)
Wednesday, March 3: Karachi Kings v Peshawar Zalmi (2pm); Quetta Gladiators v Multan Sultans (7pm)
Thursday, March 4: Lahore Qalandars v Islamabad United (7pm)
Friday, March 5: Multan Sultans v Karachi Kings (7pm)
Saturday, March 6: Islamabad United v Quetta Gladiators (2pm); Peshawar Zalmi v Lahore Qalandars (7pm)
Sunday, March 7: Multan Sultans v Quetta Gladiators (2pm); Islamabad United v Karachi Kings (7pm)
Wednesday, March 10: Peshawar Zalmi v Karachi Kings (7pm)
Thursday, March 11: Quetta Gladiators v Lahore Qalandars (7pm)
Friday, March 12: Multan Sultans v Peshawar Zalmi (3pm); Islamabad United v Lahore Qalandars (8pm)
Saturday, March 13: Quetta Gladiators v Karachi Kings (2pm); Multan Sultans v Islamabad United (7pm)
Sunday, March 14: Quetta Gladiators v Peshawar Zalmi (2pm); Lahore Qalandars v Karachi Kings (7pm)
Monday, March 15: Islamabad United v Peshawar Zalmi (7pm)
Tuesday, March 16: Multan Sultans v Lahore Qalandars (7pm)
Thursday, March 18: Qualifier 1 (1 v 2) (7pm)
Friday, March 19: Eliminator 1 (3 v 4) (7pm)
Saturday, March 20: Eliminator 2 (loser Qualifier v winner Eliminator 1) (7pm)
Monday, March 22: Final (7pm)

Radd-ul-Fasaad restored faith of the people

From Page 01

He said that 497 border posts were set up, adding that demining was also carried out in tribal districts. Under capacity enhancement of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), Major General Babar Iftikhar said that 58 new wings of FC were raised and 15 others will be established. He said that police and Levies personnel were also trained. The DG ISPR said that 96 percent Temporarily Displaced Persons (TDPs) have returned to their homes. The DG ISPR said that several steps were taken under the National Action Plan (NAP) including the setting up of Military Courts. He said that 717 cases were referred to the Military Courts whereas 344 terrorists were awarded death sentences in these cases, and 58 of them were implemented. He said that 106 other terrorists were given life imprisonment.

PPP's claims of vote buying: Shibli

From Page 01

Pakistan People's Party counsel Mian Raza Rabbani, was incompatible with the Charter of Democracy (CoD) and ideology of former Prime Ministers Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. He said Senator Raza Rabbani, representing the PPP in Supreme Court during proceedings of open vote reference, took the plea which was repugnant to the CoD clauses, inked by Ms Benazir Bhutto and added it tantamount to throwing the agreement in dustbin. He said it was evident that both parties were opposing people-friendly legislation and had now retracted the CoD. He took leadership of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) to task for their inclination to continue past dirty practice of sale and purchase of votes in Senate elections. He said the plundered public money by both parties during their respective tenures was being utilized in purchasing loyalties of other parties.

Briefs

S Korea agrees to partial release of Iranian money

WEB DESK

TEHRAN: South Korea has agreed to release "a part" of billions of dollars of Iranian money it had blocked in its banks for years because of United States sanctions.

In a statement, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) said South Korean Ambassador to Tehran Ryu Jeong-hyun announced the news in a meeting his embassy called for.

"In this meeting, necessary agreements were made on how the resources will be transferred to desired destinations and the central bank's decision on the volume of resources to be transferred and destination banks were relayed," the statement said, without mentioning the amount that will be released. Iran's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, had said in an interview on Sunday Iran's funds in South Korea were "close to \$10bn".

According to the central bank, the South Korean ambassador said his country is ready to do whatever is necessary to allow Iran to have access to all of its blocked resources. CBI chief Abdolnasser Hemmati told Jeong-hyun that Iran welcomed the change in approach, but would continue its legal efforts to obtain damages incurred from a "lack of cooperation by Korean banks" in recent years. "The Korean side must work hard so this negative precedent goes away," Hemmati said.

Azerbaijan to start building roads in Karabakh

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan continues building infrastructure in its lands liberated from the Armenian occupation in 2020. The government will start building roads in liberated Karabakh in March, an official from the Azerbaijani State Agency for Automobile Roads has said. At a briefing on the work done in 2020 and the challenges ahead, Chairman of the Board of the State Agency Saleh Mammadov said that the road is currently being designed.

"On the Azerbaijani president's instruction, a new road is being built for safe movement. The new road will run along the Ganja-Goygol route. The road Tartar-Aghdara-Kalabajar is still in use. The [new] road is being designed for about two months. The construction of the road will begin in March and it will be carried out jointly with a Turkish company," Mammadov said. He added that two Turkish companies are participating in the construction of the road from Fuzuli region to the city of Shusha. The official noted that the State Agency has on its balance 2,661 kilometres of roads and 90 bridges on the liberated territories. According to him, in total, there are nearly 17,543 kilometres of roads and 1,316 bridges on the agency's balance. "Of the total number of highways, the share of countrywide-importance roads is 4,385 kilometres, and of local importance - about 13,158 kilometres," added the source. Kalabajar was among seven Azerbaijani regions that got occupied by the Armenian armed forces during the first Karabakh war.



BAKU: Delegation of French National Assembly is on visit in Azerbaijan. Members of the delegation visited Alley of Martyrs and also visited the grave of national leader Heydar Aliyev, laid flowers in front of the monument. - DNA

Iran lawmakers call for president's prosecution over IAEA deal

Members of the Assembly of Experts, which has the power to appoint or dismiss the supreme leader, said in a statement on Monday that a US return to the nuclear deal without "effective" lifting sanctions will be harmful, not beneficial

DNA

TEHRAN: Hardline Iranian lawmakers say an agreement reached recently between the government and the United Nations' nuclear watchdog is "illegal" and the president must be punished for it. In a public vote on Monday, an overwhelming majority of lawmakers voted to send a report by the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission on the agreement reached with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to the judiciary for review. The report asserts that the deal struck on Sunday between the IAEA and the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran (AEOI) constitutes a "clear violation" of a law passed by Parliament in December. As per the law, the government of President Hassan Rouhani must stop the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol, which gives broad authorities to IAEA inspectors, from Tuesday. In a statement, the AEOI said the implementation of the Additional Protocol will be completely halted from Tuesday, in accordance with the law, and no access will be given to the UN's

nuclear watchdog beyond those laid out in a principal safeguards agreement aimed at ensuring nuclear non-proliferation. However, detractors have said the agreement reached after IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi visited Tehran violates the December law, in that Iran would unilaterally record the monitoring data the nuclear watchdog's inspectors would normally be able to access under the Additional Protocol, but would not share the data. The arrangement will remain in place for three months, at the end of which the data will be destroyed if all United States sanctions, imposed on Iran since 2018 after former President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, are not lifted.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said the talks "resulted in a very significant diplomatic achievement and a

very significant technical achievement... within the framework of the parliament's binding law". Iran's Supreme National Security Council also said in a statement on Monday the IAEA agreement falls in compliance with the parliament's law. But angry parliamentarians held a different view.

Instead of their scheduled work on the annual budget bill that had been delayed for months amid a spat with the government, they held a meeting behind closed doors to review the IAEA deal and drafted a motion to involve the judiciary. Several lawmakers delivered fiery speeches in condemnation of the deal in a public session held afterwards.

Among them was the speaker of parliament, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf - a staunch political foe of the president who also unsuccessfully ran against him in the 2017 presidential

election and is considered a potential candidate in the upcoming June elections. Ghalibaf said the parliament will not be satisfied with anything less than what it perceives as the full implementation of the law it approved. The parliament's motion also directly called for Rouhani to be legally punished. "The aforementioned law recognises mister president as the person in charge of implementing it," the motion said, calling on Rouhani and all others who the parliament believes violated the law to be handed over to the judiciary. "The president on the way to the court!" Tehran representative Mojtaba Rezagah wrote on Twitter shortly after the motion was passed. Another lawmaker, Nazammudin Mousavi, said on Twitter that the parliament had sent a "decisive message" with the motion: that no one will be allowed to "circumvent the law". Members of the Assembly of Experts, which has the power to appoint or dismiss the supreme leader, said in a statement on Monday that a US return to the nuclear deal without "effective" lifting sanctions will be harmful, not beneficial.

SA strain found in New York resident

MONITORING DESK

NEW YORK: The first case of a fast-spreading coronavirus variant from South Africa has been discovered in a resident of the US state of New York, Governor Andrew Cuomo said. Cuomo said on Sunday the case, a person from Nassau County, was detected at the OpenTrons Labworks Inc's Pandemic Response Lab. The mutated strain of the coronavirus, which was first detected in South Africa, was first discovered in the US last month. Cuomo's remarks came as New York State's positivity rate dropped below 3 percent for the first time since November 3 and the number of hospitalisations is dropping. "But with the discovery of a case of the South African variant in the state, it's

more important than ever for New Yorkers to stay vigilant, wear masks, wash hands and stay socially distanced," he said. "We are in a race right now - between our ability to vaccinate and these variants which are actively trying to proliferate - and we will only win that race if we stay smart and disciplined," he added. The new variant, known as B.1.351 or 501Y.V2, was first detected in December in South Africa, where it now accounts for 90 percent of cases. It is believed to be more contagious and more adept at resisting vaccines than other strains.

A small-scale study published early in February showed that the AstraZeneca jab, developed with the Oxford University, was less effective in preventing mild to moderate illness caused by B.1.351.

Businesses close in strike against Myanmar coup

DNA

YANGON: Hundreds of thousands of protesters have gathered in cities and towns across Myanmar as businesses also shut their doors, despite the country's military warning of further "loss of life" if people answered a call for a general strike opposing its February 1 coup. Monday's rallies - which local media called the biggest to date since the military takeover - came as the United States warned it would "take firm action" against Myanmar's generals if they continued to crack down on people calling for the restoration of the country's elected government. In Myanmar's largest city, Yangon, tens of thousands gathered in the hot sun, chanting "Release all detained leaders" and "Don't go to the office, break away", while local shops and international chains - including Yum Brands Inc's KFC and Delivery Hero's Food Panda - announced closures. Protesters also turned out en masse

in the capital, Naypyidaw, the second-largest city of Mandalay, and various towns across the country, including in Myitkyina, Hpaan, Pinyinana, Dawei and Bhamo.

The crowds were gathering after supporters of the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM), a loosely organised group leading the resistance, called for people to unite on Monday's date for a "Two Five" or a "Spring Revolution". On its Twitter account, the CDM said "millions" answered its call, with "sea of people" turning out in every city. In Yangon, 22-year-old Htet Htet Hlaing told Reuters news agency that she was scared and had prayed before joining Monday's demonstration, but would not be discouraged. "We don't want the junta, we want democracy. We want to create our own future," she said. "My mother didn't stop me from coming out, she only said 'take care'." Kyaw Kyaw, a 23-year-old university student, said he was also worried about a crackdown.

UN chief tells 'Stop the repression'

New York: The UN's top human rights body has opened its first and highest-level meeting of 2021, amid growing concerns on issues including the military coup in Myanmar, the arrest of opposition leader Alexey Navalny in Russia and the rights situations in countries including Ethiopia and Sri Lanka. The four-week session of the Human Rights Council, which started Monday, has drawn several presidents and prime ministers for its "high-level segment", with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro set to speak. The United States is set to renew its council participation after a two-and-a-half-year walkout during the term of former President Donald Trump. - DNA

Maharashtra imposes curbs after resurgence of cases

WEB DESK

MUMBAI: The Indian state of Maharashtra has ordered fresh restrictions on people's movement and imposed nighttime curfews in some cities after a spike in coronavirus cases in recent weeks that came following months of a steady nationwide decline. Maharashtra - home to 110 million people - reported nearly 7,000 new cases on Sunday, a steep rise from 2,000 cases earlier this month, with fears heightened by the appearance of new strains of the virus in parts of the country.

All religious, social and political gatherings have been banned in Mumbai - Maharashtra's capital and India's financial hub - and the surrounding areas in the western part of the state. "We just cannot afford to impose a second lockdown, people will have to follow the guidelines or else we could see a massive second wave," said SD Patil, a member of the Maharashtra government team monitoring the spread of the disease in a state that accounts for nearly one-fifth of India's confirmed cases. "People will have to stop attending social events and non-essential travel at this juncture," he told Reuters on Monday. Latest figures given by the health ministry on Monday showed that India reported 14,199 new infections and 83 new deaths on Sunday.

Schools in UK to reopen on 8 March

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: All schools in England will reopen to all pupils on 8 March under the prime minister's roadmap out of lockdown to be announced today, with outdoor after-school sports and activities also allowed to restart. APA reports citing Sky News. And on the same date, outdoor recreation with one other person will also be permitted, meaning people will be allowed to sit together in a park with a coffee, drink, or picnic. From 29 March, larger groups will be able to meet outside - including in private gardens - up to a maximum of six people or two households. Tennis courts, golf courses and other outdoor sport facilities will also reopen on 29 March, which is the first Monday of most schools' Easter holidays. At the same time, organised adults and children's sport, including grassroots football, will restart. The relaxation of measures is the first stage of a four-part roadmap expected to include the reopening of non-essential retail and hospitality in the coming months.

UAE unveils \$1.36 billion in arms deals

FOREIGN DESK

ABU DHABI: Major arms makers are attending a weapons show in Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates, hoping to seal deals with militaries across the Middle East. At the opening, the UAE revealed that it had signed \$1.36bn in local and foreign arms deals to supply its forces with everything from South African drones to Serbian artillery. Although the figure surpasses the 2019 show's opening announcement, defence experts anticipate a drop in military spending this year as the pandemic and slumping global oil prices squeeze budgets in the Gulf region. The biennial trade fair, the International Defense Exhibition and Conference, is Abu Dhabi's first big in-person event since the outbreak of the coronavirus - a sign of its significance to the city that has maintained tight movement restrictions in recent months. The 70,000 attendees and 900 exhibitors rely on the largest weapons expo in the Middle East to buy and sell the latest wares, from armoured vehicles to ballistic missiles. Top Emirati officials, including Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, were on hand on Sunday, wandering between displays of rifles, rockets and bombs. But with hand sanitiser as ubiquitous as sterile drone displays, the pandemic's effects remained visible. Significant national pavilions were absent, including the United States, the world's larg-

est arms exporter. Big American companies turned up but kept a low profile. Lockheed Martin representatives standing beside models of stealth F-35 fighters were tight-lipped amid the Biden administration's review of several significant foreign arms sales initiated by former President Donald Trump, including a massive \$23bn transfer of the F-35s to the UAE. Israel's COVID-19 restrictions also prevented it from joining the expo, which would have been a first after it normalised relations with the UAE last year.

But scores of other countries attended, underscoring how many have boosted their arms exports in the region. The flow of weapons in the Middle East has increased by 61 percent over the past five years, according to a recent report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, amid grinding proxy wars in Libya, Syria and Yemen. China, which boasts the world's second-largest arms-manufacturing industry, enticed passers-by with a life-sized ballistic missile called "Fire Dragon". At state-owned Norinco, business manager Luo Haopeng remarked that China had increased its floor space this year. Beyond his company "serving" Emirati ground forces, he declined to elaborate on its ambitions in the Middle East, where China has already sold armed drones to Iraq, the UAE and Saudi Arabia. At Russia's pavilion, Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov inspected a vast array of Kalashnikov assault rifles.

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MEVLUT CAVUSOGLU
TURKEY, PAKISTAN HAVE EVERY REASON TO SOLIDIFY TIES

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LARGEST CIRCULATED DIPLOMATIC MAGAZINE

Briefs

Dr. Faisal gets Covid-19 vaccine shot

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan has confirmed while speaking to the media in Islamabad that he has been vaccinated with China's Sinopharm vaccine for protection against Covid-19. He requested healthcare workers and all those eligible to receive the vaccine to "come forward and get vaccinated because it is important for your protection and to prevent the spread of the disease". "All approved vaccines in Pakistan have very high protection against serious disease so you should get whatever vaccine is available," said SAPM Sultan. He also urged the people to stop listening to misleading and false information about the vaccine that might create hesitation in getting vaccinated.

DR Congo: Italian envoy dies in UN convoy attack

DNA

KINSHASA: The Italian ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and a military policeman travelling with him have been killed in an attack on a United Nations convoy in eastern DRC, the Italian foreign ministry said in a statement. The convoy was attacked on Monday near the town of Kanyamahoro at approximately 10:15am (08:15 GMT) as part of a kidnap attempt, the Virunga National Park told Reuters. The Italian ambassador, Luca Attanasio, and a military policeman travelling with him were killed, the Italian foreign ministry said in a statement. The park had said earlier that two people in the convoy had been killed and the ambassador wounded. The third person killed was a driver, diplomatic sources said. It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Nomination papers of Saifullah Abro rejected

ZUBAIR AHMED

KARACHI: The nomination papers of PTI's Senate candidate from Sindh on a technocrat seat were rejected by the election tribunal on Monday. The RO decision to accept the nomination papers of the PTI leader was challenged by GM Khan and Shahid Ali last week. The election tribunal took up the petition on Monday and heard arguments from both parties. In its verdict, the tribunal declared the verdict of the RO null and void and ruled that Abro cannot contest the Senate polls. "The objections raised by the petitioners were proved true and Saifullah Abro does not fulfil the requirement of a technocrat," the order stated.

PIA's statement on Boeing proposal

KHAYAM ABBASI

KARACHI: In the wake of Boeing Co's recommendation to suspend the use of 777 jets with Pratt & Whitney engines, PIA said it has twelve Boeing-777 planes with general electric engines. A PIA spokesperson said all the Boeing 777s the national airline has in its fleet have general electric engines that are considered highly safe. Around 1,000 general electric engines are being used the world over, he added. Earlier, Boeing Co said it recommended suspending the use of 777 jets with the same type of engine that shed debris over Denver, Colorado at the weekend after US regulators announced extra inspections and Japan suspended their use while considering further action.

Japan donates \$3.7m to support refugees

The announcement was made at a ceremony in Islamabad. On this occasion, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. MATSUDA Kuninori, and UNHCR Representative, Ms. Noriko Yoshida, signed an agreement



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan has announced on Monday a contribution of USD 3.7 million to support UNHCR's programmes and activities for Afghan refugees and host communities in Pakistan. This three-year project will focus on education, livelihoods assistance and community structures in the provinces of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, benefiting over 240,000 individuals.

The announcement was made at a ceremony in Islamabad. On this occasion, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. MATSUDA Kuninori, and UNHCR Representative, Ms. Noriko Yoshida, signed an agreement. The Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees, Mr. Saleem Khan, was also present. "Acquiring education and vocational skills is vital for the social inclusion of Afghan refugees. In

this project, we will continue to provide financial support, which will greatly contribute to the stability and peace of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Peace and stability are the precondition for achieving voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration in Afghanistan," said Ambassador MATSUDA. Ms. Yoshida thanked the people and Government of Japan for their generosity towards refugees and host communities. "This funding will go a long way to empowering

young refugees and Pakistanis through skills development and education." The UNHCR Representative further said that given the protracted Afghan refugee situation in Pakistan, Japan is supporting sustained investments easing the burden on host communities. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees said that Pakistan has been hosting Afghan refugees for over 40 years and called on the international community to step

up their support for large refugee-hosting countries. "Japan has always played its part in supporting humanitarian efforts in Pakistan," commented Mr. Khan. Japan is playing an important role in burden- and responsibility-sharing, as set out in the Global Compact for Refugees adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018. The Government of Japan is one of UNHCR's largest donors and supporters of many years.

Pak attracted over 50% of BRI's energy investments

DNA

BEIJING: The Green Belt and Road Initiative Center (Green BRI Center) released China BRI Investment Report 2020 which says overall, Pakistan attracted more than 50% of renewable energy investments (47% of which in hydropower). According to Gwadar Pro, the highlights of this report is that renewable energy investments (solar, wind, hydro) constitute the majority of Chinese overseas energy investments - increasing their share from 38% in 2019 to 57% in 2020. The report also points out Pakistan has benefited in eco-friendly and economic respects by BRI investment. Among the BRI countries, investments were spread

broadly across the continents. Asia continued to receive the largest share of Chinese BRI investments (about 54% in 2020), and Pakistan is listed as one of the countries that received most investments. Dr. Christoph Nedopil, a German scholar, and the Founding Director of the Green BRI Center, introduced that affected by COVID-19, the global economy has been sluggish. Consequently, Chinese overseas investments into BRI countries were about \$47 billion in 2020, about 54% less than in 2019. Compared to non-BRI countries, the decline of Chinese investments was moderate in BRI countries. Under such a context, including Pakistan, several BRI countries bucked the trend and saw an increase in China's

investments in 2020 compared to 2019. Amidst them, renewable energy investments for the first time were the majority of Chinese overseas energy investments. In 2020, the majority of energy investments went into hydro power (35%), followed by coal (27%) and solar (23%). Accordingly, investments into renewable energies constituted the majority of energy investments in the BRI in 2020, and the positive trend is expected to continue in 2021. "This trend exactly matched Pakistan's recent de-coal policies and demands for cleaner energy. More positively, we can see BRI and CPEC are playing a powerful role in the national green development, says Christoph.

Pakistan to host World Environment Day 2021

NAIROBI: Pakistan announced on Monday that it will host World Environment Day 2021 in partnership with the UNEP. This year's observance of World Environment Day will be on the theme of 'ecosystem restoration' and focus on resetting our relation with nature. It will also mark the formal launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 - 2030. World Environment Day takes place every year on 5 June. It is the United Nations' flagship day for promoting worldwide awareness and action for the environment. Over the years, it has grown to be the largest global platform for environmental public outreach and is celebrated by millions of people across the world. - DNA

Naval Chief lauds efforts of PMSA in maritime domain

KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi visited Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) Headquarters at Karachi. Upon arrival, the Naval Chief was received by DG PMSA, Rear Admiral Shuaib. The Admiral was presented Guard of Honour by smartly turned out contingent. Thereafter, Chief of the Naval Staff was given briefing on roles & tasks of PMSA. The Naval Chief visited Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) where he was apprised regarding operational readiness of PMSA to enforce laws in the maritime zone of Pakistan. While interacting with the officers and staff members of PMSA, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi lauded the commitment and efforts of PMSA in maritime domain. Naval Chief emphasized that being the only maritime law enforcement agency, PMSA has responsibility to safeguard national maritime interests. The Admiral stressed that PMSA has to play an active role in Governments initiatives related to development of Blue Economy. Naval Chief also appreciated the agency's efforts in facilitating fishermen community and ensuring their safety and security at sea. The Admiral expressed satisfaction over operational capabilities tasks performed by PMSA. He also assured that Pakistan Navy will continue to provide all out support to PMSA. - DNA

PM Imran concerned over Haleem Adil's health

SHUJAAT HAMZA

KARACHI: Prime Minister Imran Khan has expressed concern over the health of the ruling PTI's leader in Sindh, Haleem Adil Sheikh, a spokesperson for the Governor House said in a statement issued Monday. According to the spokesperson, PM Imran Khan had a telephonic conversation with Sindh Governor Imran Ismail, wherein he expressed concern over Haleem Adil Sheikh's health. The PTI leader was last night moved to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) after he complained of chest pain. Ismail apprised the premier of the ongoing situation, as well as the details of the alleged torture on Sheikh in police custody. "The prime minister of Pakistan has given the assurance of [required] action" in this regard, the spokesperson added.

4 women social workers shot dead

STAFF REPORT

NORTH WAZIRISTAN: Unidentified assailants shot dead four women social workers while they were travelling in a car in Mir Ali, North Waziristan, the police said Monday. The assailants opened fire on an NGO's car near the Ippi village of North Waziristan, the police said, adding that the driver was critically injured. The police said the injured driver and the deceased women have been moved to the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital. Soon after the incident, KP Inspector-General of Police Sanaullah Abbasi asked the North Waziristan DPO to submit a report. "Police have been ordered to arrest the suspects immediately. Those involved in the incident will be punished," the IG said.

Governor Sindh demands removal of IG

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Imran Ismail has expressed anger over the arrest of opposition leader in Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Sheikh and demanded removal of IG Sindh Mushtaq Mehar. Talking to media in Karachi, he said that what happened to IG Sindh was feared. He said that a letter has been written to the Prime Minister for the transfer of IG Sindh. He also warned police to only serve the state. Governor Sindh said that we should not be forced to take extreme measures. He alleged that IG Sindh Mushtaq Mehar has political affiliation and the pressure on the police is clearly visible. Imran Ismail said that the Leader of the Opposition has a privilege of his own. If we do this to him, then the reaction is evident. If IG Sindh joins a province and becomes a party, then a drastic step can be taken. The federation wants atrocities to be eradicated from Sindh. The federation is not thinking about Governor Rule, he added.

ECP to get e-voting technology soon: Fawad

GHULAM MURTAZA

SIALKOT: The Election Commission of Pakistan will soon be provided with electronic voting technology, says Federal Science and Technology Minister Fawad Chaudhry. He was addressing a press conference in Daska. The technology was recently developed with the support of National Institute of Electronics, National University of Science and Technology and COMSATS. It will help ensure transparency in the election process, the federal minister said. He said the government has also presented an election reform bill to adopt an electronic voting system in elections.



RAWALPINDI: Dr Mutlaq Bin Majed Al Qahtani, Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS). - DNA

Special Qatari envoy meets COAS

RAWALPINDI: Dr Mutlaq Bin Majed Al Qahtani, Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, on Monday. Director General Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) was also present in the meeting, according to an ISPR statement. During the meeting matters of mutual interest, regional security situation, cooperation in various fields and facilitation of reconciliation process in Afghanistan were discussed in detail, it added. The Chief Of Army Staff reiterated that both countries share deep history cordial relations and great rooted spirit of brotherhood, which has transformed into an enduring partnership. - DNA

Technology transformation in Pak discussed

RAJA PERVAIZ

ISLAMABAD: Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad and Hans Seidel Foundation (HSF) Pakistan jointly organized a Conference on the topic of "Technological Transformation in Pakistan: An Asset or Liability?" at Margala Hotel, Islamabad. The discussion commenced with the opening remarks by Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed Gondal, Former Federal Secretary Information and Broadcasting and Senior Member Board of Advisors, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad. He stated that technological transformation is a very significant topic because things are changing very rapidly vis-vis technological development. Technology is an asset as it opens new avenues of development and prosperity on a broad level. It is a powerful tool for business growth if used prudently. If we fail to use it in its true essence, it can become a liability.

Dr. Steffen Kudella, Resident Representative, HSF Pakistan in his welcome remarks discussed significant aspects of the topic at this conference. He stated that an algorithm is a mechanistic formula that automatically produces an answer for each new case that appears. This happens with no or with very minimal human intervention. Algorithms are marking the current age of technology. However, algorithms face serious limitations. Dr. Steffen stated that Artificial

Intelligence is still far away from having real super-human abilities. It is important for us to see not only the potential, but also the limitations of Artificial Intelligence. However, it is unlikely that they will be able to replace human beings completely in the future. Knowing this, human beings can and should adjust their skills through education and training as per the needs of the future society. His Excellency Ali Muhammad Khan, Minister of State for Par-

liamentary Affairs, Government of Pakistan was the Chief Guest at this conference. He stated that Germany, China and Japan have re-emerged because of their focused economic development through technology which has resulted in rapid economic growth within their societies. He stated that the Government of Pakistan is taking efficient steps to introduce technology and innovation in various sectors within the country. "We have aptly invested in health

and education during the past years. Our youth is doing great and if we have not performed in the last seventy decades, we surely have the vigor and energy to do it now. We have great potential to deliver to the world and we should not be overwhelmed by any challenges. Barrister Waqas Aziz Qureshi - Senior Law Expert and Managing Partner, Transact Advisory presented speech on the topic "Legal and Legislative Perspective on the Technological Transformation in Pakistan." He stated his concern regarding what is required in terms of legal framework to enhance better technological development. Pakistan is inclined towards traditional investment patterns. Technology has not transformed our economy because of our lack of interest in its development. The Government of Pakistan has taken vigilant steps to match pace with the world in this regard. He recommended that special economic zones for technological development can be set up for economic boost in this field.

