



## News in Brief

**WhatsApp  
postpones new  
terms of service**



WhatsApp on Saturday announced that it is putting off its new business plans till after May and "no one will have their account suspended or deleted on February 8". Users of the popular app have been scrambling to determine risks to their privacy ever since WhatsApp announced new terms of service. It had previously stated that anyone who does not accept the new terms will not be able to use the app after February 8. In its message today, WhatsApp seemed to have postponed acting on the above deadline. "Thank you to everyone who's reached out. We're still working to counter any confusion by communicating directly with WhatsApp users."

"No one will have their account suspended or deleted on Feb 8 and we'll be moving back our business plans until after May," it wrote.

WhatsApp added that it will give plenty of time to users for them to review and understand the terms of use.

"Rest assured we never planned to delete any accounts based on this and will not do so in the future."

**Sale of two  
LNG fired  
power plants  
may get delayed**



ISLAMABAD: With the possibility of accomplishing three transactions, including sale out of SME Bank till June 30, 2021, one of the major transactions for sale out of two Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) fired power plants might get delayed and they may not be privatized by the first half of next fiscal year 2021-22, it was learnt.

The sale out of SME Bank is on the cards with the expectation that its bidding will be done within the next couple of months. The possibility of sale out of Jinnah Convention Center, Islamabad, and Services Hotel, Lahore, are also on the cards within the current fiscal year. But all these three transactions cannot be completed without the support of the parent ministry or department.

The Cabinet Committee on Privatization in its meeting held last week had deferred decisions on sale out of two combined-cycle gas-fired power plants, namely Bhakri Bhadr Shah and Balochi Power plants by constituting a sub-committee to finalize structure of the transaction.

Some unresolved issues have re-surfaced including debt-equity ratio, granting income tax exemptions and some other issues as the potential buyers conveyed to the government to resolve outstanding issues and then provide them six months period for execution of this big transaction having the possibility to fetch over \$2 billion.

"Keeping in view all these possibilities, the Privatization Commission conveyed to the government that this delayed transaction might be accomplished in the first half of next fiscal year 2021-22," said the top official.

Regarding refinancing at rate of KIBOR Plus 1.8 determined by regulator NEPRA, the minister for privatization has convened an important meeting of bankers next week to convince them for re-financing of debt at fixed limit of NEPRA because in case of more rate, it would be made part of the power tariff.

The second outstanding issue is related to granting income tax exemptions provided to all Independent Power Producers (IPPs) for a period of 30 years that would expire by 2023. Now after the sale out of these two power plants, it would be converted into IPPs but the IMF is opposing to extend any further exemptions. There is dichotomy in IMF's prescriptions as privatization.

## Constitutional amendment required for open ballot: ECP to SC



**The Election Commission of Pakistan has stated that in order to switch from secret balloting to an open ballot method, an amendment to the Constitution will be required.**

spokesperson said the open ballot method is in contrast to the very "soul" of the Constitution.

"We will provide strong justification against this method with references from the Constitution in our response," Wahab said.

Difference between open and secret balloting

In a hearing held by the Supreme Court on Thursday presided over by a five-member headed by Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed and comprising Justice Mushir Alam, Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan and Justice Yahya Afridi Justice Bandial, the court had asked what the difference in procedure between open and secret balloting is.

Attorney-General of Pak-

istan Khalid Jawed Khan said that the process is the same for the most part.

"The only difference is that in open balloting, the name of the voter is written on the back of the ballot paper. The purpose is to find out which member voted for whom," he explained.

The court has adjourned the hearing till Monday.

The presidential reference

The reference, filed by the government, says that the president has sought the apex court's opinion on whether the condition of holding in secret ballot referred to in Article 226 of the Constitution is applicable only for the elections held under the Constitution such as the election to the office of president, speakers and deputy speakers of the Par-

liament and provincial assemblies and "not to other elections such as the election for the members of Senate 2017 enacted pursuant to Article 222 read with Entry 41 (1) of the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution "which may be held by way of secret or open ballot" as provided for in the Act.

According to the government, the nature of the elections and the way it is conducted has not been clearly mentioned in the Constitution. The government has said that the election for the Senate is conducted in accordance with the Election Act of 2017 and asked if it is possible to introduce the idea of open-balloting in the Upper House of the Parliament.

## Drap approves AstraZeneca vaccine for emergency use in Pakistan

In this file photo taken on Nov 17, an illustration picture shows vials with Covid-19 vaccine stickers attached and syringes, with the logo of the University of Oxford and its partner British pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca.

— AFP The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) on Saturday authorised the Oxford University AstraZeneca Covid-19 shot for emergency use in Pakistan, making it the first vaccine to get local approval. "Drap granted emergency use authorisation to AstraZeneca's Covid vaccine," Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan told Reuters.

The country has also pre-booked more than a million doses of Sinopharm's vaccine from China, Sultan said, adding that the Sinopharm vaccine is awaiting approval from Drap, which has received and reviewed its data. Read: Sindh urges Centre to allow provinces to procure Covid-19 vaccines

"We are in the process to obtain Western origin and other vaccines both via bilateral purchase agreements as well as via the Covax facility," he said. Pakistan is speaking to a number of vaccine makers, and Sultan said the country could get "in the range of tens of millions" of vaccine doses under an agreement with China's CanSinoBio.



Pakistan reported 2,432 new coronavirus infections and 45 deaths on Friday, taking the total number of cases to more than 516,000 and deaths close to 11,000.

"Our aim is that the bulk of the population will be covered free," the PM's aide said, adding that private sectors could also be allowed once supply was available to an authorised company.

Sultan added that Pakistan had adequate cold chain facilities for most kinds of vaccines. Govt wants vaccine of highest efficacy A day earlier, Sultan had told Dawn that the government is confident of acquiring the vaccine by the first quarter of the current year, but is adopting a 'look-before-you-leap' strategy to ensure procurement of a medicine of the highest efficacy. He had said the government was under close contact with a few international firms manufacturing the Covid-19 vaccine. "We will get the vaccine from the firm which prepares it the earliest," he had added. Sultan had also negated the impression that the government had delayed the procurement of the drug and said it was a matter of days before orders to purchase the vaccine would be placed. The special assistant had said although the country had a population of 200 million, 100 million were under the age of 18, and therefore would not be vaccinated. "As 100pc population cannot be vaccinated in any country, we need to target 70pc of the vaccineable."

## Opposition, govt senators cross swords over NAB

ISLAMABAD: The opposition in the Senate came hard on the government on Friday for the power blackouts, rising inflation and gas crisis while the government blamed the past government of the PML-N for all these problems and asserted that the on-going accountability would continue. The treasury Senators objected to what they called the exaggeration of figures with regards to price hike and inflation and insisted the government was focused on the reforms in various sectors and had successfully faced the challenges of locust attack and coronavirus. They made it clear that the PDM narrative on inflation had failed to bring people out.

Starting the debate, PPP parliamentary leader Senator Sherry Rehman said that the entire country was facing an unprecedented gas crisis. "There was a severe gas shortage, incompetence, cronyism, and non-transparent transactions by a government that had neither done its homework nor was interested in governance." "The inquiry being held is through Nepa. If the appointments made in Nepa are by the federal government, how can they ask the regulator to hold an inquiry over them? We reject this fake inquiry as obviously nothing will come of it and I guarantee that after two and a half years, the government will still say that we are in crisis because of the last regime. They will not explain why the power sector is collapsing, why its circular debt has ballooned or why the country's total debt has reached unprecedented proportions," she noted.

She regretted that none was credibly answering key questions on what led to the breakdown of our power sector. The blackout we witnessed reminded us of the blackouts in wartime in my childhood. Yet here, Tabahi Sarkar let this situation continue for three days but we are yet to see a response to this in the Parliament. Who is going to take the responsibility for this?

Senator Sherry said that there's an increase in gas supply demand every January. Why was this not addressed earlier? Capacity has to be increased for households and industries. "If we look at the rates of Brent crude, there is a clear discrepancy in numbers. This fiasco could have been avoided had there been some planning. The government could have saved billions on spot LNG purchases had it bought future contracts in summer when the prices for winter delivery were at their lowest," she added.

She continued that due to the unprecedented mismanagement, our circular debt was rising. Power sector was being run on an ad hoc basis. Ministries concerned are busy targeting the opposition instead of doing their jobs. Governance is not a child's play. Doing talk shows and selling their false narratives do not equate to running the country. Adviser to Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs Babar Awan said that the government was ready for any kind of reforms but NRO would not be given to anyone and the accountability institutions would neither be locked and nor the keys be handed over to anyone.

Responding to the earlier speech of Deputy Chairman, Senate Saleem Mandviwalla, the adviser to PM, however, emphasized that firstly the position of the government regarding answering questions by calling anyone in Parliament or its standing committees was clear from day one, they have full authority to call someone for conducting hearing and ask questions or seek record.

He said: "Secondly we should reform the NAB law in Pakistan. Since this law was enacted, no attempt has been made to reform it in any previous government and only in Imran Khan's government and an ordinance was promulgated. Unfortunately, the ordinance kept lying on a House committee and it died there, but none touched it". Babar Awan said that if the House took a decision objectively that the looted money from Pakistan would be brought back and that no one was above the law and no absconder would live abroad, the accountability institutions would not be allowed to be used for vengeance.

## PM Imran directs to speed up mega projects in Lahore

LAHORE: Prime Minister Imran Khan has directed Punjab government to speed up mega projects in Lahore.

The PM appreciated the performance of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar and Vice Chairman LDA and reiterated that corruption and bribery would not be tolerated under any circumstances. According to details, on the occasion of Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Lahore, Vice Chairman LDA SM Imran briefed on various mega projects in the city and said that a project costing about Rs 4.5 billion

has been initiated at Shahkam Chowk.

It was also informed in the briefing that an overhead bridge would be constructed in Karim Block, at a cost of Rs 1.5 billion, to solve traffic congestion. One billion rupees would also be spent to deal with traffic congestion in front of Gulab Devi Hospital. Similarly, Rs 4.5 billion would be spent between Railway Station and Sheranwala Chowk for ease of movement between North and South Lahore.

For housing, 4,000 apartments would initially be con-

structed on 8,000 kanals of land in LDA City. Under this scheme, people would pay monthly installments of Rs 15,000 and the house will be transferred to their name after 20 years. The project will be formally inaugurated by the Prime Minister on February 15. Prime Minister Imran Khan directed that all possible steps should be taken to eradicate corruption in LDA and that action should be taken against those who cause obstructions in mega projects. NNI

## Four injured in blast on Quetta's Sariab Road

QUETTA: At least four people were injured in a blast near a passenger bus on Quetta's Sariab Road on Saturday.

On being informed police and rescue officials rushed to the scene and shifted the wounded to the hospital. Meanwhile, a heavy contingent of police, along with the bomb disposal squad reached the site of the explosion and cordoned off the area as investigations into the incident went underway.

An official of the bomb disposal squad said that it

was a home-made device packed with five-kilogram explosive material. Motive behind the explosion was yet to be ascertained, the official said. Meanwhile, Balochistan home minister condemned the incident and directed authorities concerned to submit a report at the earliest. He directed to provide the best medical facilities to the wounded people.

The home minister said that the culprit involved in the incident will be taken to task. Earlier on January 10,

six people had been injured in an explosion in Balochistan's Turbat district. According to rescue sources, two vehicles had been partially damaged in the explosion near Cinema Chowk. All the injured people had been shifted to District Hospital Turbat. On getting information, heavy contingents of police and Frontier Constabulary had reached the site and cordoned it off with investigations launched to ascertain the intensity of the blast. NNI

## Govt starts showering funds on MPs ahead of Senate polls

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led governments in the federation and the province have started showering funds upon their member parliaments as Senate elections preparations got momentum.

The government has released Rs850million funds for 294 development schemes in Faisalabad. The TV channel reported that the Member Punjab Assembly will initiate 60 percent development schemes in their constituencies while Member National Assembly would announce remaining forty percent development

schemes in their constituencies. The Senate elections are likely to be held late February or early March as the half of the Senators would retire in March after completing their six-year tenure. The ruling party PTI is expected to win 20 to 22 seats that would help them take hold of the Upper House of the parliament as well and would pave way for them to pass the legislation.

The Senate polls in Pakistan are notorious for horse-trading and vote-buying and the government this time has moved the Supreme Court seeking guidance on its plans

to hold the elections through open balloting through a presidential reference.

The move of open balloting for Senate polls has been made to avoid any unwanted surprises that may jeopardise the PTI's hopes to get hold of the Senate and its chances to adopt legislation including a rollback of 18th amendment that are facing strong resistance by the opposition.

In the last Senate elections too, the PTI had expelled from the party 20 MPs who had allegedly sold their votes and left the PTI with lesser number of Senate winners. NNI

## Nursery to 8th class resumption delayed till Feb 1



**ISLAMABAD: The government has delayed the return of students of nursery to 8th classes to schools till February 1.**

However, the ninth and 10th graders and college and university students will resume classes, as announced earlier. The development

took place after the country's COVID-19 nerve centre, NCOC (National Command and Operation Centre), examined the coronavirus incidence trend in the country and the learning losses suffered by students due to the pandemic-induced prolonged closure of educational institutions.

The NCOC meeting, chaired by Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar, was also attended by federal and provincial health and education ministers, either in person or via video-

link.

On Jan 4, the federal government had announced the phased resumption of in-person learning in around 300,000 educational institutions countrywide from Jan 18. It, however, slightly changed the plan on the advice of the NCOC on Friday. Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mehmood told reporters that students of grades 9-12 would resume education in-person on Jan 18, as announced earlier, while those in nursery to grade 8 would return to school on Feb 1, instead of Jan 25, maintaining less than 50 per cent attendance.

He said there was no change in the plan of reopening.

There are more encroachments that have yet to be removed, the session was told.

KARACHI: Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah chaired Karachi Coordination Committee session on Saturday to deliberate over Mehmoodabad Nullah's encroachments.

The session, attended by key officials from federal, provincial, and city governments and other institutions, was briefed that the 19.03-kilometer long nullah had a number of encroachments some of which have been removed.

Present in the session were federal ministers Asad Umar, Aminul Haque, and Ali Zaidi, and representing the city were Commissioner

of the countrywide universities and colleges on Feb 1. The minister said no students would be promoted without examinations in the current year, and therefore, the decision to resume classes from 9 to 12 was made. He said the coronavirus data showed that from Nov 26, the decline in the virus incidence had not been significant, necessitating a balance between the health and education sectors to ensure the safety of students.

Shafqat said students had suffered huge learning losses in 2020 due to the pandemic-induced school closures, which were decided by the government to protect children's health. He said when the government announced that it was closing schools during the second wave of the virus on Nov 26, the average daily number of deaths was five and cases over 500.

The minister said the experts insisted that the infection rate in the country was highly influenced by schools. "The latest statistics show that the positivity ratio has gone down to 6.10 from 7.4, which is still comparatively high. The number of critical COVID-19 patients has increased to 2,300 and the average mortality rate has improved just a little too," he said.

## CM Sindh promises rehabilitation for Mehmoodabad nullah affectees

Karachi and its Administra-

tor. CM Murad Ali Shah said the committee has handed over Rs30 million to Commissioner Karachi for the purpose of resettling the victims of nullah clearance drive.

Separately, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) chairman Lt Gen Akhtar Nawaz Satti and Frontier Works Organization (FWO) officials were also present. NNI

## Mushaal accuses India of planning Yasin Malik's judicial murder

ISLAMABAD: The wife of JKLF leader Mohammad Yasin Malik has alleged that the Indian government is planning to commit a judicial murder of her husband.

In a tweet on Saturday, Mushaal Hussein Mullick said "My video message in English against the fabri-

cated charge sheet filed against Mohammad Yasin Malik in TADA court by Indian Authorities to plan a judicial murder freedom for Kashmir free political prisoners free Yasin Malik."

A few days ago Indian authorities filed a charge-sheet against Jammu and Kashmir

Liberation Front (JKLF) leader Yasin Malik and nine others in a special Terrorist And Disruptive Activities (TADA) court in the 1990 kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of the then Union home minister Mufti Muhammad Sayeed. In April 2019, Malik was ar-

rested by the Indian authorities in connection with a so-called terror-funding case. The development happened a month after JKLF was banned by the Indian government. Mushaal Hussein Mullick, a human rights activist and wife of Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik.

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Daily

# GWADAR TIMES

Gwadar

17 January, 2021

## Container Shortage

The recent revival in Pakistan's exports is under threat because there aren't enough shipping containers to get the goods across the sea. The global supply chain tripped up by the material shortage of shipping containers has hit Pakistan hard. The problem is not going away anytime soon. The coronavirus's global impact on trade and a plunge in Pakistan's imports have led to a shortage of incoming shipping containers, with freight charges rising as much as ten times. The problem will significantly affect our textile sector the most, which has been experiencing a boom recently.

As if the pandemic's shocks were not enough, we are now facing a deeply-troubling logistics-induced challenge. As a result, both the country and the merchants are facing big problems. The container crisis paints a grim picture for our government, which hoped to gain economic stability after a rise in exports. If the authorities do not take swift steps to address the challenge, our exporters' operations will continue to be disrupted. Naturally, the government's revenue and manufacturers' profits will fall.

The government must subsidise part of the import fees for empty and used containers. It must also assign the concerned authority to monitor any possible monopoly by freight forwarders to alleviate the container shortage for exporters. Besides this, the government and the Port Qasim Authority must use their relationships with shipping lines to get more services and capacity to Pakistan's ports.

There is no easy resolution to solve the absence of containers, which is a global problem. A better approach would be to adopt a hybrid solution. We should go with a mix of incentivising the shipping companies and seeking help from China, the biggest shipping container manufacturer. Additionally, we can look inward to assist our exporters by using containers lying around in other ports due to a surplus.

Muhammad Ali Siddiqi

THEY say one should read the commentary and not the text of these three books: Das Kapital, Mein Kampf and Oswald Spengler's 'The Decline of the West'. I have read the German leader's book from page to page, and confined myself to the commentaries on the other two. It is Spengler who is relevant to what follows. Among the signs of a civilisation's decline Spengler mentions is a devastating civil war, followed by a geographical shift in the focus of power. Spengler's book was published in 1918. He died before World War II broke out, but what he predicted turned out to be true. Western civilisation's great civil war began in Europe in 1914 and ended after a 20-year truce in 1945. This was followed by an astonishingly rapid shift in geopolitical power from Europe to the North American continent. This shift across 'the ditch' means Western civilisation has many more centuries to flourish.

We can see this pattern elsewhere. The Mongol holocaust and the sack of Baghdad in 1258 cannot be called a civil war. Nevertheless, it led to the destruction of the Arab — not Islamic — civilisation, because geopolitical power found new bastions for the Islamic culture to bloom in the Ottoman Empire and in Safavid and Mughal sultanates, all three Turkic. In the Ottoman case, the empire lasted six centuries, two (15th and 16th) in glory and the rest in steady, decline until its collapse in 1918. This was the nadir of Arab-Islamic civilisation. Is America in decline? No, there are no major signs of it. Minor signs, yes, but America's positive indicators are far stronger than those of a negative nature.

In spite of the 'gates' that

rocked the US, democracy stood firm.

It is true the quality of American presidents has been slowly falling. FDR was the last great president. Richard Nixon was potentially a statesman. He proved this by his path-breaking visit to China (courtesy Pakistan), but Watergate got him. Jimmy Carter achieved something spectacular at Camp David because of the Sinai-recognition swap between Egypt and Israel, but the disastrous commando raid on Iran cost him a second term. Bill Clinton had all the assets to go down in history as a great president, but Monicagate perjury and the failure at the second Camp David conference pulverised him. Barack Obama will be remembered as the first black American to occupy the White House, and no more. Others don't deserve a mention. Yet, in spite of the 'gates' that rocked the US, America's democracy stood firm. Reason: its robust democratic institutions.

A live civilisation also puts extraordinary emphasis on knowledge and is keen to spread it, because it can't stand illiterate societies. No wonder, even after the shock that was 9/11, America has continued to give scholarships to students from Muslim countries, including Pakistan. The benefits of knowledge export are mutual, since hundreds of thousands of foreign students have settled in the US and contribute to research and scholarship, besides providing skilled manpower at all levels. Last year alone, seven Americans, including three women, won the Nobel Prize.

Finally, notwithstanding scammers who are there among all peoples, America is an honest society, which trusts itself. Ever heard of an interim government in the

US to hold presidential elections? Or of an American election commission? There is indeed a federal election commission, but it doesn't 'conduct' elections. Its duties concern campaign finances. Contrast this with Pakistan where a constitutional amendment had to be crafted for all political parties to agree on the choice of a chief election commissioner because Pakistanis do not trust each other to a level that is abominable. Yet, in spite of the consensus on an election chief, challenging the results has now become de rigueur. In the US, it is the county councils which count votes, and it is rare that doubts are cast on the results. In the latest case Donald Trump made a fool of himself, with even some Republicans distancing themselves from him. Yet, if there was chaos on the Capitol Hill, let's also note course correction by American society.

This article doesn't deal with America's foreign policy, its crimes in many developing countries, and the carte blanche given by AIPAC puppets to Israel's genocide of the Palestinian people. These foreign policy depredations do not represent the essence of a civilisation that now rules the world and has no equiptent. The positive points mentioned about the US also hold good for Canada, Australia, New Zealand and most Western European countries.

The world of Islam and Europe have acted more in peace than in war. The Islamic world salvaged the best of Hellenic and Judeo-Christian values, contributed to them and exported this intellectual asset back to Europe to be a factor in the Renaissance. Islamic heritage is an intrinsic part of Western civilisation. Hostility to the very word 'West' is bigotry. Dawn..

ONLINE



Petrol prices increases 03 Rupees per liter News

## Fighting terrorism

Malik Muhammad Ashraf

While there are no two opinions about the fact that our valiant security forces and law enforcing agencies have broken the back of the terrorists and cleared Pakistani territory of their outposts, they still retain their ability to stage attacks on symbols of state power and civilians. Of late, Balochistan seems to be their preferred target. The province has been in the grip of sectarian and separatist terrorism for a long time. The cold-blooded murder of 11 miners belonging to the Hazara community carried out by Lashkar-e-Jhangvi in collaboration with Daesh was preceded by the attack on an FC post in Harai on the night of December 26, 2020, in which 7 FC soldiers were martyred and an assault on a convoy of security forces in Omara in October in which several soldiers and security guards were martyred; this suggests that the fight against terrorists is not yet over.

These incidents, however, in no way reflect on the dedication and commitment of the nation and its security forces to eliminate this scourge. DG ISPR, in a presser revealed that during the last twenty years, 1200 operations were conducted to root out terror outfits killing 18000 of them besides eliminating and capturing 1100 Al Qaeda operatives. Pakistan also shared intelligence with 70 countries. The effort, according to him, cost the country 83000 lives including civilians and security personnel and financial loss to the tune of \$126 billion. He also asserted that over 3,71,000 intelligence-based operations were conducted under operation Radd-ul-Fasad and resolutely, terrorists' support bases, their facilitators, abettors and financiers have been

eliminated and no organised terrorist infrastructure exists in Pakistan. He claimed that terrorist incidents had declined by 45 percent and over 50 percent terrorist threats were averted during the last year. Similarly, Karachi has witnessed a decline of 95 percent in incidents of terrorism, 98 percent in target killing, 99 percent in extortion and 98 percent in kidnapping for ransom.

Nepalese climber aces K2 in winters, forms new world record

The dilemma is that terrorism in Pakistan has both internal and external dimensions. As far as Balochistan is concerned, it is India which is supporting the insurgency and acts of terrorism in the province. Indian involvement was corroborated by Kulbushan Sudhir Jhadav, a serving commander in the Indian Navy who was arrested on March 3, 2016 in Balochistan while crossing over from Iran in a counter-intelligence operation. He was found in possession of a valid Indian passport with a fake name of Hussain Mubarak. During the investigation, Jhadav confessed to the Indian intelligence agency RAW being involved in destabilising Pakistan and he was a serving officer of the Indian Navy working in Pakistan at its behest. He also acknowledged that he launched covert operations against Pakistan from the Iranian port of Chabahar for which he used to get instructions from Joint Secretary of RAW Anil Gupta. According to him, RAW had been funding the Baloch separatists for carrying out their insurgency operations. Kulbushan also admitted that he had been directing various activities in Sindh and Balochistan on directions from RAW since

2013 and had a role in the deteriorating law and order situation in Karachi.

DRAP approves use of AstraZeneca's vaccine against Covid-19He was awarded the death sentence by a military court after due process of law. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) at Hague announced its verdict on the Kulbushan Jhadav case; while rejecting Indian plea for annulment of the military court decision of awarding death sentence to him and ordering his release and repatriation to India, it observed, "Though Pakistan had been found in violation of Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Access it is not the conviction and sentence of Mr Jhadav which are to be regarded as violation of Article 36 of Vienna Convention." The verdict was a confirmation of the Indian involvement in supporting and sponsoring of terrorism in Pakistan.

RAW, in collaboration with the Afghan intelligence agency, NDS, has also been helping and supporting the TTP in carrying out acts of terrorism in Pakistan. Irrefutable corroborative evidence exists about the use of Afghan soil concerning APS and Badaber Airbase attacks. PDM to be aggrieved over under-rated show: Firdous

The situation left no choice for Pakistan but to take a unilateral decision to fence the entire border between Pakistan and Afghanistan and set up watch posts to check cross-border movement of the terrorists. Reportedly, 83 percent of the fencing of the 2611 km border with Afghanistan has been completed so far and the rest is likely to be completed mid-year. Similarly, 37 percent of fencing along the Pak-Iran border has also been established. The nation..

## Two Indias

Farukh Khan Ptafi

An argument had broken out. A few peers were debating whether India's Hindutva mob would give the same love-jihad treatment to Kamala Harris and Nikki Haley that was meted out to common Indian citizens, if it could lay its hands on them, of course. One group believed that the mob was so full of hate that it would not spare anyone. The other posited that the Indian elite was too shrewd to fall for this. It would not alienate anyone in a position of power. I sat there inert, silently drinking my coffee and contemplating this moment in history.

To those who still do not know, love jihad or Romeo jihad is a name given to a conspiracy theory that Muslim men, as a part of an international strategy, seduce and convert Indian non-Muslim, mostly Hindu women. Since its origin in 2009, the theory spread as the Hindutva's definition of the other has broadened. Now it is about Abraham's faiths.

So, you could say that Harris who is married to a Jewish gentleman, and Haley married to a Christian man could bear the brunt of this hatred. I do not think for a second that the mob would spare anyone if it had the power. The trick is never to let it rise to a position of power. Sadly, of the two, Haley, daughter of a woman wronged by India's toxic masculinity and majoritarianism, showed us she was ready to legitimise this mob to enjoy a few extra perks.

Ride that tiger even if it devours your sisters back at home. Since its inception, India has been a victim of the dissociative identity disorder previously known as the multiple personality syndrome. It has two distinct but interchangeable personalities. One, inclusive, tolerant, progressive, and secular that wrote India's Constitution. The other hostile, intolerant, petty, vindictive, and reductive which threatens to dismantle it brick by brick and

remake it after its own image. The latter claims the former was just a construct made by the country's Anglicised elite.

When you look at the man ruling India today, Narendra Modi, the poster child of India's majoritarian hatred, you find it hard to rebut that claim. India's regression notwithstanding, the first personality, despite being under growing pressure, does exist. There are Indians who stand for what is right. The rights of the minorities, of women, of the poor, and the oppressed. Their battle for survival may define the future of civilisation. Not a civilisation. The civilisation.

The claims of the majoritarian mob could have been accepted if it really was about religion. It is not. It is about a perverse definition of race. India's upper castes believe that they are descendants of Aryans and therefore superior to others.

This of course is a myth. One, because there has been quite a while since the purported Aryan exodus took place and it would have been impossible to stop the intermingling of races. Two, because even by the shallow racist standards there is little distinction in the appearance of the Indian upper and lower castes. The neo-Nazis then, despite the Hindutva infatuation with the cause, are unlikely to accept them as their own.

As the works of Louis Rousset, Arthur Gobineau, Paul Topinard, and Gustave Le Bon show, the Indian Aryan myth is neither an English construct nor German, it was invented by the French in the vain hope of building an empire in India. That ambition is over, but the disease still persists.

So, India's problem is that the majoritarian mob is in fact a minority. A violent, noisy, bigoted, and powerful minority but a minority nevertheless. Look at it through this prism and you realise that it is neither about a Hindu Raj nor a Hindu Rash-

tra. It is about an upper-caste raj and rashtia. The same upper caste which like Don Quixote is desperate to be what it is not. Nothing can go wrong then. Right? It is plain that once they are done sorting the Muslims, the Christians and un-integrated faiths out, they are bound to turn on each other.

The depressed castes, a huge population in comparison to the upper castes, would be next. For now, however, the presence of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs (a religious community Haley's parents belonged to) and the Hindutva mob claims it is Hindu while it refuses to accept that characterisation), and other faiths not ready to be swallowed by this mega-integration project makes its task easy.

A question arises then: why did the mob bring Modi to power? Self-confessedly he is not from the upper caste. Then why? Because it is convenient. His narrow mental bandwidth ensures he remains a force of destruction and hate, and his unvarnished ambition keeps him a slave to the upper caste billionaires and the RSS leadership. A Trojan horse.

And while Modi has destroyed India's economy, especially the poor and the working-class, for billions he has been nothing short of divine intervention. Consider him the East India Company, owned and operated by new Indian masters. But the homogenisation project cannot go too far. India's tragedy is that while it sees itself as a potential counterweight to China, it is too diverse to emulate China's homogeneity. After every 100, 200 kilometres India's language and culture change.

The local cultures guard their individuality jealously. When it comes to operational ground realities, secularism and tolerance are essential, existential staples of its economic health. I would hazard a guess that India's founding fathers knew India better. Express Tribune..

## Citizenship education in Pakistan

Dr Naazir Mahmood

There was a time in Pakistan up until the 1970s that we taught civics as a subject to our students at school and college levels. Then as the military dictatorship of the usurper General Ziaul Haq forcibly drove Pakistan towards an extremist mindset, curricula at all levels reflected this trend.

Gradually civic education nearly evaporated in thin air, and a distorted view based on self-righteousness of Pakistan Studies and sectarian education crowded other subjects out. It has been over four decades now that we have seen a creeping and insidious erosion of civic sense in our society. Be it the barbarous killing of Usama Satti by the Islamabad police, or the heartless remarks by our prime minister about what he described as blackmailing by the bereaved Hazara families in Quetta, all point towards a callous disregard for our civic responsibilities, both by civil and uniformed segments of our society.

Fortunately, there are elements of the civil society — both national and international — that are still keeping the flames of civic education alive in Pakistan. Fredrick Ebert-Stiftung (FES) of Germany and the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS) are two such organizations that have worked to promote the introduction of civic education in the country. Fredrick Ebert was one of the two outstanding politicians of Germany in the beginning of the 20th century. The other was August Bebel, one of the founders of the Marxist-influenced Social Democratic Party of Germany.

Fredrick Ebert was a pivotal figure in the German Revolution of 1918-19. He served as the first president of Germany from 1919 till his untimely death in 1925 just at the age of 54. Had he lived longer, perhaps the trajectory of Germany and the world would have been different. The foundation named after Fredrick Ebert has been doing valuable work around the world to promote democratic values. In Pakistan, it works in close collaboration with PIPS. When Zafarullah Khan was the executive director of PIPS from 2016 to 2019, both the FES and PIPS did substantial work for implementation of civic education in Pakistan.

As an educationist, one must take keen interest in learning and teaching materials that can help our learners understand basic values of a civil society. That is the reason why, when I come across such materials, I tend to share with my readers my impression. Take, for example, the Module of Civic Ed-

ucation developed by Zafarullah and printed by the FES. Being an ardent supporter of democracy and an authority not only on civic education but also on federalism and parliamentary democracy, Zafarullah appears to be the best person to write such a manual.

The manual is a training guide that sets particular standards of teaching civics. It begins by introducing the various models of civic education with different nomenclatures such as 'citizenship education' in a majority of European countries, 'civic education' in America and Germany, and 'political education' in some other states. All trying to convey the same message that democracy is not an automatic machine; rather each generation benefits from and cares for its own democracy in accordance with their peculiar approach and thinking. By calcifying this, the module establishes a strong case for civic education in Pakistan.

Since Zafarullah has tried to give an essence of other countries' experiences, the module explains how to learn from them. Not only can schools and colleges benefit, but also interactive sessions can take advantage of this readymade module that otherwise would have been difficult to conduct. The module also gives information about the National Civic Education Act 2018 (NCEC Act 2018). The module is new — printed in 2020 by the FES — whereas a briefing paper on the implementation of the NCEC was published by PIPS in 2019. This briefing paper itself is useful material, authored by Farahnaz Khan who is a lawyer by profession and an expert on governance issues.

As Dr Jochen Hippler highlights in the forward to the briefing paper, "in any democratic state, the trust in democratic institutions and procedures is an essential factor for resilient peace at all levels of government". And that is one reason why we need civic education in Pakistan. In the context of Pakistan, civic education can play a crucial role in strengthening and promoting democratic principles and values. It is an almost established fact in functioning democracies that a certain level of open-mindedness enhances people's belief and participation in democracy.

In a country such as Pakistan, where anti-democratic forces have a perpetual upper hand, such open-mindedness is missing. This absence has cultivated discrimination against democracy. Civic education helps us advocate for the elimination of — or at least reduction in — such discrimination that

also subsumes inequalities based on caste, class, colour, or creed. Our state in Pakistan has been lamenting over its inability to forge unity among its people, without realizing that such unity should not mean uniformity. We cannot develop a single nation by denying the rights of its nationalities.

We can build a nation not by slogans of unity or by chanting national songs; we can do it only if we enable our citizens to understand their role. That means that the source of power in society is not the barrel of a gun but the ballot box. Civic education teaches us that people's votes should be powerful enough to hold their leaders accountable, and that accountability is not the prerogative of a select few sitting in courtrooms, or in NAB offices, or at the GHQ. If people feel empowered to judge the performance of their leaders, democracy thrives.

For the past 74 years, we have demeaned democracy, deprived people of their right to make decisions, kicked the civil society around, and maligned and even murdered many of the leaders who believed in people. That has resulted in a populace that feels disenfranchised even if we hold elections under a caretaker government. Many caretaker governments have tried to act not as caretakers but as undertakers of democracy in Pakistan. People need to understand this, and the process starts with basic civic education at our educational institutions, at the community level, and at local government tiers.

Zafarullah Khan has also developed information packs for Civic Education Acts for all provinces in Pakistan. For example, the Information Pack for Civic Education Act in the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan serves as resource material for the consideration of the Balochistan Assembly. The pack highlights the importance of civic education for youth so that they can play an effective role in strengthening democratic values in their province. To do this, some fundamental knowledge of the constitution, fundamental rights, and the parliamentary institutions in the country is a necessary ingredient. We should be delighted that the parliament of Pakistan passed the NCEC Act in 2018 but that was only for the Islamabad Capital Territory. We can also take pride that MNAs from both the opposition and the treasury voted for it. But our delight and pride remain unfulfilled unless our provinces also legislate similar bills. Since education is a devolved subject. The news..

## Police & prosecution

A.G. Noorani

IN the course of the election campaign for the Lok Sabha polls, Narendra Modi warned the police, especially the Central Bureau of Investigation, that one day, he and his party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, would also come to power. Since he became prime minister of India in May 2014, Modi has fully lived up to his threat.

This is not to say that other politicians smell of roses. What distinguishes Narendra Modi is the systematic abuse of the investigation agencies in an organised campaign to crush and wipe out the entire opposition. The newspapers are full of reports of cases launched against persons who are in opposition to the Modi regime.

Mohammed Yasin Malik's case alone provides a revealing example of this vendetta. He is leader of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, a successor to Maqbool Bhat, who was executed by the government of India in 1984 in retaliation for the murder of an Indian diplomat in the UK. Like Bhat, Yasin Malik stood for Kashmir's independence. This ranged him against the pro-Pakistan Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Maulana Umer Farooq.

Like all others, the outbreak of militancy in Kashmir in 1989 provided them with an opportunity to play martyr. Before long, a new outfit appeared on the scene, the Hizbul Mujahideen, which is for Kashmir's accession to Pakistan. Unlike the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, the Hizb is an amalgam of parties opposed to India — vastly more powerful and active than the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front. The Hizb's long-standing leader is Syed Salahuddin. Like the Turk, the Hizb tolerated no rival. It soon launched a campaign to eliminate the rival cadre and its leaders.

Yasin Malik's case is a revealing example of Modi's political vendetta. Matters came to such a pass that on April 2, 1993, the Hizbul Mujahideen and Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front signed a written agreement with four elaborate points on good behaviour by both sides. Yasin Malik has a monumental ego but was aware of the realities. He had become a nobody. As Amar Singh Dulat, former head of the Research and Analysis Wing (India's external intelligence agency) remarked: "Yasin Malik was burnt out by 1993 or 1994."

Persecution will infuse life in him and make him a martyr. The charges are: a special court "framed charges against Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front chief Muhammad Yasin Malik in the Rubaiya Sayeed case, 31 years after then union home

minister's daughter was abducted by militants". This was not news.

Malik is lodged in Tihar jail in New Delhi in an alleged illegal funding case. The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front has been banned since 2019.

"For 31 years, he was neither arrested nor summoned in the case. What is the exigency now? They [the government] want to stop him from coming out of jail," said Yasin Malik's friends. His family maintain that his trial was unfair.

Malik said in a letter written in prison that he had "declared unilateral ceasefire" in 1994 "without surrendering his ideology to give peace a chance" on the "insistence of top intelligence officers" and civil society members, and that in exchange for pursuing a peaceful protest rather than an armed struggle he was promised political space.

Lord Denning set the legal tone for police departments to follow the law in an impartial manner, in a case resting on the same principles on which India's supreme court intervened in the Hawala scandal. Confidential instructions had been issued to the Metropolitan Police to not proceed against clubs violating gambling rules unless there were complaints of cheating or other major offences. Implicit in such directions was official connivance where violation of gambling laws was being committed. The policy decision was taken back.

In a pronouncement widely regarded as precedent-setting, Lord Denning said: "I hold it to be the duty of the Commissioner of Police, as it is of every chief constable, to enforce the law of the land." "He must take steps so to post his men that crimes may be detected, and the honest citizens may go about their affairs in peace. He must decide whether or not suspected persons are to be prosecuted and, if need be, bring the prosecution or see that it is brought, but in all these things he is not the servant of anyone, save of the law itself." "No Minister of the Crown can tell him that he must, or must not, keep observation on this place or not, or that he must, or must not, prosecute this man or that man. Nor can any police authority tell him so. The responsibility for law enforcement lies on him. He is answerable to the law and to the law and the law alone."

Yasin Malik is not the only Hurriyat leader to face charges. The highly respected Mir Waiz Umer Farooq also faces harassment. All this is a total reversal of the legal position. The police is a creature of a statute. No politician in power can tinker with it. Dawn..



## Australia frustrated as rain dampens decider Test against India

Australia's Nathan Lyon (C) celebrates his wicket of India's batsman Rohit Sharma with teammates on day two of the fourth cricket Test match between Australia and India at the Gabba in Brisbane on Jan 16, 2021. — AFP



time to bowl India out twice and seal the series 2-1.

Home captain Tim Paine betrayed his displeasure in an animated discussion with the field umpires after they inspected the field and called off proceedings. India, however, will have been more than happy to turn in early. The tourists only need to draw the Test to retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, two years after their breakthrough 2-1 series win in Australia in 2018/19.

To emerge with a tied series would be a massive achievement for Rahane's

side, which has battled a mounting injury toll throughout and lacked a single first-choice bowler to call on in Brisbane. Australia, thwarted by India's wounded batsmen in the drawn Test in Sydney, are likely to ponder another lost opportunity on day two, having resumed in the morning on 274 for five. Paine (50) and all-rounder Cameron Green (47) were in good shape to help set a platform for a much bigger total but promptly surrendered in a batting collapse when three wickets fell in four runs. Paine was caught in the

slips by Rohit Sharma off paceman Shardul Thakur, with Green following after being bowled by all-rounder Washington Sundar, one of two Test debutants in the Indian side. Pat Cummins (2) became the third victim when trapped lbw by Thakur.

Playing his 100th Test, Lyon soaked up the acclaim of the home crowd, pushing Australia past 350 before he was bowled by Sundar for 24 off 22 balls. Starc chipped in a valuable unbeaten 20 before paceman T Natarajan (3-78), the second of India's Test debutants but the pick of their bowlers, wrapped up the innings by bowling Josh Hazlewood for 11. India's reply began shakily after lunch, with the indefatigable Pat Cummins having opener Shubman Gill caught in the slips for seven.

Rohit and Pujara built a 49-run partnership before the former threw away his wicket for 44 when he attacked Lyon and top-edged to Starc at long-on. Dawn..



The South African cricket team arrived in Karachi on Saturday to play two Tests and three Twenty20 internationals on their first tour of Pakistan in 14 years.

## Wasim wields axe as Pakistan pick nine uncapped players for SA Test series



KARACHI: Nine uncapped players were inducted on Friday in a new-look Pakistan squad for the upcoming two-match Test series against South Africa as new chief selector Mohammad Wasim wielded axe on eight members — including Shan Masood, Haris Sohail, Mohammad Abbas and Naseem Shah — of the side that toured New Zealand recently. Included in the 20-man party for the first time in the longest format are batsmen Kamran Ghulam, Saud Shakeel, Agha Salman and Abdullah Shafiq, who will compete with Imran Butt to partner Abid Ali at the top of the order, while spinners Nauman Ali and Sajid Khan have been picked alongside

respective regional centres to work on their flaws.

Announcing the squad — that will be pruned to 16 members for the start of the opening Test at here from Jan 26 — at a crowded media conference at the National Stadium, Wasim welcomed the newcomers in an acknowledgment of being consistent performers in domestic competitions.

"These [nine] players are now just a step away from playing for Pakistan in the highest form of cricket and they have been afforded a golden chance to showcase their class and potential," Wasim, who scored 107 on his Test debut against New Zealand at Lahore in 1996, said. "This is just reward for their consistent performance, hard work and perseverance in what has been a difficult period because the season is being staged under strict Covid-19 protocols with players confined to bio-secure bubble environment." The axing of Shan and Haris was always on the cards after both left-handers endured a horrendous series in New Zealand as Pakistan lost both Tests at Mount Maunganui and Christchurch. Dawn..

## Maverick ex-pacer Shoaib Akhtar's outbursts have many contradictions

ISLAMABAD: Shoaib Akhtar continued with his outbursts against the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) this week when he said the sport has been on a decline since 2000 due to the administrators' wrong policies and average appointments. However, for the knowledgeable critics, his ongoing tirade remains full of contradictions.

In an interview on Thursday with a private TV channel, the maverick fast bowler said he didn't even remember the names of any PCB Chairman from his playing days. This potentially included Lt Gen (retired) Tauqir Zia, the PCB chairman from 1999 to 2003, who is credited for setting up the state-of-the-art High Performance Centre as well as spreading a network of cricket grounds across the country.

Gen Tauqir Zia is credited for rescuing Shoaib Akhtar's sinking international career in 1999 after he was suspended from bowling on the tour of Australia when he was found to have an illegal bowling action. Then, Tauqir Zia had used his influence and contacts with the ICC and with the support of the then ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya and chairman technical committee Sir Clyde Walcott, had not only succeeded in overturning the suspension but later drove changes to the regulations relating with the illegal bowling actions. Following a disastrous 2003 World Cup, it was reported Tauqir Zia wanted to appoint Shoaib Akhtar as captain but then handed over the reins to Inzamam-ul-Haq who captained the national side until 2007. "The cricket has been in a decline since 2000. When I used to play cricket, I didn't know the name of the PCB Chairmen. We (still) don't even remember the names of those chairmen. These people come and depart, leaving a weak legacy with their average policies and appointments," Shoaib said. Dawn..

## England build commanding lead on back of Root's unbeaten century

GALLE: Joe Root notched his first Test century in more than a year and Dan Lawrence made an impressive debut as England took control in a rain-affected first Test against Sri Lanka here on Friday.

Root was unbeaten on 168 off 254 balls and Lawrence made 73 from 150 deliveries with England cruising to 320-4 before rain denied further play on the second day after tea at the Galle International Stadium.

The visitors now lead by 185 runs with six wickets in hand on a wicket that has started to show signs of plenty of spin.

England had rattled Sri Lanka for 135 in the first innings inside the first two sessions on Thursday with off-spinner Dom Bess claiming 5-30 and veteran seamer



Stuart Broad picking 3-20.

Root and Lawrence defied Sri Lanka's plans with a 173-run stand as wicket-keeper Niroshan Dickwella twice missed opportunities to hold onto the edges off Lawrence's bat. Off-spinner Dilruwan Perera finally got the breakthrough late in the second session with the second new ball when Lawrence gloved a catch to forward short leg. The Essex

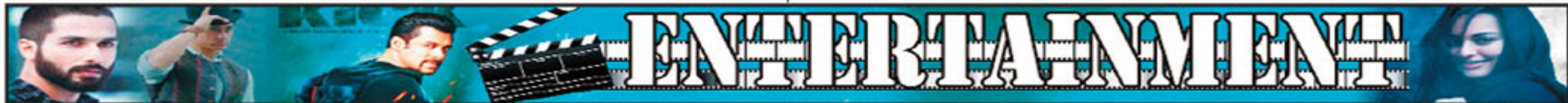
batsman showed lot of maturity in his debut Test with his back foot and front foot drives and even played exquisite cut shots against spinners. He hit six fours and his debut half century also included a six over mid-wicket off slow left-arm Lasith Embuldeniya, who was Sri Lanka's most successful bowler with 3-131. Earlier, Root survived a leg before wicket television re-

ferral off Perera's second ball of the day after the start was delayed 70 minutes because of rain.

But Embuldeniya got overnight batsman Jonny Bairstow caught in short gully. Bairstow couldn't add to his overnight 47 but added a vital 114 with his skipper.

Root, 66 overnight, completed his 18th Test century and second in Sri Lanka with a single in the first over after lunch off 163 balls with seven fours as the England captain grew in confidence.

It was Root's first Test century since scoring 226 against New Zealand in Hamilton in November 2019. Root continued to dominate the spinners and reached 150 off 225 balls when he guided Embuldeniya behind point for a single. Dawn..



Emmy award-winning actress Jessica Alba spills the beans behind her daughter's reaction to learning about her Hollywood fame.

## How to spot a true friend



During the course of life, we come across a lot of people, each of them possessing at least one unique quality, be it different family background, religion, race, disposition and what not.

We also become friends with many of these people and a lot of the time, become of reasons such as naivety and gullibility, it gets hard to keep track of who our true friends really are.

So how do we identify a true friend from a fake one? While this may sound like an easy task, I think it can be much harder than it sounds, as oftentimes, youngsters like us mistake a fake friend for a true friend.

And many times, a fake friend appears good on the surface. They tell you all the pleasing things you want to hear when, in reality, they feign their sincerity and make you feel horrible about yourself through their toxic decorum.

On the other hand, a true friend may not always praise you and would call you out when you do wrong, because they are actually sincere and

honest. Be aware of the qualities necessary in a true friend, for it can help us differentiate between a genuine companion and the one who is merely fake and insincere. And it also prevents us from falling prey to a bad company and becoming like one of them, only to learn our lesson when it is too late.

In my opinion, there are certain characteristics possessed by a true friend which differentiates him/her from a fake friend. These qualities are very simple and easy to spot, if we strive to do so without being carried away by only what we see.

True friends never lead you astray

One of the primary differences between a true and a fake friend is that a true friend will never encourage you to commit deplorable actions which may have adverse effects on other people and yourself.

For example, during online classes these days, among other obstacles, many teachers also have to face the issue of disrespectful students.

These students tend to team up and call their teachers names, make fun of them and cause disturbance during the class, which is absolutely unacceptable and unethical.

You may enjoy degrading others for some time, but it is actually very damaging for the people who are being insulted.

Deceiving anyone, especially your teachers, who are worthy of your respect as much as your parents, is never okay and should be refrained from at all costs.

That's why a true friend would not encourage such behaviour, and they will try to stop you from carrying out such actions. True friends do not want you to get into any problem or demean yourself. On the contrary, a fake friend would always encourage you to engage in such reckless actions, because they will value a few moments of fun over other people's esteem or reputation.

And on the first sign of you getting into trouble, they will be the first to run away, leaving you to fight for yourself in a situation that you got into thanks to their help.

True friends are honest

Another important contrast between true and fake associates is that a true friend will always give you their honest opinion, without humiliation of any sort, while a fake friend will say anything to please you, even if it's false, not caring about breaking your trust or setting you up for greater humiliation afterwards. Dawn..

## Anne Hathaway races to release Covid-19 rom-com

Locked Down tells the story of a couple on the verge of breaking up until coronavirus restrictions leave them stuck together.

As the rest of the world was shutting down to stave off Covid-19, U.S. star Anne Hathaway found herself starting up a whole new movie project - a rom-com heist caper set in the pandemic still raging around her.

"I don't think either of us quite know how we pulled it off," Hathaway told Reuters as she sat down with her co-star Chiwetel Ejiofor to talk about Locked Down, the result of their labours that started streaming on HBO Max on Thursday.

The film tells the story of a couple on the verge of breaking up, until coronavirus restrictions leave them stuck together in London.

The frustration from their forced cohabitation and a series of plot twists boil over into a scheme to steal a diamond from Harrod's department store.

Shooting started in the autumn when Britain was ramping up restrictions again after a relative lull. The race was on to get everything done before the full shutters came down again, and to get the film out while the setting was current.

The two actors agreed to do the film after seeing only an incomplete script.

"It was one of those things that becomes a kind of blur, you know," said Ejiofor, the star of 12 Years a Slave, Kinky Boots and Serenity.

"Maybe the first couple of days I was on top of the lines, you know, and then there was just the rest of the shooting schedule. And it was complex, but it was fun ... to kind of play in that and to be on edge."

The pandemic framed the plot, and had an equally strong influence behind the camera.

"It's a strange thing to make a film with everybody in masks," said Ejiofor.

"There are people there that I did not see their full faces. I probably will pass them in the street one day and then they'll cover themselves and I'll be like, oh, it's you!" Dawn..

## It's official: Sajal will star in Jemima Goldsmith's What's Love Got To Do With It



It's official: Sajal Ali Mir, previously Sajal Aly, is part of the star-studded cast of Jemima Goldsmith's romantic comedy film, What's Love Got To Do With It.

Written and produced by Jemima, movie is being currently being in the United Kingdom.

Senior journalist and entertainment reporter at BBC, Haroon Rashid, confirmed the news through direct sources.

"Confirmed: Sajal Ali has joined the cast of What's Love Got To Do With It, directed by Shekhar Kapur. The film also stars Emma Thompson, Lily James and Shazad Latif. Sajal's rep has been contacted for confirmation. Huge if true!" Rashid had earlier posted.

The film will mark Shekhar Kapur's, popularly known for Mr India and Dil Se, directorial return since his 2007 Oscar-winning produc-

A retweet by Jemima indicates that Bollywood veteran actor Shabana Azmi is also part of the project.

The confirmation comes after much speculation around the topic as eager fans wanted more information on whether the Mom actor would be part of the big project.

"It's rumoured that Sajal Ali is currently in London shooting for Jemima Goldsmith's production, What's Love Got To Do With It, directed by Shekhar Kapur. The film also stars Emma Thompson, Lily James and Shazad Latif. Sajal's rep has been contacted for confirmation. Huge if true!" Rashid had earlier posted.

The film will mark Shekhar Kapur's, popularly known for Mr India and Dil Se, directorial return since his 2007 Oscar-winning produc-

tion Elizabeth: The Golden Age.

The movie is set between London and South Asia, exploring cross-cultural conflicts of love and marriage.

"It's a story of identities," Kapur had told Variety in November. "It's about cultural clashes and it's a comedy, but it's about hiding behind an identity and how identities can become tribal, and how tribalism can lead to clashes and fundamentalism."

It's a romcom, but based on this fundamental idea of people adopting identities out of fear of marginalisation."

With an extensive repertoire of work under her belt and masses of fans all over the world cheering her on, we're not really surprised that Sajal secured this high-profile gig. Looking forward to the all-star cast! Dawn..

## This delicious Teriyaki chicken recipe will be a hit at your intimate gathering this week

As 2020 passed, it left so much behind for us to understand — the changes, patience and life! It brought so much with it in so many ways, but what did it do for us gastronomically?

For all the chaos the year left behind, I think it gave us something important to ponder over, an entire human gestation period. Nine months of families gathered around the dining table, celebrating, sharing all kinds of occasions, moments, disappointments and, unfortunately, sometimes tears as well.

During this time, the common thread and forever connector was, and is, creativity in the kitchen, cooking, sharing recipes — food.

This understanding must be realised with a sense of overwhelming reverential respect, stirred with wonder, a sense of family, community, sharing and love. Mothers, family and friends within the bubble of safety, nurtured each other by finding unique ways of creating magic around the table.

That is one of the most important kitchen lessons I learnt during this time, now that I have the luxury to reflect on it from the lens of the present into the past. That's the thing about reflection, memory and editing. It cleans up leaving the lessons behind, as if, when they appeared in real time, they descended from a halo of perfect understanding and not after struggle, suffering and challenges.

I developed a new appreciation for cooking, the importance of ingredients and the direct nurture and nourishment it provides. Everything that can be made at a Michelin Star restaurant or at a dhaba, can be accomplished in mom's kitchen.

I served food in plates, with cutlery that may have otherwise been reserved for entertaining. I, now, often serve meals in formal china and porcelain. The cutlery is sparkling and silver, the glasses crystal clear, and the food can swing both ways, simple or sublime.

As humanity went to a very dark space in 2020 but, in the end, we have found hope in the form of immunisation. To celebrate this ray of light, I decided to make homemade Chinese and Japanese, and serve it with some pizzazz. Dawn..



Award winning singer and songwriter Selena Gomez spills the beans behind the real reason she chose to call out tech giant Mark Zuckerberg over his blatant disregard for spreading 'disinformation' on social media.

## ECP urges SC to send back presidential reference on Senate polls

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has opposed the holding of Senate elections through the open ballot.

In its 12-page reply submitted to the Supreme Court of Pakistan Saturday through Advocate Sheharyar Swati, which is hearing a presidential reference on the subject, the ECP argued that Article 226 of the constitution that dealt with Senate elections clearly stated that all elections, except those for prime minister or chief minister, would be held through secret ballot.

The Commission argued that since elections for the Upper House of parliament were held under the constitution, so in order to eliminate the provision of secret ballot, amendment to the constitution was required. The ECP said there was also a mention of Senate elections in Articles 59, 219 and 224 of the Constitution.

The Commission further said that since the Indian constitution was silent on secret ballot, the courts in that country had relied on that. On the other hand, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has appealed to the apex court to return presidential reference to the government instead of giving a verdict on it.

JI, in its statement submitted to the SC, has also called for amending the Constitution if the provision of secret ballot is to be eliminated. It has stressed the need for letting the parliament decide the mode of holding elections for the Upper House of parliament.

Earlier, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) has also opposed the idea of open ballot. Sindh govt reply next week. While all other three provinces, in their replies submitted to the Supreme Court, have supported the idea of holding Senate elec-

tions via open ballot, the government of Sindh, on the other hand, has sought one week time from the apex court for the submission of its reply in the case. The court is now to resume hearing in the case on Monday (January 18).

On Dec 23, 2020, the federal government had sought the Supreme Court opinion on holding the upcoming elections for the upper house of the Parliament through open ballot and show of hands. President Dr Arif Alvi, after approving the proposal of the prime minister, had filed a reference in the Supreme Court, seeking its opinion on the Senate election through show of hands.

Through the reference, filed under Article 186 of the Constitution, the president sought the opinion of the country's highest court on amending Section (6) 122 of the Election Act 2017 without amending the Constitution.

"The requirement of secret ballot for election for Senate is not by way of a constitutional mandate but it is by only way of a statutory provisions namely Section 122(6) of the Elections Act, 2017, which may be amended by an Act of Parliament or through an ordinance, promulgated under Article 89 of the Constitution," the reference had contended.

The reference had claimed that it will promote transparency and accountability in the electoral process, acknowledge respect for the choice and desires of the citizen voters, strengthen political parties and their discipline which is essential for parliamentary democracy, discourage floor crossing, use of laundered money for vote buying in elections which grossly insult the mandate of the people. NNI



ISLAMABAD: Daughter of BRIG (Retd) Asad Munir (Late) addressing media persons along with Deputy Chairman Senate Saleem Mandviwalla during his visit for condolence of the BRIG (Retd) Asad Munir (Late) outside his house in Federal Capital.

## India prepares for next phase of aggression in Kashmir: AJK Masood Khan

ISLAMABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Masood Khan has said that Kashmiris who are being slaughtered like animals by the Indian army are part of the body and soul of the Pakistani nation and it is our national responsibility to save them from the worst tyranny.

Addressing seminars on "Kashmir liberation movement and our national responsibilities" organized by various Pakistani national institutions, he said that India is certainly responsible for the agonies of the Kashmiri people but we must not forget the characters like Sheikh Abdullah who had played the role of facilitators for India to grab a major part of the disputed state. The state president said that the reoccupation of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, declaring it part of the Indian Union and to change the demography of the occupied territory was just one phase of the Indian plan, and in the next phase, India wants to invade Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, which India has revealed by issuing new maps and through public statements made by their leaders time and again.

Referring to the situation in occupied Kashmir, President Sardar Masood Khan said that more than eight million people of the occupied state

have been kept under siege by the Indian Army for the last 16 months where youths are being killed in fake encounters be falsely declaring them as terrorists.

The Kashmiri children as young as nine, ten and eleven years old have been arrested and imprisoned where they are subjected to the worst torture to force them to abandon their struggle for freedom and right to self-determination. On the other hand, two million Hindu citizens from different parts of India have been brought and settled in Kashmir to change the demographic structure of the disputed territory and this process was still going on the fast track. Answering various questions of the participants, President Sardar Masood Khan said that the impression that Kashmir resistance movement was confined to only border areas was not correct.

He said that details available of martyrs in Kashmir by the Indian Army shows that they belong to all parts of occupied Kashmir.

The Azad Kashmir president said that none of the leaders of the resistance movement including Syed Ali Gilani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Yasin Malik, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Asiya Andrabi, Musarat Alam Butt and others belonged.



ISLAMABAD: A worker of petrol pump is changing the price digits on the price board as this is the third time in four weeks that fuel prices have been increased, which is unbearable for people.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Sania Nishtar convenes a consultation on integrated beneficiary targeting for the upcoming One Window Ehsaas Service in Federal Capital.

## Pak-Turkey face common challenges in their regions, interests: Air Chief

ANKARA: Pakistan Chief of Air Staff Anwar Khan has said that apart from sharing common culture and faith, the brotherly countries of Pakistan and Turkey also have commonalities in challenges they face in their regions and interests.

Pakistan Air Chief Marshal Anwar Khan said that Pakistan and Turkey enjoy a unique and enviable relationship.

"Our relationship is unique and enviable, not only here in Pakistan and Turkey, but all across the world they look at us like that," said Pakistan Chief of Air Staff Mujahid Anwar Khan.

Noting that he sees Turkey as a second home, Khan said: "In my candid opinion, we are two countries, one nation." Khan emphasized that the two countries do things in unison in all spheres of life from political leadership to military and people to people contact, and added that deep-rooted bilateral relations have improved to date.

Apart from sharing common culture and faith, the brotherly countries of Pakistan and Turkey also have commonalities in challenges they face in their regions and interests, he added.

"These values, these relationships were instilled in us," Khan said, adding that both nations must augment the relationship further, as well as handing it down to our future generations.

Emphasizing Islamabad's support for Ankara on Cyprus and other regional issues, Khan said his country stands by Turkey in its fight against terrorism.

Recognizing the security challenges Turkey faces on its borders, he said: "We

know Daesh/[ISIS] and PKK/[YPG]. They are a clear and present danger."

"We need to have mutual collaboration, and cooperation, to overcome these challenges," he said, adding that Pakistan also has similar challenges on its borders.

Khan said that Pakistan and Turkey also have a common vision which is to maintain regional stability, peace, and prosperity. He said this vision manifests itself with Turkey's support to Azerbaijan in its fight to liberate its lands from Armenia's nearly three decades long occupation. "I appreciate the ever-increasing relationship between Pakistan and the Turkish defense industry," Khan said on two countries cooperation in the field.

Citing high-level visits in the defense field that take place regularly in both countries, Khan termed the bilateral defense cooperation "exemplary."

Touching Turkey's role in Azerbaijan's victory over Armenia's army, he said the country's armed drones were the key in the liberation of lands. "I think it was one of the catalysts, UAVs [unmanned aerial vehicle] played its role in securing the liberation of the occupied territories."

Khan noted that likewise, Pakistan also achieved significant progress in the defense industry and added that the two countries should continue cooperation in the field.

"We need to further strengthen our defense cooperation," he said, adding that both countries could learn from each other.

He said the military cooperation should be built on economic cooperation, and

added that joint projects, exercises, production, training, and technology sharing are leading areas of cooperation between the two countries.

As the world is shifting from unipolarity to multipolarity, it brings new challenges, said Khan.

"Unfortunately, economic interests are being preferred globally over the moral and ethical values of humanity," Khan stressed, adding that situations in Palestine, Kashmir, and Azerbaijan are clear examples of it.

Khan thanked the Turkish president, foreign minister, and parliament speaker for "their supportive statements on Kashmir issue at various international forums as the unresolved issue is still a challenge for the global community."

Khan said that as Pakistan wants to have friendly relations with the neighboring countries, it extended a hand of friendship to India many times but New Delhi rejected it. Highlighting Indian proxies in Afghanistan, Khan said they are trying to destabilize the country, and that "Indian proxies are behind all sporadic terrorist activities."

On India's air attack on Pakistan in February 2019, Khan called the incident "a grave mistake" and said that the misadventure was a politically motivated move by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who wanted to win the elections.

He said India did not respect the territorial integrity of a neighboring country, and it was "an act of war."

"Pakistan had to respond and our response was very loud and clear," he stressed, adding that India needed to learn from the incident.



FAISALABAD: lawyer is casting vote during election of District Bar at District Court in city.

## Pakistan will continue exposing ugly face of India to world: Moeed Yousaf

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on National Security Moeed Yousaf has said that India faked terrorism to implicate Pakistan for 20 years, we should stop wondering about fake claims of a rogue state and continue exposing its ugly face to world.

In an exclusive interview with a private television channel, Moeed Yousaf said that we should stop being surprised, India's deeds are in front of everyone, as a state we repeatedly said that the Pulwama attack was fake.

He said that he was repeatedly informing the world that India could carry out another such fake operation and had also given dossier to the world. Now the world has to draw a conclusion, until the results India will continue to cover its face.

The Special Assistant for National Security said that Indian banks are also spreading terrorism, now the world has to do justice regarding India. Things come up against India on a daily basis, the world should make a decision based on justice against India which has been pretending to be a victim of terrorism for the last 20 years.

Moeed Yousaf added that India would be active on the global diplomatic front. We will further strengthen our lobby, also acknowledging that their lobby is very strong globally. But we will still try to win the world stage with

truth. We will not be afraid of anyone and we will not apologize to anyone but will admit our weaknesses.

He said that Pakistan had already said that Pulwama attack was a drama, we should stop being surprised at claims of a rogue state. Pakistan has revealed the face of India to the world and they will be humiliated.

The Special Assistant said that in the last one and a half years, India has been reprimanded through diplomacy, a lot of effort has been made and more will be done, we need time for that. During the conversation, Moeed Yousaf said that Prime Minister Imran Khan was talking about the False Flag operation not as an individual but as a state, we cannot bring everything to the public. The world does not listen to us with justice, which they should listen to. The enemy country buys weapons from big countries in the world, they have interests.

After the facts of the Pulwama attack came to light, he said that the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was urging the international community to take action against India, as Indian banks were involved in money laundering while the money was being used inappropriately. With such money, these people spread terrorism, the world must do justice, he added. NNI

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mography of the occupied territory was just one phase of the Indian plan, and in the next phase, India wants to invade Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, which India has revealed by issuing new maps and through public statements made by their leaders time and again.

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## State-run utilities will become efficient, transparent: ICCI Shahid Rasheed

Islamabad: Former President ICCI Shahid Rasheed Butt on Saturday said the trading community full support move of the government to liberalise the gas sector by allowing the private sector to establish terminal and start importing LNG.

The decision will ensure availability of gas on economical rates while supply will not be disrupted unnecessarily, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the gas sector will become more transparent which is necessary for improved economic activity and bringing an end to gas sector circular debt.

Talking to the business community, he said that the government could not tame the energy sector as intended while a shortage in winter and high price of LNG has triggered protests, therefore, it has decided to liberalise the gas market. The regulator has allowed two companies to establish their LNG terminals while two more companies have been allowed to import LNG and transport it across the country through tankers.

The companies establishing terminals will use the idle capacity of existing terminals unless their project is completed which will help the government save billions as it has to pay to terminal operators under the contract.

The move of the government may force the state-run gas companies to become efficient and transparent to keep their customers and it will end the gas sector circular debt, he said.

The business leader said that Ogra has repeatedly failed to safeguard the interests of masses, therefore, reforms should be introduced coupled with improved regulations so that it can take proper action if the private sector try to form a cartel to skin masses, he demanded.



RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Aviation Ghulam Sarwar Khan prying after inaugurating the Sui Gas project at Kotla area of the city.

## Sindh seeks Fed permission to allow vaccine procurement: Pechuho

KARACHI: Sindh's health minister Azra Pechuho has asked the federal government to allow the province to procure the coronavirus vaccine itself.

Provincial Health Minister Azra Pechuho talking to media, has said that the province has repeatedly asked from the centre but yet to receive an appropriate reply over the matter.

"It seems Pakistan will receive the vaccine after all other countries," the minister said.

Sindh health minister said that mutations being occurred in the coronavirus gene.

Azra Pechuho said, "We want an early recovery of patients from the disease," adding that delay in the vaccination would have negative impact.

Talking on vaccines, the minister said that Sinopharm being used at China and several other countries including Bahrain and UAE. "We could not use Pfizer's vaccine as it will be impossible to keep

the cold chain".

It is to be mentioned here that Pfizer's vaccine needs to be kept extremely cold at minus 70 degrees Celsius.

According to sources, Pakistan has granted permission to use Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine (AZD1222) in emergency situation.

The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has given the approval for urgent-use of the British COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine, approved by the British Medicine and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority, is said to be effective for people of all age groups and could be stored in home refrigerators.

After the approval of the British vaccine from the relevant authority, AZD1222 can be imported in Pakistan. A Karachi-based pharmaceutical company will import the British vaccine, whereas, the price of vaccine for the private sector will be fixed by the government. NNI

## Court records statement of witness in money laundering case as Shehbaz, Hamza appear

LAHORE: Leaders of the Opposition in the National Assembly and the Punjab Assembly respectively, Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shahbaz Saturday appeared before an accountability court in Lahore in the money laundering case against Shehbaz Sharif's family.

The court recorded statement of Muhammad Maqsood, a witness from the chief minister's office. A large number of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) workers and heavy contingents of police were present outside the court. Earlier, Director General of NAB Lahore had submitted a report in the court through investigation officer on freezing the properties of Shehbaz Sharif's wife Nusrat Shahbaz, daughter Rabia Imran and others. Shehbaz Sharif told that there was no doctor dealing with cancer patients present in the government panel, therefore, he requested the court to include his personal doctor in the board. Accountability court had declared Shehbaz Sharif's wife Nusrat Shahbaz as proclaimed offender in money laundering case. Nusrat Shahbaz was declared absconder over her continuous absence in case hearings.

On November 11, 2020, Mian Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shehbaz Sharif were indicted in money laundering reference by accountability court. All the accused in the case pleaded not guilty. Shehbaz

Sharif, while rejecting allegations of the anti-graft watchdog, said that he was being politically victimized. Approver Yasir Mushtaq had recorded his statement in connection with money laundering case against the family of Shehbaz Sharif. The approver told that he was directed by Sharif family's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to turn the black money worth Rs 60 crore into white.

Chief financial officer (CFO) had told to use bank account of Mushtaq and Company for telegraphic transfer (TT), he added.

On September 28, 2020, NAB team had arrested Shehbaz Sharif in money laundering case after Lahore High Court (LHC) rejected his bail plea.

A two-member bench of the Lahore High Court comprising Justice Sardar Ahmed Naeem and Justice Farooq Haider heard the plea, during which Shehbaz Sharif's lawyer presented his arguments. Counsel of PML-N President argued that Shehbaz Sharif saved over Rs1,000 billion of national exchequer and never received his pay as a member of National Assembly.

No evidence was available against Shehbaz Sharif in money laundering case and none of the witnesses accused PML-N leader of the ill practice, he added. Accountability court had issued bailable arrest warrants for Shehbaz Sharif's wife Nusrat Shahbaz and

his daughter Rabia Imran over continuous absence in money laundering case. The accountability judge had directed Nusrat Shahbaz and Rabia Imran to attend the hearings at any cost.

While talking to media outside the court, Shehbaz Sharif said that the incumbent government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was taking political revenge from PML-N leaders. I have always served the people of Punjab with sincerity, he added.

According to the NAB investigation report, Chief Financial Officer of Sharif family Muhammad Usman laundered money for the Shehbaz family.

Muhammad Usman started working for the Sharif family in 2005 at Ramzan Sugar Mills for Rs 90,000 per month. In 2006, the Nawaz family acquired Hudaibiya Engineering from the Shehbaz family and in 2007, the Shehbaz family made more companies, including the Sharif Feed Mill, to expand their business. The bank accounts of Shehbaz Sharif's wife Nusrat Shahbaz and his sons were used for foreign remittances and loans. On the direction of Salman, Waqar Fikree Company made fake foreign remittances of Rs 600 million. The entire amount was transferred to Salman Shehbaz's personal account via cheque but it is not known where Salman receives his money from. NNI