



WWW.dailygwadartimes.com

News in Brief

**Pakistani-American
Salman
Ahmed joins Joe
Biden's foreign
policy team**

United States President-elect Joe Biden has named another Pakistani-American in his administration, The Washington Post reported.

Pakistani-American Salman Ahmed has been inducted in Biden's foreign policy team as a director of policy planning at the US State Department.

He has served as the head of strategic planning in Barack Obama's National Security Council. Prior to that, he served as the chief of staff of the US Mission to the United Nations and a senior policy advisor to the US Permanent Representative to the UN.

Ahmed is the Pakistani-American to be a part of the Biden administration after Ali Zaidi was appointed climate advisor last month.

The Pakistani-American holds a master's degree in international relations from the University of Cambridge, and a bachelor of science in economics from New York University's Stern School of Business.

He served as a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where he directed research and led a task force dedicated to making US foreign policy work better for the middle class. Ahmed has managed complex international security challenges on behalf of the White House, the US Department of State, and the UN for the past twenty-five years.

He also directly supported then secretary of state John Kerry's negotiations with Russia on Syria between 2013 and 2016. He was the co-chair of the International Ceasefire Task Force in Geneva.

Before joining the US Department of State in 2009, Ahmed served as a visiting professor and research scholar at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, where he taught graduate-level courses on peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction.

Gunmen assassinate two Afghan women judges in Kabul ambush

Gunmen shot dead two Afghan women judges working for the Supreme Court during an early morning ambush in the country's capital on Sunday, officials said, as a wave of assassinations continues to rattle the nation.

Violence has surged across Afghanistan in recent months despite ongoing peace talks between the Taliban and government — especially in Kabul, where a new trend of targeted killings aimed at high-profile figures has sown fear in the restive city. The latest attack comes just two days after the Pentagon announced it had cut troop levels in Afghanistan to 2,500, the fewest in nearly two decades.

The attack on the judges happened as they were driving to their office in a court vehicle, said Ahmad Fahim Qawem, a spokesman for the Supreme Court. "Unfortunately, we have lost two women judges in today's attack. Their driver is wounded." Qawem told AFP. There are more than 200 female judges working for the country's top court, the spokesman added.

Kabul police confirmed the attack. Afghanistan's Supreme Court was a target in February 2017 when a suicide bomb ripped through a crowd of court employees, killing at least 20 and wounding 41.

In recent months, several prominent Afghans — including politicians, journalists, activists, doctors and prosecutors — have been assassinated in often brazen daytime attacks in Kabul and other cities.

Shibli Faraz asks Opposition to quit 'hiding behind rallies', submit records to ECP

Faraz, addressing a press conference in Islamabad, said that the PTI has turned in all the information sought by the ECP pertaining to the party's funding and now it is the Opposition parties' turn.

The minister spoke about Pakistan Democratic Movement, the 11-party opposition alliance which is due to stage a protest outside the Election Commission of Pakistan on January 19, and said that it is a "sorry attempt by them to attempt to repeat a pack of lies so much that it starts to seem like the truth".

The Opposition has demanded that facts in the case be made public by the Election Commission of Pakistan. "The drama they have staged, [it must be realised], this is not about PTI, it is about all of us. And we have provided an authenticated, notorised record of all the information from our end."

"Now it is their duty to come tomorrow, instead of the day after and tell the people whether it is really us who are thieves who have provided all proof," the minister said.

He said that after the Opposition parties' performance over the last two-three months, the Pakistan Democratic Movement is "a thing of the past". "They must submit their record to the scrutiny committee instead of hiding behind rallies," said Faraz. "PTI has turned in 40,000 entries"

The minister said that following orders by the Supreme Court, the PTI had provided all the details of the donations received by "party workers and sympathisers" during the 2018 election



Islamabad: Minister for Information Shibli Faraz on Sunday asked the Opposition parties to quit "hiding behind rallies" and submit details of their funding to the Election Commission of Pakistan's scrutiny committee.

campaign. He then proceeded to state that these entries are 40,000 in number with names, addresses, telephone numbers, ID card numbers — all notorised and authenticated.

The minister said that all transactions came "through proper banking channels and were deposited into PTI's bank accounts".

He said the details are available for reporters to see after the press conference.

Faraz noted that under the orders of the Supreme Court, and as has been the practice, after the election symbol is given to a party, it is bound to provide accounts for the past 5 years.

"Now it is the Opposition's turn 'We have done [our due diligence] but now the matter has fallen to them [Oppo-

sition] to provide proof of their funding — PPP, PML-N and Maulana Fazlur Rahman — and the big expenditures they make with the help of vested interest groups. "They do this so that when they come into power, they can facilitate these people in every illegal task [...]" such as sending money abroad or bringing money to Pakistan, or money laundering [...]" they never responded to the scrutiny committee about all this," he said.

Faraz then read out a passage from a letter by the ECP in the case of Farrukh Habib vs PML-N. "Though the committee has tried its level best to collect the relevant record, the respondent party was reluctant to submit the record asked for by the committee from time to time and

the committee was constrained to adjourn the proceedings for provision of information as per the TORs (terms of reference)."

He explained that the ECP had asked the PML-N to provide the ID card numbers and other information of people who had made donations to the party. "But these people are not handing over any information." Their approach has always been that instead of answering the questions put to them, they say "he is also a thief," Faraz said. The minister said that the Opposition parties are all "playing a game of hypocrisy", whether it is the Peoples Party or the N-League, or Maulana Fazlur Rahman — "who believes that a state without him is incomplete".

Oxford-Astrazeneca's Covid-19 vaccine allowed in Pakistan

KARACHI: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) on Saturday gave emergency use authorization to Oxford-Astrazeneca's AZD1222 in Pakistan following recommendations by a six-member panel of health experts. A private firm has been allowed to import the COVID-19 vaccine in the country.

"The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has given the emergency use authorization to Oxford-Astrazeneca's COVID-19 vaccine in Pakistan," Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr. Faisal Sultan told The News on Saturday. A panel of six leading health scientists of the country, including three from the Aga Khan University (AKU) had been constituted by the government of Pakistan to review the data submitted by different vaccine manufacturers and to decide which vaccine should be allowed to be administered to the people, keeping in view its safety and efficacy during the trials.

The Sindh Medical Stores (SMS), a large importer of the vaccines and medicines in Pakistan, had applied for the emergency use authorization for the AZD1222 vaccine, jointly developed by the Oxford University and Astrazeneca and submitted its data as well as Emergency Use Authorization given to by the European and other international authorities.

The DRAP officials said, four to five international firms including three Chinese firms had applied for the emergency use authorization of their vaccines in Pakistan but based on the recommendations of the expert panel, they decided to give vaccine Astrazeneca, the emergency use authorization in the country.



"Allowing use of Astrazeneca's AZD1222 vaccine in Pakistan in emergencies was relatively an easy decision for the expert panel as the vaccine already has been allowed by the EU and other leading health organisations emergency use authorization and based on their recommendations, we also approved it for emergency use in Pakistan," a top official of the DRAP told The News.

He, however, made it clear that DRAP's approval has nothing to do with the availability of the vaccine in Pakistan, saying they were not sure when the importer would be able to procure the consignment of the vaccine as several countries had already pre-purchased millions of doses of this and other vaccines. "At the moment, governments are dealing with each other to get COVID-19 vaccines so it is very unlikely that private firms would be able to get a handsome number of doses in the near future. However, it was mandatory to allow the import of vaccines being deployed across the world," the official added.

Responding to a query, he said currently the expert panel was also looking at the data of Chinese vaccine manufacturers including Sinopharm, Cansino whose clinical trials are currently underway and Russian vaccine Sputnik V, which has to yet to formally apply to DRAP for the vaccine registration or emergency use authorization.

Pulwama attack: India had its soldiers killed, blamed Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The ugly face of India was once again exposed, while Pakistan's stance on the Pulwama attack proved to be true as it has emerged that India had its soldiers killed and then blamed Pakistan for it.

According to local media reports, Pulwama drama has been exposed, Pakistan has declared Pulwama attack as conspiracy as evidence of Pulwama attack has come to light.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi kept shedding crocodile tears on the bodies of 40 Indian soldiers and wanted to appease his voters by taking action against Pakistan. Indian journalist Arnab Goswami was arrested for being responsible for the suicide of a woman and her son. Goswami had to pay Rs8.3 million to the interior designer.

Goswami also attacked a female officer during his arrest. When Goswami was caught, the Indian government became active, the Supreme Court also supported him, the president of the Indian Supreme Court resigned on preferential treatment.

Goswami, who is close to the Modi government, was already aware of the Pulwama attack and the Balakot incursion. Three days before the Balakot incursion, Goswami had told about the attack.

According to Goswami and the head of the Indian Broadcast Audience Research Council's WhatsApp chat, Goswami was aware of high-level decisions in India. Goswami's actions opened the floodgates for high-level military decisions in India.

In India, the lack of seriousness in national security and decision-making has been exposed. Goswami was also aware of the Balakot attack and the repeal of Article 370. Goswami, along with the head of BARC, continued to increase the rating of his channel.

On February 23, 2019, Goswami announced the big news about Pakistan in advance. Goswami said that there would be a bigger operation against Pakistan than usual. He knew that something out of the ordinary was about to happen in Kashmir. Goswami said the Modi government wanted to take action against Pakistan. Goswami wanted to follow CNN's Iraq coverage on his channel. His Indian nationalism was an excuse to get TRP. Indian decision-makers were playing into the hands of Goswami.

Indian Professor Ashok Swain has already declared Pulwama Kodrama. According to Ashok, Modi did the same in Pulwama as he did in Gujarat in 2002. According to Ashok Swain, Modi allowed Pulwama to be a drama to garner votes.

International media reports said while quoting Mumbai Police that WhatsApp conversations show that Goswami had enjoyed a cosy relationship with the head of ratings company Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) Pratho Dasgupta.

Mumbai Police have mentioned the relationship in a supplementary charge sheet filed during an investigation into a ratings tampering scandal involving a few news channels in India, including the hyper-nationalist Republic TV. It was reported that police have retrieved conversations that are more than 1,000 pages from Dasgupta's phone. In the conversation, the BARC CEO was seen asking Goswami to reach out to the government on his behalf at multiple times. In a conversation on April 04, 2019, just days before the general elections, Dasgupta had asked the Republic TV anchor to stall India's Telecom Regulatory Authority's (TRAI) proposal to make the BARC's viewing data public rather than the council just supplying it to channels.

Dasgupta had told Goswami that if the data was made public then multiple channels could be blacked out by Multi System Operators (MSOs) and Local Cable Operators (LCOs). In response to his fears, the anchor assured the BARC CEO that when the Narendra Modi-led government returns to power then the TRAI will become toothless. Meanwhile, Pakistan rejected Narendra Modi's comments that insinuated Islamabad was involved in the Pulwama attack, advising India to refrain from dragging Pakistan into its domestic politics.

Corona vaccine due by March: Asad

KARACHI: Responding to the criticism that Pakistan still had not placed an order for the coronavirus vaccine, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar Saturday said the vaccine would be made available by March.

He said this while addressing a joint press conference with Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, Federal Information Technology Minister Amin-ul-Haque and other ministers here.

"We have not lied to the nation about vaccine procurement," Asad said, adding that it (the vaccine) would reach Pakistan by March.

Answering a question, he said as for the Sindh government's complaint about shortfall in the NFC's share, the provincial government and the Centre had their own arguments in this regard.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said with coordinated efforts, the provincial and federal governments had started different projects in Karachi, including remodeling of the main storm water drains, water, drainage, road, and transport sectors in Karachi.

"In the larger interest of

Karachi, setting aside all our political differences, all the stakeholders, including the PPP, PTI and MQM, have chalked out plans to develop Karachi into one of the beautiful and liveable cities of the world," Murad said.

He said they had planned to de-silt all the drains in the city before the upcoming monsoon.

He said Karachi's drains were being remodeled, including Lyari and Malir rivers network and the three major drains namely Mahmoodabad, Gujjar and Orangi and their feeder drains. He said the federal and provincial government had committed to jointly undertaking K-IV, sewage treatment, road network, Malir Expressway, Green Line, Yellow Line, Orange Line and KCR and to complete them in time on a priority basis.

Murad thanked the federal government, the KMC, the army, the NDMA, the FWO and the Supreme Court for pushing and guiding all the stakeholders to expedite the development works.

Talking about Mahmoodabad Nullah, the CM said it had been undertaken as a

project. He said the NED University of Engineering & Technology had studied all the three major drains of the city and prepared remodeling plans.

The CM said a 12-foot wide road along with footpaths would be constructed on both sides of Mahmoodabad drain.

"We tried to save maximum number of houses constructed along the embankments," he said, adding that out of 238 household/encroachments, 205 were demolished while the remaining 33 houses would be cleared within a week.

The chief minister said 10 different drains discharge effluents into the 51 square km drainage area of Gujjar Drainage network. Shah said the width of Gujjar Nullah started from 120 feet and narrowed down to 35 feet, hence it would be remodeled and lined according to the requirement.

"But, we would try our best to dismantle minimum number of houses," he said.

Asad Umar said that the residents of Karachi looked towards their elected representatives.

PTI gov't lays foundation of south Punjab province by establishing secretariat: FM Qureshi

MULOTAN: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi said that Pakistan Tehreek Insaf government laid foundation for establishment of south Punjab province by introducing secretariat. While addressing a ceremony here, the Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi stated that "Waseeb" (local region) would surely achieve its recognition. "Whether we live or not but no one could suppress the voice of the region", Qureshi remarked. He added that PTI believed in strong federation. The establishment of South Punjab province was inevitable for stronger administrative control and delegation of powers at gross root level.

He criticized the past rulers and stated that they could not create south Punjab province or even secretariat despite they had powers. Qureshi also maintained, being son of the soil, he would continue to serve the region. Shah Mahmood Qureshi observed that he had convinced Prime Minister Imran Khan for establishment of south Punjab province.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Hussain Qureshi stated Pakistan was playing responsible role for peace process in Afghanistan. He, however, hinted that India was performing role of spoiler in Afghan peace process. India was using Afghan soil

against Pakistan, FM stated adding that Pakistan had taken up the issue with Afghan Administration.

The minister of foreign affairs also maintained that stance of international community about Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) had changed due to efforts of the incumbent government. The British parliamentarians made it clear that IIOJK was an international dispute. Qureshi hinted that it was success of Pakistan's diplomatic approach.

Similarly, British parliamentarians' viewpoint is also source of encouragement for the innocent Kashmiris. It also exposed the heinous face of India.

He further said that peo-

CPEC: First Gwadar project gets power from national grid

ISLAMABAD: Under the China, Pakistan Economic Corridor, two mega housing projects have been connected with the National grid.

Electricity connections have been approved and installed at CPIC's projects International Port City and China Pak Golf Estates in Gwadar. These are the first residential communities in Gwadar's private sector where power connections have been successfully installed and is being dubbed a milestone in the development of the city. CPIC a leading international developer who are at the forefront of real estate development in Gwadar and promotion of the city globally are the first developer in the history of the city to complete their societies and handover plots to the buyers. Commenting on the achievement Chief Engineer Waqas Moazzam said

that this is another great milestone we have delivered in Gwadar by powering up our projects. "Now not only is our internal infrastructure complete but the projects are key ready for people to live in. We have injected Billions of rupees into Gwadar's economy which can be seen on the ground and in the coming years as Gwadar continues to develop CPIC's projects will be the only choice for both local and international professionals looking for high quality living within a secure gated community," he added.

CPIC had completed development works on the first two phases of their mega

project International Port City in 2019 with all internal infrastructure works complete, together with parks and recreational facilities. A show home is also currently being built on site. Further Chief Engineer Waqas Moazzam continued that our vision from day one which has come from the top management down is to develop world class societies that are not only prepared for but will augment the growth of Gwadar. "For the city to develop to its true potential and attract leading local and international talent high quality integrated residential communities within a secure environment are essential".

CPIC had launched two major societies in Gwadar and the company have been recognised as a leader and pioneer in the city. The company won the Best Real Estate Development of the Year award in 2018 at the Shenzhen International Property Awards held in Shenzhen, China and Best International Real Estate Developer of the Year from the Governor of Sindh. Chief Engineer Waqas Moazzam asserted that when we started these projects no developer in Gwadar had commenced any significant development works on their projects and there were many old.

Leaked Whatsapp chat exposed Indian dirty face globally: Mushaal

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, the wife of Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front Yasin Malik, has said that the leaked Whatsapp chat of Arnab Goswami exposed the dirty face Indian government and its notorious Intelligence Agency.

She stated this while speaking at a prize distribution ceremony after a match of Kashmir Premier League Cricket.

The Chairperson Peace and Culture Organization said that India wanted to link the indigenous movement of

Kashmir with terrorism and they failed in Pulwama as well. She said that Arnab Goswami and Partho Dasgupta, head of the Indian Broadcast Audience Research Council's WhatsApp chat exposed the Indian government's nefarious propaganda, as the Indian Intelligence Agency killed own soldiers in Pulwama to blame Pakistan in order to give notorious Modi a political advantage.

Mushaal said that the Indian government has imposed a ban on every kind of sport in Indian occupied

Kashmir. The fascist Narendra Modi regime in a systematic way kept the youth away from sports as Indian army even not let them gather in the ground.

She also said that the Indian brutal soldiers picked up unarmed youths from their homes in the occupied valley and the martyrdom of a famous Kashmiri footballer is the real example. The barbarism of the Indian Army officers could be judged from the fact that they are martyring the unarmed Kashmiri youth in lieu of reward, she revealed.

Govt faces no threat from opposition: CM Buzdar

LAHORE: Chief Minister of Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar on Sunday said that government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) faces no threat from opposition parties and unnatural oppo-

sition alliance is coming to its end.

CM Punjab, in a statement, said that unfortunately Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) has neglected national interest;

however, no one will be allowed to disrupt development of the country which is being carried out under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

He further said that peo-

ple voted for transparency instead of corruption in 2018 elections. He also claimed that government complete its constitutional term. NNI

Donate Save a life
Save Humanity
Sumalzai Trust
Chairman: Dr. Abdul Hakeem Sadiq Sumalzai
Ae No. 00830101010996
Askari Bank Mevzan Chowk Quetta.
Ph: 081-2470990 Cell: 0333-7802093
1 Maryam Town Sabzal Road Quetta.

18 January, 2021

Criminalising Abuse

The road to criminalising domestic violence in Pakistan has been a long one. It has included much persuasion of more conservative parliamentarians and convincing religious-political parties that criminalising domestic violence does not go against religious confines. The country has now taken a big step towards elimination of this social menace with the last remaining province, which did not have an anti-domestic violence law, also adopting legislation criminalising it. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Friday declared the abuse of women by family members an offence punishable with 1-5 years imprisonment along with a fine. Sindh was the first province where the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2013, was passed in 2013. In Balochistan, the assembly had passed The Balochistan Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2014, in 2014. In Punjab, the Punjab Protection of Women against Violence Act, 2016, was famously made law in February 2016. The only territory now left without protections against domestic violence is Islamabad, where the government has tabled similar laws this year but they have yet to be passed by the parliament. This has not been easy—the bill was long delayed due to opposition from some political parties, particularly the Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal (MMA), which had expressed reservations about certain provisions. While this is a good step, it must be noted that the passed law is less progressive than the proposed drafts and from its counterparts in other provinces. There are several legal ambiguities—for example, domestic violence does not have an expansive definition. The definition of an aggrieved person is also limited—unlike its counterparts in Sindh and Balochistan, the KP law only uses the word “victim”, that too only to include women, not men or other genders. Perhaps most critically, the law does not cover protections for children, due to controversy over the definition of child, with some members objecting to persons under eighteen years of age included under child. Despite the reservations, it is still a welcome first step towards improving the lives of disadvantaged groups in the country. It is hoped the law will be improved through amendments over time.

The vaccine rollout

Eve Ottenberg

At the rate we're vaccinating against Covid in the US, it will take 10 years for the entire population to receive shots. To counter this, on January 12, the Trump regime announced that it would expand vaccination, regardless of whether second doses are available. Biden had earlier said he would do this too. The reasons for this scientifically questionable move are debatable. Much of the vaccine on hand has not been injected into people's arms. The problem isn't just expanding the pool of people to be vaccinated. It's giving shots with the vaccines that we do have. And that takes money. For anyone who thought this was going to be a snap, all I can say is that was the triumph of hope over experience, and we got our experience with Covid testing. The Trump regime thoroughly flubbed that. It was catastrophic and heavily contributed to the nearly 400,000 Americans dead from this pandemic and the over 22 million infected. So now you think the same officials (some implicated in fascist insurrection) who brought us that calamity are going to vaccinate us with dispatch? The Trump regime already proved it's the modern-day keystone cops. Now it just made the same point – again. After 2.1 million Americans got a first injection, “more than 9.3 million doses lay waiting to be shot into American arms,” wrote Brian Kahn in earlier last month. “The administration promised to vaccinate 20 million Americans by the end of December.” Surprise! They didn't. Nowhere close. Why not? Well, for one obvious reason – somebody has to pay for vaccine delivery. That somebody is the states. But the Trump regime and the Scrooges in the GOP object on principle to giving money to the states – evidently even for vaccinations. You never know how those profligate governors might squander federal funds...they might even, um, vaccinate lots of people! Then where would we be? So the Trump regime was determined to fumble the vaccine rollout. As Dean Baker wrote recently in

CounterPunch: “We manage to get over 170 million flu shots in people's arms every year, without any heroic efforts by the government and the military” at a rate of 1.5 million per day over four months. You can see where Baker was going with this comparison – and it wasn't flattering to Trump. On the other hand, some argue that states cannot just lean on flu vaccine distribution systems, because the covid vaccine is something new with different requirements. But preparation has been lacking, to say the least. If the Trump regime really planned to burden the states with this, money should have been allocated, months ago, so states could have vaccine delivery systems up and running. But that's not how magical thinking works in Trump's white house. Somehow the logistics are expected to sort themselves out. When they don't, and if this catastrophe – eclipsed recently by Trump's storm troopers ransacking the Capitol – comes into focus, you can be sure Trump will blame the governors, if he even cares to give the matter any attention, which appears doubtful. What are some of the manifold ways this been bungled? Well, on December 31, the Washington Post ran a story headlined “Vaccination is going slowly because nobody is in charge.” Sound familiar? Ring a bell? Maybe a president whose mantra has been, “I take no responsibility.” Or a leaderless testing rollout. Or the nation's governors, early on in the pandemic, desperately and fruitlessly begging Trump for leadership. Ironies abound here. This has been a presidency with more powers than ever – Trump even had an Attorney General devoted to the concept of the unitary executive and to concentrating as much power in that executive's hands as possible. Congress passed bills, defense and Patriot Act bills enhancing the unitary despot's power. But what do you do when your unitary despot is out-to-lunch? Or worse, insane? Or busy plotting a coup? Then the whole system implodes and, in a crisis, nothing gets done, if you're lucky. The Post article reports

that the vaccination effort “has fallen on state health departments.” These underfunded bodies, deliberately emasculated by our neoliberal economy, already stagger under the gigantic burden of pandemic response, as the Post observes. And who oversees these beleaguered health departments? The public health officials who have received death threats from Trump-supporting pandemic deniers. Add to the mix the GOP's and Trump's aversion to giving states any funds and voila! Not enough vaccinations, the whole system is a hash, no one's in charge, and no one can figure out how to make it work. Waiting in the wings, Biden made clear pandemic damage control will no longer be leaderless. Unfortunately, his first move, doubtless urged on him by desperate governors, is scientifically debatable. It's the same move Trump has just embraced. Biden announced he will distribute all the vaccine on hand, so many more people get preliminary shots. This, at a time, when lots of states can't even seem to use up the vaccine they do have, because many first responders apparently don't want it and because logistics and funds are wanting. As for the second shot – that's a little dicey. What if people don't get it for weeks or months after they're supposed to? This is a real danger. And it's why Dr. Anthony Fauci is against this. Indeed, as far as I can tell, this was a policy originally cooked up by some idiot politicians in the UK. And we've seen what a spectacularly bungling display of pandemic management the UK has provided. So now Biden's team must scramble to produce millions of second doses for half-vaccinated people. If they don't get those second shots, then what? Scientifically that will land us in terra incognita – not where you want tens of millions of people to be. I understand that governors are desperate and that hundreds of their citizens die every day. It's also clear that Team Trump's criminal incompetence, which rises to the level of malice, got us into this mess. The News..

that the vaccination effort “has fallen on state health departments.” These underfunded bodies, deliberately emasculated by our neoliberal economy, already stagger under the gigantic burden of pandemic response, as the Post observes. And who oversees these beleaguered health departments? The public health officials who have received death threats from Trump-supporting pandemic deniers. Add to the mix the GOP's and Trump's aversion to giving states any funds and voila! Not enough vaccinations, the whole system is a hash, no one's in charge, and no one can figure out how to make it work. Waiting in the wings, Biden made clear pandemic damage control will no longer be leaderless. Unfortunately, his first move, doubtless urged on him by desperate governors, is scientifically debatable. It's the same move Trump has just embraced. Biden announced he will distribute all the vaccine on hand, so many more people get preliminary shots. This, at a time, when lots of states can't even seem to use up the vaccine they do have, because many first responders apparently don't want it and because logistics and funds are wanting. As for the second shot – that's a little dicey. What if people don't get it for weeks or months after they're supposed to? This is a real danger. And it's why Dr. Anthony Fauci is against this. Indeed, as far as I can tell, this was a policy originally cooked up by some idiot politicians in the UK. And we've seen what a spectacularly bungling display of pandemic management the UK has provided. So now Biden's team must scramble to produce millions of second doses for half-vaccinated people. If they don't get those second shots, then what? Scientifically that will land us in terra incognita – not where you want tens of millions of people to be. I understand that governors are desperate and that hundreds of their citizens die every day. It's also clear that Team Trump's criminal incompetence, which rises to the level of malice, got us into this mess. The News..

Digital finance

Anum Malkani

ACCORDING to the World Bank, in 2017, only 18 per cent of Pakistanis had an account with a financial institution. Access to financial services – storing money securely, accessing competitive loans to smooth consumption or purchase assets, availing insurance to weather financial shocks, sending money to relatives with minimal fees, making and receiving payments quickly and affordably – is increasingly recognised as a basic need in a modern economy. For the poor, financial inclusion can build resilience, provide a safety net, and make daily financial transactions more convenient. For a daily wage, for example, sacrificing a day to visit a BISP centre or to pay utility bills may mean a significant loss in wages. The majority of Pakistanis lack access to payments services that would allow them to conduct such transactions efficiently and at a low cost. This is where many hope Raast will make a difference. Prior to Raast, Pakistan's payments infrastructure constituted PRISM (for large value transfers) and ILink (owned by a consortium of private-sector financial institutions to enable connectivity between them). Neither of these catered to the daily transactions ordinary citizens make. For example, using IBFT to send money to a relative through a bank account can cost as much as Rs150 per transaction (the State Bank has temporarily ceased these charges during the pandemic). For many, this is unaffordable and renders small transactions (such as sending a small sum of Rs500) untenable. Raast offers opportunities for inclusion, but is not without risk. While such problems have been solved piecemeal (for example, through mobile money providers), a single unifying payments infrastructure will enable speedy delivery of new use cases – facilitating different types of transactions – and entry of new international and local financial services providers into the Pakistani market as barriers to entry are lowered – new entrants can now link up to an existing, low-cost payments infrastructure. In technical terms, the benefits of a system such as

Raast stem from ‘interoperability’. Interoperability enables many of the services we use in our daily lives. For example, Gmail users can send emails to Hotmail and Yahoo users; Ufone users can make calls to Jazz and Telenor users. This ability of different service providers to enable transactions with each other greatly increases convenience and uptake. Interoperability works similarly in the financial sector. If there is a system in place where customers of a particular bank can not only transact with other commercial banks, but also with telecoms, microfinance banks and fintech start-ups, that enhances the value proposition, and also levels the playing field by breaking network dynamics. While Raast is an important enabler, there are other critical pieces of the puzzle that the State Bank would have to carefully design. These include governance arrangements and economic decisions that must incentivise providers to participate, innovate and cater to the underserved. In the age of big data analytics, there is a downside to the increasing digitisation of financial services. The financial sector uses increasing amounts of data to assess customers and determine their viability. A common but alarming example is the use of personal data in credit score assessments or health insurance. While using innovative data sources – including social media content, browser history, location data – allows for the inclusion of customers who may have traditionally been excluded from the banking system and hence lack a digital and financial footprint, it also increasingly encroaches upon their personal lives. Coupled with opaque algorithms, the new generation of digital financial services may not only violate customer privacy, but also introduce new forms of discrimination and exclusion. As Pakistan strengthens its digital financial infrastructure, introducing data protection legislation – in consultation with industry as well as human rights groups and consumers – is becoming ever more critical. Consumers must be empowered. Dawn..

Religious harmony in Pakistan

Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi

Our dear homeland Pakistan is the most important country in the Islamic world and the first nuclear power in the Muslim world. For the last four decades, Pakistan has been facing multiple challenges and its adversities have been trying to portray it as a weak state that relies on others for its survival. Indeed for a long time, Pakistan has been the victim of terrorism and sectarian violence, but that is now history. Whatever conspiracy is peddled against Pakistan, the reality is that it has successfully defeated terrorism. Though Pakistan is now 90 percent out of the terrorism mess, international terrorist groups in Afghanistan are still conspiring to target Pakistan. These terrorist organisations have been conspiring against Pakistan with Indian support. There are currently being reorganised by India but Pakistan's security agencies are constantly thwarting their conspiracies. The present government has a clear policy from day one to eradicate the menace of extremism and terrorism from Pakistan and make it a peaceful, stable and tolerant country. Anti-polio immunisation drive achieves its 98% target it would not be wrong to say that the official status of Madaris education has been formally recognised after seventy years. In the past, the degrees of Madaris Educational Boards were recognised only as honorary degrees and were considered equivalent to MA Islamic Studies or MA in Arabic, that too by a few government departments. Many simply did not recognise them. However, as a result of continuous negotiations with state officials, not only has the registration issue of seminaries been sorted out, it was also decided that along with the religious education Madaris will also impart conventional education up to Intermediate. It was also decided that the government would not interfere in the affairs of the seminaries and their curriculum unnecessary.

The Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Imran Khan, has appointed me as the Special Representative for Religious Harmony and the Middle East. I have been assigned a special duty to promote and strengthen religious harmony and begin an interfaith dialogue with key stakeholders, to dispel misconceptions related to Pakistan and Islam. Alhamdulillah, Pakistan is today one of the safest countries for minorities. Look at India where minorities are in perpetual danger. More than 2,000 churches, hundreds of gurdwaras and mosques have been targeted. Massacres of minorities and forced conversions have become a routine matter in India. Also what is happening to Muslims in Europe, the United States, and the United Kingdom under the guise of Islamophobia is no secret. Shibli Faraz replies to allegations against PTI in foreign funding case With the praise of Allah, protection of the rights of minorities in all walks of life according to the Constitution of Pakistan is being ensured in every possible way. During the last three months, issues of forced conversion, forced marriage and blasphemy have been closely watched, and in case of any complaint, the matter was resolved immediately. In this regard, I can responsibly say that Pakistan has no major issue related to the rights of minorities. Most of what we hear is propaganda. Nevertheless, we still are vigilant and ready to solve the problem. How the Ulema-e-Islam and the Khatam-e-Nabawat Lawyers Forum reacted to the false accusation of blasphemy against six Christian workers in Lahore was a step in the right direction. The religious scholars and the lawyers have also agreed that in the event of misuse of the blasphemy law, not only will the attempt be stopped but action will also be taken against the perpetrator. Despite the outbreak of the corona pandemic, Christians

were provided full security during their festive days, especially on Christmas. A function was also held in the Presidency to send a clear message that the protection of the rights of all Pakistanis, as enshrined in the Constitution, is the responsibility of the state. Those who attacked the Hindu temple in Karak had been arrested. Not a single voice from across the country was raised in their support while the religious scholars have demanded full action against the perpetrators. Prime Minister Imran Khan had taken a personal interest in the arrest of the accused involved in the Karak incident. Similarly, the Chief Justice of Pakistan also ordered the Temple without delay. All these actions show that the state is seriously protecting the rights of minorities. As the Special Representative of the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, my office is working round the clock to address the grievances of Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Progress is being made to establish interreligious and interfaith harmony councils at the union level to resolve issues at the local level. We are also working to bring an end to the culture of hate speech and writings. Although the Muttahida Ulema Board Punjab has been working on it for a long time, with the coordinated effort of concerned departments, the trend shall now be spread across the country. Pakistan congratulates Nepalese climbers on first winter K2 ascent This article will not be complete without mentioning the continuous persecution of Hazara community members in Machh, Balochistan. They have been the victims of terrorism for a long time and the role of anti-Pakistan forces is clear in these instances. India is supporting ISIS and Pakistan's banned organisations in Afghanistan. ISIS has claimed responsibility for terrorism in Machh, Balochistan. The Nation..

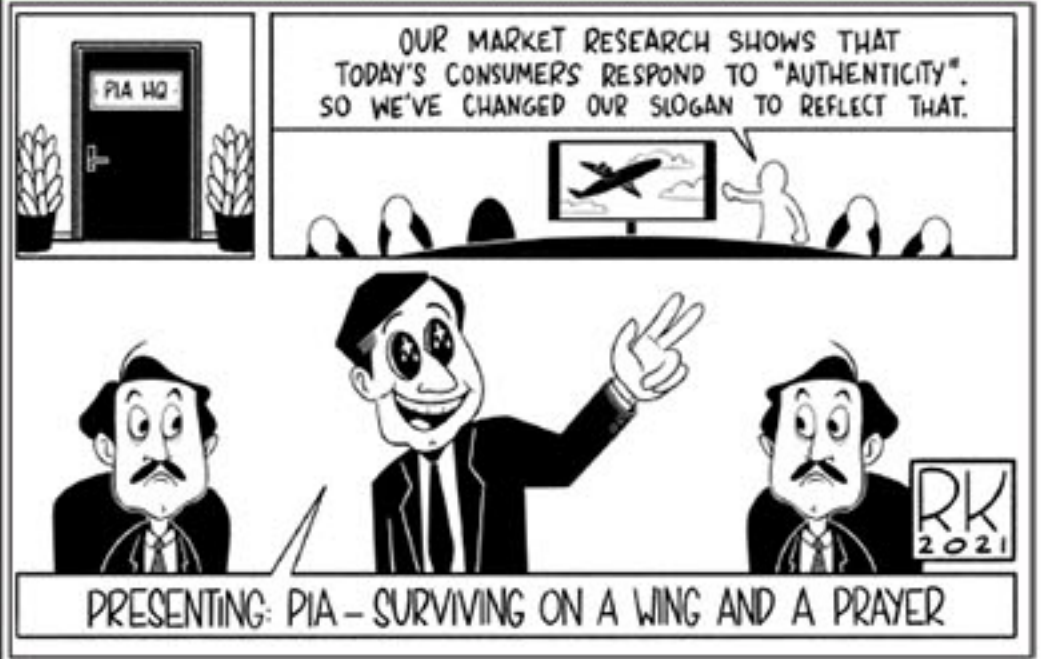
Broadsheetgate

Abbas Nasir

ON one of his trips to Karachi towards the middle of 2000, Pakistan's ‘chief executive’ and army chief Gen Pervez Musharraf agreed to a meeting requested by one of the country's most prominent business figures known for his services, and close ties, to the military top brass. The meeting, in the VVIP lounge of Karachi Airport, just before Gen Musharraf was to take off on his return flight by a special aircraft to Rawalpindi, had a one-point agenda. The business figure asked for the general's help as he was being ‘unfairly hounded’ by NAB. NAB, or the National Accountability Bureau, was set up soon after Musharraf's October 1999 coup with the avowed task of rooting out corruption in the country and the repatriation of ‘looted’ national wealth in cases where it had been taken abroad. Lt-Gen Syed Mohammad Amjad had been named the first NAB chairman. He belonged to a rare breed of officers. Very rare in recent decades. His colleagues and juniors talk of a man committed to principles and contemptuously divorced from any material considerations. Even as a general, when rules allow the personal use of the staff car, Lt-Gen Amjad would visit friends in his personal, rickety old Suzuki Swift without the usual fanfare. He betrayed none of the proclivities many of his colleagues and successors in the military and NAB show/would show. The competence that has underlined NAB and its actions has cost us dearly now and even in 2008. This was the profile of the man Gen Musharraf would need to talk to in order get NAB to lay off the seemingly servile billionaire, who was said to have had his share of skeletons in the cupboard. Musharraf told him ‘not to worry’, shook hands, boarded his plane and took off. One account, which could not be verified independently, suggested Gen Musharraf contacted Lt-Gen Amjad as he was in the lounge and asked him to ‘go easy’ on the businessman. It isn't clear whether there was any connection between this and Amjad's exit from NAB, but a few months later he

was gone. Given what the officers who served alongside Amjad on his various postings say about him, it wouldn't be surprising if Musharraf's intervention prompted his decision. It would not fit into his scheme of things to ‘go easy’ on someone he considered unclean. This was the upside. The downside was that the ‘asset recovery agreement’ NAB concluded with Broadsheet of the Isle of Man, reportedly without getting it vetted by the law ministry, after the chairman was satisfied it would deliver and Musharraf agreed, had lacunae. This was at the centre of the Broadsheet award of some \$21 million plus legal expenses, interests, etc, announced by the London Court of International Arbitration where the firm, which is in liquidation, took NAB and the government of Pakistan to claim more than half a billion dollars. Pakistan moved the high court for a ‘quantum reduction’ but lost the case and Broadsheet liquidator then went into the ‘enforcement’ mode and some \$28m were taken out of the Pakistan High Commission account, which, experts say, does not constitute the final settlement. The issue needs to be settled quickly because the outstanding amount of the award will incur hundreds of thousands of pounds in interest payments in a matter of months. The competence that has underlined NAB and its actions has cost us dearly now and even in 2008 when the wrong Broadsheet, ie one registered by Jerry James in Denver, Colorado, was paid \$1.5m by the legal expert representing NAB without ascertaining the antecedents of the beneficiary. James had sold the original Broadsheet, Isle of Man, after financial problems. Any possibility of retrieving that payment died with James's suicide in Paris. Bizarrely, the agreement NAB concluded with Broadsheet in 2000 and rescinded in 2003, apparently without having a keen legal eye go over the wording, is costing Pakistan millions of dollars some two decades later and not bringing back looted wealth. It is still not in the public domain why the agreement

was rescinded in 2003. The only plausible explanation would be that, by then, Nawaz Sharif and family were out of the picture and in exile. Also, the 2002 elections had been held and, despite his security services machinations, Musharraf's surrogate party fell short of a majority. This forced Musharraf to compromise on accountability as he moved to secure a change in the loyalties of some ‘corrupt’ PPP politicians who formed the ‘PPP Patriots’ and supported his candidate for prime minister. In short, Musharraf's political ambitions spelt an end to any move against ‘plunderers of the national wealth’. Even if there were other reasons for the agreement rescission, it was handled with such incompetence that it has cost the country dearly. But having read a letter written by the lawyers of Broadsheet LLC (in liquidation) to the lawyers of NAB and the ‘Islamic Republic of Pakistan’ one gets the impression that incompetence is not our sole domain, if that makes you feel any better. This is a letter dated March 21, 2019, but refers to events supposed to have taken place in the ‘late summer of 2019’ and ‘late 2019’. It also suggests that Imran Khan was prime minister in July 2018 when he was not. This letter, the contents of which were regurgitated by Kaveh Moussavi, the Broadsheet CEO before it went into liquidation, in several TV interviews aired or accessible in Pakistan, and its chronological anomalies were not raised by any of the anchors interviewing Mr Moussavi. It is clear Mr Moussavi is trying hard to get another agreement with Pakistan. He can't be faulted for pushing things in his interest. His demand, that the detailed judgement of UK judge Sir Anthony Evans is published by the Pakistan government, is one with merit. It can potentially demonstrate why a process of accountability, which was supposed to return allegedly looted wealth to the national coffers, ended up costing the exchequer so many millions. It may also show the way to avoid such embarrassing setbacks in future. Dawn..



Equitable decisions

Basil Nabi Malik

MORALITY and the law have never been more closely linked than when it comes to the question of whether the ends justify the means. This is especially true when analysing the Pakistani judiciary's decision-making fundamentals. Typically, in making any decision, a judge grapples with not only the legal aspects of the matter, but also with ensuring that legal interpretations yield equitable results. For certain judges, an equitable end is imperative. Although processes are useful tools to reach such a conclusion, the judge might view these as possible impediments to substantive justice, and as such, these are used to justify a desirable end as opposed to allowing them to determine the outcome themselves. For others, the process is of overriding importance, and even if the process results in a lawful, but less than desirable result, that is the price for a non-arbitrary decision-making mechanism. In essence, the judge relies on procedure and process to insulate his or her legal reasoning from daily pressures and influences. The struggle between these two viewpoints is real and polarising. Written judgements signed over the decades showcase these varying approaches, with process-driven verdicts arguably focusing more on procedural elements of the law, and end-specific judgements concentrating on the equities of the decision itself. What determines which approach of a judge? The pertinent questions relate to: what determines which approach of a judge? Do all judges have a one-dimensional approach that is applied to all situations? Or

do their approaches evolve and adapt to the circumstances? In answering these questions, two factors seem to be constants in determining which approach is adopted by a judge when confronted by questions of constitutionality and public interest – firstly, populist sentiment, and secondly, the power dynamics of the establishment and stakeholders vis-à-vis popular sentiment. Regarding the former, popular sentiments of the population may figure significantly in decision-making at any particular time. This is not to say that the judiciary renders its decisions merely on the touchstone of populist rhetoric and devoid of any legal reasoning, but that such sentiments do hold sway in determining what an equitable end may be, and coincidentally, may also garner greater legitimacy for the judiciary. In relation to the latter, at no point does it seem that popular sentiment is solely at play in determining what may be an appropriate approach. Power dynamics in the corridors of power vis-à-vis popular sentiment are also seen to have a role in determining where a justifiable end may lie and whether any decision shall result in more legitimacy for the judiciary. In essence, where the influence of the formal and informal power structures is far more overwhelming than the intensity of populist sentiment, equitable ends tend to gravitate towards decisions institutionalising a sense of stability in otherwise tumultuous times. Such considerations tend to augment existing power structures ie the status quo. All in all, the ‘equitable result’ is hostage to the overall circumstances in which the judgement or decision is

rendered. On account of the ever-changing nature of such influence over the decades, one can see radically different decisions being rendered at different times in our history. That is perhaps why the Supreme Court can in one breath validate martial laws as revolutionary acts, whilst later on denounce the same as unconstitutional and treasonous. It may also explain why, despite the illegality of the 1990 Benazir Bhutto government dissolution, the government was not restored, whilst in dealing with the 1993 Nawaz Sharif government dissolution, the Supreme Court not only held it to be illegal, but also restored Mr Sharif's government. It also explains why the Supreme Court, despite having a clear aversion to military courts in earlier judgements, stepped in and sanctified them in a decision rendered after the horrendous APS tragedy. It also may help us put into a theoretical framework the perceived dissimilarity of response in relation to the reference against the former chief justice Iftikhar Chaudhry, and the present scrutiny of Justice Qazi Faez Isa. On account of this link and the tension among public sentiment, the prevailing power structures and the overall circumstances, the decisions of the judiciary appear to adapt and evolve according to the existing situation. Being intrinsically linked, it appears that in order to create greater consistency in the decision-making process of the judicial set-up, it is also necessary that greater stability and balance be maintained in the overall power structures of the country. Dawn..



I want to be like legendary batsman Mohammad Yousuf, says Salman Ali Agha

KARACHI: Middle-order batsman Salman Ali Agha has recently shared that he wants to emulate legendary batsman Mohammad Yousuf.

"Mohammad Yousuf is my role model and I want to emulate him," said the aspiring batsman.

The 27-years-old was named in the 20-man squad after a remarkable performance during the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy where he scored 941 runs, smashing two centuries and six half-centuries.

Sharing that even being shortlisted among the initial 20 players was let alone a huge accomplishment for him, Agha said: "I am in 20 chosen from 200 million people and even being in 20 is a big honour for me. Of course, I've set my eyes on making my debut in the upcoming series and if I get a chance, I will try to continue my form."



Salman Ali Agha

"Unbelievable moment" Recalling the moment when he first heard about his maiden call to the Pakistan squad, Agha said that it was "unbelievable" for him.

"I was told by a fellow cricketer that I am included and I thought he was joking, then I saw it on TV. I couldn't believe that as

well, I was so excited and I am still feeling the excitement of being included in the Pakistan squad for the series," he remembered.

The Lahore Qalandars player stated that he wants to pursue a career as a batting all-rounder and will contribute with the ball whenever needed for the team.

"I'll keep working on my

bowling along with my batting and I believe that I can be effective with the ball too. I would love to play as a batting all-rounder for the team and contribute to the team's ambitions to win" he concluded.

"Rewards important for performances" It is important for a player to be rewarded for his performances in the domestic tournament. The way selectors have included performers in the team will surely encourage players who are performing well in the domestic tournaments," he appreciated.

The player added that he would like to have the opportunity to learn something from the batting master Yousuf.

"I like his cover drives and want to play like him," said the middle-order batsman. The News..



LONDON: Non-league Chorley knocked coronavirus-ravaged Derby County out of the FA Cup with a surprise 2-0 win on Saturday, while Everton survived a scare against Rotherham as the spiking pandemic took its toll on the third round.

Defiant India stand firm for fighting draw in third Australia Test



Australia's Steve Smith runs to field the ball during play on the final day of the third cricket test between India and Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground. — AP

A courageous and injury-wracked India pulled off a remarkable draw in a tense third Test against Australia on Monday as they survived against the hosts' much-vaunted bowling attack to take the series into a decider.

They resumed day five at 98-2, needing a further 309 runs after being set a huge 407 to win, when Australia declared their second innings at tea on Sunday on 312 for six.

No team had ever bettered 288 to clinch victory in the fourth innings at the Sydney

Cricket Ground, with Australia achieving that mark against South Africa in 2006. But India gave it a massive go, passing 288 in the final session to lay the nerves of Australian team throwing everything they had at them.

The visitors abandoned any hope of victory but they bravely clung on for the draw with Hanuma Vihari, nursing a hamstring injury, surviving 161 balls for just 23 runs and Ravi Ashwin, who had treatment on his ribs, making 39. They steered India to 334 for five at the close, 73 runs adrift.

Their resistance was built on the back of an explosive 97 from Rishabh Pant and a typically gritty 77 from Cheteshwar Pujara, who passed 6,000 Test runs, but

also helped by wicketkeeper Tim Paine dropping three catches.

It culminated an absorbing Test marked by some high quality batting, led by Steve Smith's 131 and Pant's 97, and razor-sharp fielding.

But it will also be remembered for allegations India were racially abused by sections of the Sydney Cricket Ground crowd, with investigations underway and tough action promised against anyone at fault.

After Australia won the first Test in Adelaide by eight wickets then India bounced back in Melbourne by the same margin, the series now heads to Brisbane later this week for the final chapter.

It will be a depleted India again at the Gabba, with fast bowlers Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav and batsmen KL Rahul out injured and question marks over all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who dislocated his thumb in Sydney. Twenty-20-style Australia removed openers Shubman Gill for 31 and Rohit Sharma for 52 before stumps on day four, and when Nathan Lyon accounted for captain Ajinkya Rahane without a Dawn.

Depleted West Indies face multiple tests on Bangladesh tour

DHAKA: Depleted by stars refusing to tour during the coronavirus pandemic, West Indies players will face multiple Covid-19 tests in Bangladesh before they even get close to a five-day match against their hosts.

The normally carefree Caribbean stars have been put on edge by a trip to South Asia and captain Jason Holder along with Kieron Pollard and Darren Bravo will be among a host of players missing when the squad arrives on Sunday.

The tourists will go straight into a seven-day quarantine bubble to prepare for the three One-Day Internationals and two Tests against Bangladesh who are already in their own bubble.

There has been no international cricket in Bangladesh since March and the cricket board is taking no chances.

"We will do everything that is needed to keep the series risk free," BCB chief executive officer Nizamuddin Chowdhury said. "The two countries agreed on health protocols in December. They will be tested immediately after arrival and then again after three days and then after travelling to Chittagong."

"They will be tested in multiple times in different layers and if a player develops any symptom he will be isolated immediately," he added.

The first three days of their quarantine will be in isolation in a hotel.

The players will have to pass a test to be allowed to play after that. Their first warm-up match is on Jan 18.

Bangladesh is providing some net bowlers and even they will be in their own separate bubble that will also be used to keep ground staff and drivers away from risky contacts.

On top of Holder, Pollard and Bravo, Sheldon Cottrell, Evin Lewis, Shai Hope, Shimron Hetmyer and Nicholas Pooran declined to travel because of coronavirus fears. Dawn..

Pak vs SA: 'Emotional moment' for Aleem Dar to officiate first Test in Pakistan

LAHORE: The upcoming Pakistan's series against South Africa will be a special moment for Aleem Dar as he will be officiating a Test for the first time in his home country.

The PCB on Saturday released the details of the umpires that will officiate the series against South Africa confirming that Aleem Dar will be there.

Dar, quoted by the PCB, acknowledged that it will be an "emotional moment" for him.

"It has been nearly a 17-year and 132-Test wait, but its about to be over. Like the players, the match officials also want to umpire in matches on home ground, something we achieve in white-ball cricket, but Test cricket remains the pinnacle format and I am delighted



that I will be standing in the two Tests between two excellent sides," said Dar.

Apart from Dar, on-field umpire Ahsan Raza and match referee Mohammad Javed Malik will also make their Test debuts.

The press release said that the board confirmed the match officials' appointments on behalf of the International Cricket Council for the two-match series between Pakistan and South

Africa, which starts in Karachi on 26 January.

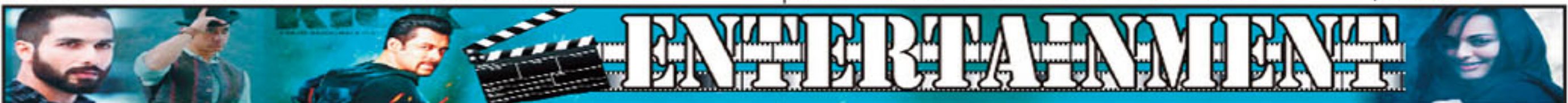
The PCB said that Asif Yaqoob and Rashid Riaz will be the third and fourth umpires, while Javed Malik will head the playing control team for both the Tests.

"As per the ICC's interim playing regulations, the requirement to appoint third country officials has temporarily been removed from

the playing conditions for all international formats owing to the current logistical challenges with international travel," said the PCB regarding the absence of neutral umpires.

For the three-match T20I series, Javed Malik will continue to be the match referee, while Aleem and Ahsan Raza will be the on-field umpires for the first match with Shozab Raza in the TV umpire's box and Asif Yaqoob as fourth umpire.

The PCB said that Shozab Raza and Asif Yaqoob will officiate the second T20I with Ahsan Raza and Rashid Riaz as third and fourth umpires. On the other hand, Aleem Dar and Rashid Riaz will be the on-field umpires for the third T20I with Ahsan Raza and Shozab Raza. The News..



Prince Harry and Prince William's feud is finally over after one year: report

Prince Harry and Prince William have been at odds since quite some time. However, it looks like the two are finally ready to put their differences aside and reconcile, almost a year after Prince Harry and Meghan Markle caused a gigantic rift by stepping down as senior members of the British royal family.

Royal expert Katie Nicholl opened up to Entertainment Tonight about the royal rift between the Duke of Cambridge and the Duke of Sussex.

"There were phone and video calls over the Christmas and New Year holiday and the Sussexes sent presents to the Cambridges and vice versa," she said.

"It was an opportunity in an otherwise very busy and chaotic year for both of the families to come together and connect, albeit virtually," she added.

"Things are a lot better between William and Harry. If you go back a year at that stage, these brothers were barely on talking terms," she went on to say.

"When William went to the Sandringham Summit, he was so angry with his brother. He couldn't even face going to that lunch with the Queen. He only went for the meetings, such was his frustration and feeling of disappointment about what his brother had done and how Harry was handling the situation," she said.

"Fast forward to today, the relationship is much better than it was. For a start, they are on talking terms, and not only on talking terms, they do speak relatively regularly. They were very much in touch over the holidays. But there is an ocean between them, there is a time difference and as Harry [has] said... they are two brothers on different paths."

The much-awaited statue tribute to Princess Diana will be unveiled in Kensington Palace gardens on what would have been her 60th birthday.

"And it is Harry's intention, and Meghan's also, to be here in the U.K. for that opening. It may possibly be the first time we see the brothers together, but I think that we will probably see them together in the spring around the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh's birthday celebrations. COVID travel plans permitting," she added. The News.

Sheheryar Munawar opens up about deciding a new avatar for himself

At the corner of a bus-stand near Allahwala Chowrangi, Sheheryar Munawar Siddiqui chases after a girl and her best friend. Like most young ne'er-do-wells, he gets a good piece of her mind. Dejected and shot down — like his ilk, the stubborn roadside Romeo — he persists.

A brief lunch-break and a quick zuhr prayer later, Sheheryar is at it again: this time, replacing his cool-denim jacket and jeans is a shalwar, a gaudy T-shirt and brightly bright, coloured sunglasses. He runs out of a corner house a few blocks away from our last location on Sharane Faisal, gets on a heavy bike and chases the girl again. This time, she's in a van, returning from college, and his expression is different; he is smiling from ear to ear.

We're at a different point of time, but that's how dramas are shot: non-linearly. The sets of iDream Productions' drama Pehli Si Mohabbat (PSM) could have been run-of-the-mill... only they're not. The shoot is an unhurried affair — much like the one between Sheheryar and the girl he chases, Maya Ali, his co-star and the female lead of the serial.

It's a simple love story of people you may already know, or maybe you once were, but yet there's something different.

The man I meet on the street, and then at the house, and then a week later at another



house, is not the same Sheheryar I once knew. Gone is the shy, earnest, excited young man, who would often ask for re-takes, and whose method-acting approach I appreciated.

In his stead is Aslam, his on-screen avatar for PSM. A cocky, restless, over-optimistic, grandiloquent ruffian with a matching fashion sense. Gone are the retakes and the method acting. In their place is a new, perhaps much better actor.

It is there in the naturalness of his new-found approach. In one particular shot, he gets into a distraught state of mind while the assistants prep the lights on set. It hardly takes the actor two minutes to nail the emotion.

Aslam has really taken over Sheheryar on set — and not just with the way he emotes. The actor's sense of humor has taken a dramatic, mischievous 180-degree turn.

His crude, tongue-in-cheek banter flies hard and fast at me, without being insulting. "I am sorry," Sheheryar apologises five minutes into his teasing. "Tell me, have you

ever seen me like this? No, right??? This was Aslam. Sheheryar would have never been able to talk to you like that... but Aslam... well Aslam can," he grins.

That's just great, I tell him with mock-surprise. I had finally attuned my senses to the old Sheheryar, and out pops a new version. Honestly though, I like Sheheryar's new avatar. It's edgy.

PSM's director, Anjum Shahzad (of serials Satrangi, Khuda aur Muhabbat, Khaani and films Mahi-Meer and Zindagi Kitni Haseen Hai) wants him to perform with a free-flowing, instinctive, promptness he says. I was already prewarned by Anjum a night before to expect a dramatic change.

"With Anjum I've learned to let things go," he explains. "But only because it is also a part of the character I am playing," he says as I pick up a cup of tea. I notice that that his mug has PHL's Sheheryar — the actor's namesake character — printed on it. Dawn..

Farhan Saeed is all praise for Dr Omar Atiq who paid \$650,000 worth of his patients' debt

Around 200 people started 2021 debt-free courtesy of Dr Omar Atiq, a Pakistani-American oncologist who erased \$650,000 worth of his patients' debt as a Christmas present.

His act of kindness did no go unnoticed internationally or at home — Farhan Saeed is among the Pakistanis who are proud of the medical superhero and made sure to acknowledge the champ for his tremendous gift to humanity.

Quoting Plato, the Halka Halka Suroor singer shared a short message on social media, taking personal pride in Dr Atiq's association with Pakistan.

"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle" - Plato. Kudos to the incredible Dr Omar Atiq — your unmatched compassion does us very proud!" he posted.

According to the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, Dr Omar, who founded his cancer clinic in Pine Bluff in the US state of Arkansas in 1991, sent out a notice to his patients just days before December 25, saying "the clinic has decided to forego all balances owed to the clinic by its patients."

According to CNN, each received a card with a personal greeting from their former doctor. The note thanked each patient for trusting Dr Atiq with their care and followed with the generous surprise.

"Over time I realised that there are people who just are unable to pay," Dr Atiq told ABC's Good Morning America. "So my wife and I, as a family, we thought about it and looked at forgiving all the debt. We saw that we could do it and then just went ahead and did it."

He worked with a debt collection firm to gather outstanding payments, but then realised many families had been hit hard financially by the pandemic.

"We thought there was not a better time to do this than during a pandemic that has decimated homes, people's lives and businesses and all sorts of stuff," Dr Atiq had said, before his big move.

David Wroten, executive vice president of the Arkansas Medical Society advocacy group, was quoted by BBC as saying that Dr Atiq had called him. Dawn..



According to multiple videos on Twitter, the model was struggling to put on a pair of horse riding boots.

Jameela Jamil wants influencers to stop promoting the keto diet



"Take it from someone who did every diet under the sun, the weight comes back thick and fast as soon as you reintroduce carbs."

Are you looking for a fast-track solution to shed that extra weight? Are you considering the heavily social media-promoted keto diet to achieve your dietary goals? Actor and activist Jameela Jamil is here to tell you why that's a really bad idea...

"Celebrities and influencers. Please stop pushing the keto diet (on) to people who do not need to follow the diet for medical reasons," Jamil began in the message. "It can create all kinds of disturbances for people's bodies, (including their vital organs), and they do not have the same access to healthcare that you do."

She also took this opportunity to point out the hypocrisy in 'before-after' pictures, stating that the latter is obviously the result of extreme editing.

"Stop with the (often bulls**) before and after (especially the ones where in the 'after' your trousers are higher/your bra is more supportive/your hair and makeup is done/you're smiling/ the lighting is better/you're using airbrushing) during the predatory time for women especially around their weight."

Addressing the public, she also debunked myths related to the keto diet in general.

"To anyone seeing these posts about keto and 2-week weight loss, it's water weight, not real fat loss, and take it from someone who did every diet under the SUN, the weight comes back thick and fast and then some as soon as you reintroduce carbs," she revealed.

"Most humans need carbs," The Good Place actor added, before telling fans to "stay away" from fad diets. "If you really want to change your body to what-

ever, please do it for the right reasons, the right way, slowly, not guided by some newfound thin-fluencer and their fast weight loss guru/predator."

She also included several screenshots of what appeared to be direct messages from fans, who shared their horror stories following the diet.

From pancreatitis to gallbladder removal and brain level imbalances, the after-effects shared by the people should give everyone pause.

"Don't take my word for it. Just read every medical journal article you can find on it. Learn the history of it, and if you fit that history, if you need it medically, I hear it can be extraordinary for certain serious health issues," Jameela added.

"But if not... you are needlessly risking creating health issues because our world not only obsesses over weight loss, but how fast we can do it. That is not sustainable and it's designed to fail so that you stay on the diet merry-go-round forever," she said.

Encouraging a healthier relationship with nutrition that doesn't involve binaries of good and bad, the star hoped her fans would be grateful for the food on their table. A much-needed reminder for all of us. Dawn..



Three of the four stars of the popular HBO series Sex and the City will reunite for a new show that picks up with the same characters roughly two decades older, the network has confirmed, much to the joy of fans.

Pakistan 10th most powerful military in world

ISLAMABAD: According to Global Firepower Index 2021 released this week, Pakistan Army is among the world's 10 most powerful militaries in the world leaving behind Canada, Germany and Australia.

The Global Firepower ranked the armies of 138 countries by taking into consideration a number of factors including the diversity of each country's weapons, manpower, population, geography and state of development.

The Global Firepower ranking utilises over 55 factors to determine a country's PowerIndex score. The formula allows smaller, more technologically advanced countries to compete with larger, less developed ones.

A perfect PowerIndex score is 0.0000, which is realistically unattainable. The closer countries are to that number, the more powerful their military is.

As per the ranking, Pakistan has an estimated total of 1,204,000 military personnel. The United States holds first place in the ranking. Russia is second, and China is third.

The top ten also includes India, Japan, South Korea, France, the United Kingdom, Brazil, and Pakistan.

Here is a ranking of the world's top 10 most powerful militaries in 2021, according to Global Firepower:

1 UNITED STATES: Nearly 12,000 US Troops Will Pull Out of Germany at Cost of Billions, SecDef Says | Military.com

For 2021, United States is ranked 1 of 138 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review. It holds a PowerIndex* rating of 0.0721

2 RUSSIA: For 2021, Russia is ranked 2 of 138 out of the countries considered

for the annual GFP review. It holds a PowerIndex* rating of 0.0796

3 CHINA: China's Modernizing Military | Council on Foreign Relations

For 2021, China is ranked 3 of 138 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review. It holds a PowerIndex* rating of 0.0858

4 INDIA: For 2021, India is ranked 4 of 138 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review. It holds a PowerIndex* rating of 0.1214

5 JAPAN: A new front - Japan's Self-Defence Forces are beginning to focus on China | Asia | The Economist

For 2021, Japan is ranked 5 of 138 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review. It holds a PowerIndex* rating of 0.1435

6 SOUTH KOREA: For 2021, South Korea is ranked 6 of 138 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review. It holds a PowerIndex* rating of 0.1621

7 FRANCE: France's 'yellow vest' protesters march in Paris as troops join police to prevent trouble

For 2021, France is ranked 7 of 138 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review. It holds a PowerIndex* rating of 0.1691

8 UNITED KINGDOM: For 2021, United Kingdom is ranked 8 of 138 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review. It holds a PowerIndex* rating of 0.2008

9 BRAZIL: File:Brazilian Army Parade.jpeg - Wikipedia

For 2021, Brazil is ranked 9 of 138 out of the countries considered for the annual GFP review. It holds a PowerIndex* rating of 0.2037

10 PAKISTAN: For 2021, Pakistan is ranked 10 out of 138 countries considered for the annual GFP review. It holds a PowerIndex* rating of 0.2083. NNI



Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff Pakistan Air Force meeting with Lt Gen Ramiz Tahirov, Commander Azerbaijan Air Force.

Schools, colleges to reopen in Sindh from tomorrow: Saeed Ghani

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Education Saeed Ghani on Sunday said that the schools and colleges in the province would also be reopened from Monday (December 18) as per the decision taken during an inter-provincial meeting.

Speaking to media in Karachi, Saeed Ghani said that in the first phase, classes of ninth, tenth in schools, and 11th and 12th in colleges will commence from Monday.

"In the second phase, the primary and secondary classes will commence from February 01, besides also reopening of colleges and universities from the same date," he said.

The educational institutes faced closure under extended winter vacations owing to the second wave of COVID-19 in the country.

It is pertinent to mention here that a meeting of education ministers on January 04 decided to reopen educational institutions across the country in a phase-wise manner with classes nine to 12 resuming in the first phase on January 18.

Speaking at a press conference after the meeting, Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood announced that classes one to eight will resume from January 25 in the second phase whereas universities and other higher education institutions will resume on-campus sessions from Feb 1.

He said teachers and administrative staff can return to schools from Jan 11 after the winter vacations end.

Shafqat Mahmood said board exams that were due in March and April will now be held in May and June as the children have not yet completed their courses and need time to prepare. NNI

versities from the same date," he said.

The educational institutes faced closure under extended winter vacations owing to the second wave of COVID-19 in the country.

It is pertinent to mention here that a meeting of education ministers on January 04 decided to reopen educational institutions across the country in a phase-wise manner with classes nine to 12 resuming in the first phase on January 18.

Speaking at a press conference after the meeting, Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood announced that classes one to eight will resume from January 25 in the second phase whereas universities and other higher education institutions will resume on-campus sessions from Feb 1.

He said teachers and administrative staff can return to schools from Jan 11 after the winter vacations end.

Shafqat Mahmood said board exams that were due in March and April will now be held in May and June as the children have not yet completed their courses and need time to prepare. NNI

Over Rs 8 bln loans approved under Kamyab Jawan Programme: Usman Dar

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Muhammad Usman Dar Sunday said soft loans amounting to Rs 8.08 billion were approved under the Prime Minister Kamyab Jawan Programme's Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) so far.

In a media interview, he said the government had a target to create more than 50,000 new jobs by year-end through a total disbursement of about Rs 10 billion among the youth, aspiring to set up or expand businesses in more than 15 sectors such as auto, Information Technology, Dairy and others.

"So far, we have disbursed Rs 3.47 billion among over 5,700 successful entrepreneurs and the remaining approved loans amounting to Rs 4.6 billion is ready to be

disbursed," the SAPM noted. He added that over 6,874 loans, approved by the programme executing banks, would be disbursed once the applicants fulfilled all the formalities. Usman Dar appreciated the qualified entrepreneurs for availing the opportunity after submitting workable business plans to the YES executing banks.

Timely disbursement of loans would pave the way for the government to achieve desired economic development and prosperity in the country, he maintained.

To a query, he said since the launch of programme, 3,563 new businesses were opened under the YES, in addition to expansion of 2,183 existing ones.

The 'YES' was launched under the banner of Kamyab Jawan Programme in October 2019 with the allocation

of Rs 100 billion funds for facilitation of youth. Two tiers were introduced under the programme for disbursement of loans ranging from Rs100,000 to Rs 5 million among those, having workable business ideas.

The government expanded the soft-loan schemes last year to benefit maximum number of young people across the country, Usman Dar said, while highlighting the increase in loan amount which had been raised up to Rs 25 million.

He said mark-up rates on both the tiers had also been halved from 6 per cent and 8 per cent to 3 per cent and 4 per cent respectively.

The lower mark-up rate would also be applicable to those who had already availed loans under the previous scheme, he added.

Governor to lay foundation stone of Aab-e-Pak Authority in Chak Jhumra

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar will lay the foundation stone of the first project of the Punjab Aab-e-Pak Authority on Monday (Feb 18) in Chak Jhumra.

The Rs 161.75 million project would provide clean drinking water to more than 57,000 families of 16 villages at their doorsteps, said a statement issued from the Governor's House on Sunday.

The ceremony will be attended by provincial ministers, members of parliament, Chairman Punjab Aab-e-Pak Authority and members of the Board of Governors.

Talking about the project, Governor Sarwar said in line with the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, clean drinking water would be provided to urban as well as rural populace of Punjab. He maintained that the Punjab Aab-e-Pak Authority would provide clean and hygienic drinking water to people of the province and every penny of the national exchequer in this authority would be spent only for the provision of clean drinking water to the public.

Chaudhry Sarwar said in order to provide clean drinking water, "We will give priority to areas where a majority is suffering from life-threatening diseases like Hepatitis due to drinking unclean water."

He said the Authority would also implement clean drinking water projects, including installation of filtration plants in those areas where the opposition parties had won the general elections.

"Our only goal is to provide clean drinking water to the public" he reiterated. NNI



HYDERABAD: Leader of Awami National Party Shahi Syed addressing a press conference at ANP office.

Resources to be mobilized to boost GB region's climate resilience: Malik Amin

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam has said that the present government was taking all-out measures to help Gilgit-Baltistan government to overcome challenges of environmental degradation, solid waste, climate change and deforestation.

"Prime Minister Imran Khan-led government was aware of the exacerbating challenges being faced by the climate-vulnerable region of Gilgit-Baltistan, which have led to negative fallout for various social and economic sectors particularly water, energy and agriculture," Malik Amin Aslam said. He expressed these views during his meeting with the Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan.

While referring to various climate change and environment-related studies of the Pakistan Meteorological Department, Malik Amin Aslam highlighted that over recent years, the global warming-caused events of glacial melting, glacial lake outburst floods, riverine floods and shifting rainfall patterns have shown rising frequency and intensity, affecting badly not only socio-economic lives of the region but also those in the southern parts of the country. Meanwhile, sharing about deleterious impacts of environmental degradation and climate change, the Gilgit-Baltistan chief minister informed the Prime Minister's aide Malik Amin Aslam that lack of alternative to fuelwoods, which is mined from the local forest areas,

have led to massive tree-felling unabated since long.

Besides, galloping human populations in the region and mass tourism, characterized by unsustainable tourism practices, have proved devastating for the Gilgit-Baltistan region's once pristine, serene and untainted environment and polluting the turquoise river waters with solid waste, the Gilgit-Baltistan chief minister Mohammad Khalid Khursheed added.

The chief minister pointed out that the region lacks sustainable solid waste management facilities, alternative energy facilities such as solar and energy efficient lighting, cooking stoves, which have led to overall environmental contamination and posing public health risks.

Lack of climate-resilient infrastructures, climate-smart housing facilities have also exposed the residents of the region's mountain areas to mounting socio-economic miseries including poverty, mal-nutrition, hunger and joblessness, he further highlighted. Malik Amin Aslam asked the chief minister for rolling out a Gilgit-Baltistan-specific elaborate plans regarding promotion of afforestation activities, establishment of sustainable solid waste management facilities, promotion of sustainable and environmental-friendly tourism, sustainable water management practices, climate-smart agriculture practices, alternative livelihood plans, monitoring of glacial melting and glacial lake outburst floods to cope.

Latest revelations further expose India and vindicate Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan said on Sunday that in recent months, the world community has been presented with irrefutable evidence of India's state-sponsored terrorism against Pakistan and anti-Pakistan disinformation and smear campaign globally.

The transcripts included in the Mumbai police charge-sheet against the Republic TV anchor in the TRP case have further exposed India's sinister designs and vindicated Pakistan's long held position, the foreign office said. A statement said the latest revelations further confirm what Pakistan has consistently pointed out: The BJP government stages "false flag" operations; maligns Pakistan with terrorism-related allegations; stokes hyper-nationalism in the country; claims to have launched so-called "surgical strike"; and then deviously manipulates national senti-

ment in its bid to win elections. The statement further said the pattern is unmistakable, and has been repeated to suit the RSS-BJP regime's electoral calculations.

"We had, at the outset, rejected India's malicious propaganda against Pakistan and highlighted that the biggest beneficiary of the Pulwama attack in February 2019 was the BJP government, as it secured landslide victory in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections," the statement said, adding that The transcripts provide further evidence of how this whole enterprise from 'false flag' operation to massive electoral success was scripted and fully realized.

The statement said the transcripts also illustrate the unholy nexus between the 'Hindutva' regime and its cronies in the Indian media. "On the one hand, they show how far and deeply the ex-

tremit agenda of the RSS-BJP combine has permeated India's institutions and pillars of the State.

On the other hand, they show how the rights and freedoms of Indian citizens and democratic values in Indian society are being seriously jeopardized through cynical manipulation," the foreign office said. The statement pointed out that equally important, they show how actions of this reckless regime driven by considerations of domestic politics are gravely imperiling regional peace and security.

The statement said Pakistan, for its part, will continue to counter Indian falsehoods with truth and act firmly and responsibly in the face of India's provocations.

"We hope that the international community would take full cognizance of the situation and hold India accountable for its actions.

SSGS launches crackdown against illegal gas compressors

KARACHI: The Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) has launched a crackdown against the illegal use of gas compressors, citing spokesperson of the gas utility.

A spokesperson has said that the installation and use of gas compressors is an illegal act. The Balochistan High Court has directed to act against those involved in this illegal act, the spokesperson said.

People across the country using gas compressor to suck in more gas to increase the gas flow in a situation of widespread gas shortage.

An official of the SSGC had earlier said that the low pressure is because of the illegal use of compressor by some people.

The illegal use of gas compressors has led to low gas pressure problems in several cities. The gas companies have constituted special teams to launch a crackdown against those who are depriving their neighbours of the gas facility by using the compressors.

Moreover several domestic consumers use a fridge compressor to suck in more gas to increase gas flow at their homes, which is said to be a dangerous and illegal practice.

Domestic and industrial consumers are facing shortage of gas across Pakistan since the winter season fell. CNG stations are being closed in Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to non-availability of the gas. The users have to buy LNG to cook food and keep themselves warm in harsh winters. NNI



ATTOCK: Special Assistant for Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam cutting the ribbon during inauguration of Chichi Village Cricket Tournament at a cricket ground.

PR earns over Rs12 billion from freight business in two years

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has been earned around Rs12.276 billion from the freight trains during last two years, making a leap towards transformation of the organization into a profitable entity.

"The freight train service has been suffered no loss during the last two years due to prudent policies introduced by the incumbent government," an official in the Ministry of Railways was quoted by official media as having said.

Giving detail of the earnings, he said the department has been generated Rs18.853 billion against the expenditures of Rs12.950 billion, posting a profit of Rs5.903 billion during 2018-19.

In 2019-20, the official said Pakistan Railways earned Rs19.208 billion against the expenditures of worth Rs12.835 billion, saving a profit Rs6.373 billion.

To a question, he said that at present as many as 18 trains were operational from Karachi to Hyderabad, while no train was operational from Karachi to Mirpur Khas.

He said the trains, plying between the two major cities of Sindh province, were included Shalimar Express, Hazara Express, Awam Express, Rehman Baba Express, Pakistan Express, Allama Iqbal Express, Karakoram Express, Pak Business Express, Millat Express, Karachi Express, Tezgam, Bahaddin Zakria Express, Shah Hussain Express, Fareed Express, Sir Syed Express, Green Line, Khyber Mail and Sukkur Express.

The official said there was no proposal under consideration for starting new passenger train from Peshawar to Sargodha and Rawalpindi to Karachi at the moment.

At present, he said the passenger trains, running between Rawalpindi-Peshawar-Karachi, were included Khyber Mail, Pakistan Express, Tezgam, Awam Express, Rehman Baba Express, Sir Syed Express and Hazara Express. NNI

SABS University of Art Jamshoro organizes 15th Degree Show (Thesis Display)

JAMSHORO: Shaheed Allah Bukhs Soomro (SABS) University of Art, Design and Heritages Jamshoro (previously known as Centre of Excellence in art and design, MUE) organized 15th Degree Show (Thesis Display).

110 students from Fine Art, Communication Design, Textile Design and Architecture displayed their thesis projects in the degree show-2021. Advisor for Universities and Boards Government of Sindh Nisar Ahmed Khushro and Ar. Hameer Soomro, grandson of Shaheed Allah Bukhs Soomro graced the event as chief guest whereas commissioner Hyderabad Muhammad Abbas Baloch and commissioner Sukkur & Larkana Shafique Ahmed Mahesar attended the event as guest of honour.

Vice-chancellor SABS University of Art Prof. Dr. Bhai Khan Shar welcomed the notable guests on their arrival in the university.

During degree show talking to media persons Nisar Ahmed Khushro said that Grand Democratic Alliance and peoples Party have never been close to each other, they have different opinion than others, GDA is part of government and their leader has accepted his incompetency by saying that how a person can run a country consisting of 22 crore people because everyone is demanding job opportunity but I want to clarify that this country is running successfully for 70 years and if you are not capable enough better to go home we will show you how to lead a nation.

amendment we established Sindh Higher Education Commission but federal HEC reduced its funding towards universities that's why we have reserved amount for universities funding but I think it is not sufficient and we are trying to provide more funds.

Replying to question regarding tenure of federal government Nisar Ahmed Khushro said that once prime minister has accepted his incompetency, we don't need to give deadline and needs to go home quickly after his statement. Nisar Ahmed Khushro further said that earlier Centre of Excellence in Art and Design was a small institute and we have upgraded it as university and the approach of students in the University is quite encouraging that will lead the University to success.

Grandson of Shaheed Allah Bukhs Soomro, Ar. Hameer Soomro said that SABS university has very bright future in the time to come and graduates of this university will play a vital role in mental and physical development of the nation. He said that the art work displayed in the exhibition is of high quality and students have given their hundred percent for their thesis project which is quite tremendous.

Grandson of Shaheed Allah Bukhs Soomro, Ar. Hameer Soomro said that SABS university has very bright future in the time to come and graduates of this university will play a vital role in mental and physical development of the nation.

He said that the art work displayed in the exhibition is of high quality and students have given their hundred percent for their thesis project which is quite tremendous.

Vice-chancellor SABS Prof. Dr. Bhai Khan Shar said that the students have worked very hard for completion of their projects and their efforts are of international level appreciated by visitors largely. He said that despite COVID-19 students worked day and night and their attachment towards pro-

fession depicts that their future is bright.

The topics which students of fine art Ayesha Siddika, Wajaha Shahid, Sara Shar, Maryam Inam, Abdul Jabbar Khan, Noorul Ain Nasir Khan, Pir Khan, Ali Hyder Rizvi and others selected for their paintings were "There are no facts only interpretations, touch to the antique, life in vague, an outcome, black hands white earring, born to eat, nostalgia, obscure nature, ambiguity, am I not speaker?, expedition, human connection, up in the smoke, essence of nature" and so on.

The Students of communication design Suneel Kumar, Luqman Yousuf, Komal Ali, Liaquat Ali, Kashmala, Rabab Zehra, Bahar Ali, Irfan, Suneeha Tahir, Hamza Hassan and others selected topics for their thesis were "Wild line, special people, a lost history of Balochistan, who am I?, Balochi doch, colour blind, creative counselling, the art therapeutic strategies, what we see?, the beauty of Balochistan" and so on.



HYDERABAD: Collector Customs Aamir Rasheed addressing a press conference about raids and seizure the illegal smuggled goods at Customs House.

India preparing for next phase of aggression in Kashmir: AJK President

ISLAMABAD: The President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, 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 a seminar 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.

He 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 had revealed by issuing new maps and through public statements made by their leaders time and again.

Referring to the situa-

tion in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and 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.



HYDERABAD: Advisor to Chief Minister of Sindh Nisar Ahmed Khoro being brief from students about their art work during 15th Degree show 2021 at University of Art, Design and Heritages, Jamshoro.