

### British MP urges all states to speak up against human rights violations in IOK

Islamabad: British lawmaker Debbie Abrahams, known for highlighting Kashmir issue, urged the international community to speak up against the grave human rights violation in the occupied



rights violations. After being deported from India on Monday, Abrahams, a Labour Party lawmaker who chairs a parliamentary group focused on Kashmir - All-Party Parliamentary Group for Kashmir (APPG) - arrived in Islamabad. During a press briefing alongside Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and British MP Imran Hussain, the lawmaker appreciated the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government for facilitating the APPG and hoped India would follow Pakistan's approach and allow them to visit. "We are not anti-India or pro-Pakistan. We are pro-human rights," she added.

## Solution to Kashmir dispute vital for peace in South Asia, Says PM

Islamabad: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday urged the international community to highlight India's crimes against humanity in occupied Kashmir, adding that a just and lasting solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute was essential for peace, security and stability in South Asia. The premier's remarks came during a meeting with a cross-party delegation of UK parliamentarians, led by Chair of All-Parties Parliamentary Kashmir Group Debbie Abrahams on Wednesday, Radio Pakistan reported.

Prime Minister Imran apprised the delegation of the dire human rights and humanitarian conditions in Indian-occupied Kashmir following New Delhi's move to strip the region of its special semi-autonomous status. He underscored that eight million Kashmiris were under a military siege for the past six months. The premier also highlighted the threat to peace and security posed by the Indian leadership's belligerent rhetoric and aggressive actions on the ground, adding that the Bharatiya Janata Party gov-

ernment's Hindutva ideology was squeezing the Kashmiris in occupied Kashmir on one hand and constricting space for India's minorities on the other. The prime minister voiced concern that India could resort to a "false flag" operation in order to divert international attention from its unacceptable actions in the occupied valley. He stressed that the international community had a responsibility to raise awareness about India's crimes against humanity, besides putting pressure on India for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir.

The premier also reiterated Pakistan's commitment to support the Kashmiri people in their struggle for justice and right to self-determination. He also commended the delegation's focus on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and noted the important contribution made by its earlier reports on the human rights situation in occupied Kashmir. He underscored that conflict arises mostly because of the

aggressiveness of the male-dominated societies but we must strive for the world where there is gender parity. The UNSG further said that

we have to make sure that we have the full use of the enormous potential that various technologies have to offer. UN chief urges world to 'show similar leadership as Pakistan has shown' "Digital economy, digital society, artificial intelligence (AI), genetic engineering all have enormous potential," he said also warning that if not used

wisely technologies can become a nightmare. Guteres stressed that technology will be a massive creator for jobs and will simulta-

neously be the reason for unemployment. "However, it will not be the same as they [companies] would need different capacity and different skills. For which education must be an absolute priority," he said stressing upon the need for education. The UN chief said we will also have to take decision in the context of climate

changes as the increasing pollution is the biggest issue. He also emphasized on dialogue between institutions. Later, he also wrote his com-

ments in the guest book. Earlier in the day, United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guteres had said despite inner problems Pakistan extended its support to Afghan refugees. "Afghan refugees are being hosted by Pakistan from past four decades with open heart" Antonio Guteres had said while expressing his

views in the International Conference on Afghan refugees in Islamabad. Starting his address with 'Aslam Alekum' the UN chief



### Bilawal Bhutto Zardari asks PM Imran Khan to tear IMF agreement

Islamabad: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking to the media on Wednesday in Islamabad said that he and his political party will not sit idly by as Pakistanis are dealing with



rising inflation, ARY News reported. The PPP chairman said that the opposition party demands that the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan tears away the written agreement between the government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The politician said that he was ready to work alongside the federal government to alleviate the burden of inflation from the masses. Answering a question with regards to the whereabouts of the leader of the opposition of the national assembly, Bilawal Bhutto said that he was hopeful for Shehbaz Sharif's triumphant return soon enough. While answering another question with regards to Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz's Vice-President Maryam Nawaz's persistent demand for flying abroad to meet his ailing father who battles life and death circumstances, the PPP chairman said that she should be allowed to travel and there should be no hindrance between a daughter and her sick father. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also

met his ailing father who battles life and death circumstances, the PPP chairman said that she should be allowed to travel and there should be no hindrance between a daughter and her sick father. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also claimed that Sindh was being treated unfairly by the federation due to its lack of support to the present regime. The PPP chairman said that the opposition party demands that the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan tears away the written agreement between the government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The politician said that he was ready to work alongside the federal government to alleviate the burden of inflation from the masses. Answering a question with regards to the whereabouts of the leader of the opposition of the national assembly, Bilawal Bhutto said that he was hopeful for Shehbaz Sharif's triumphant return soon enough. While answering another question with regards to Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz's Vice-President Maryam Nawaz's persistent demand for flying abroad to meet his ailing father who battles life and death circumstances, the PPP chairman said that she should be allowed to travel.

### MQM-P has never done politicking for assembly seats: Khalid Maqbool

Islamabad: Former federal minister for Information Technology, Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan's (MQM-P) Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Wednesday said that his party has never done politics for



government offices or assembly seats, ARY News reported. Speaking to the media today, the MQM-P leader said that he and his party held a separate viewpoint from the federal party to what the problems of the country are and what can be the possible solutions to them. Siddiqui said that the current regime has spent 1.5 years to take its decisions, he and his party are obligated to highlight the issues being faced by a common man.

### Premised on lab report, Sindh health dept issues advisory for soybean dust allergy

Karachi: The Sindh health department on Wednesday issued an advisory on soybean dust allergy, after 14 people from Karachi's Keamari area died while countless others were hospitalized due to reportedly inhaling toxic gas.



The International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) had advised the government to consider "exposure to soybean dust (aerallergens)" as a cause of breathing difficulties being faced by residents of Keamari area. In a letter sent to Karachi Commissioner Iftikhar Shalwani, ICCBS Director Iqbal Choudhary had said that the lab had examined blood and urine samples of people "exposed to toxic aerosols" as well as soybean dust samples collected from the port area. He had maintained that while the ICCBS was still deciphering the cause of this toxic exposure, the findings so far suggested that the symptoms being experienced by Keamari residents are a result of "overexposure to soybean dust". The advisory, a copy of which is available with

Dawn.com, stated that soybean allergy, is "a form of severe asthma which causes a severe asthma attack in persons who come into direct contact with soya dust" and "can cause severe anaphylactic shock and death in those who are already asth-

ple, a soy allergy is uncomfortable but not serious. "Rarely, can an allergic reaction to soy be frightening or even life threatening," it said, adding that signs and symptoms of a food allergy usually develop within a few minutes to hours after being exposed

to an allergen. According to the document, itching in the mouth, hives, swollen lips, face, tongue and limbs, wheezing or difficulty breathing, abdominal pain, diarrhea, and nausea or vomiting are some of the symptoms of a mild soy allergy. On the other hand, the symptoms of a severe allergic reaction include difficulty in breathing, caused by the throat swelling up, a drop in blood pressure, dizziness or unconsciousness, as well as drooling and an inability to swallow.

### Sindh governor directs full support to family of slain journalist Aziz memon

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Imran Ismail on Wednesday directed to provide every pos-



sible assistance and financial aid to the bereaved family of slain journalist, Aziz Memon, ARY News reported. Talking to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) parliamentary leader in Sindh

Assembly Hafeem Adil Sheikh, who called on him in Karachi, Governor Imran Ismail said assistance to the children of the assassinated journalist. Meanwhile, police have registered a murder case against five suspects on the behalf of Aziz Memon's brother. His brother, Hafeez Memon, told the police that he had seen his brother going with Owais Qureshi and four other people on that day and added that after three hours his body had been recovered from a canal in the area. Read More: Naushero Farooq, a club chief strangled to death. Earlier on February 16, President Mehrabpur Press Club Aziz Memon was strangled to death in Naushero Ferze district of the Sindh province.

### fuel shortage rumours trigger panic buying in Karachi

KARACHI: A panic-like situation was witnessed at petrol pumps in Karachi on Wednesday evening as rumours of an impending fuel shortage triggered panic buying among the city's residents. However, the state-run Pakistan State Oil (PSO) company insisted that it has "ample stock" available of fuel and that there is no need for people to panic. "We have sufficient stocks available and there is absolutely no issue of fuel supply," PSO spokesperson Imran Rana told Dawn.com. "We will not let Karachi dry. Every consumer will get the fuel," he added.

The development comes a day after PSO decided to temporarily close its oil terminals in Keamari to save its staff from getting affected by a toxic gas leak in the neighbourhood that has caused

### PDMA ill-equipped to deal with threats like toxic gas: CM Murad Ali Shah

KARACHI: The toxic gas leakage at the port area of Keamari, a private oil company in the country has started closing down these oil terminals situated

alongside the Keamari port area of Karachi due to the presence of dangerous toxic gas in the air. The persistent threat of toxic gas in the area near the Keamari port of Karachi has forced companies, institutes and individuals to take precautionary measures. The toxic gas leakage at the port area of

Keamari was made known to me by a local member of the provincial assembly, revealed Chief Minister of Sindh Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday, ARY News reported.



CM Sindh said that MPA Liaquat Askani had made him aware about the presence of a certain gas which to him had leaked from a vessel that had anchored down at the Karachi port. Shah said that something from the vessel was emitting the toxic pungent gas according to the MPA. Murad Ali Shah said that the Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMA) were ill-equipped to handle such a threat and that resulted in the deaths of 14 individuals thus far and left hundreds hospitalized with breathing problems. Shah said that the PDMA needs to prepare itself for









Malir: Vice President of Malir Press Club Sajjad Ali Chhajo present Sindhi Traditional gift of Sindhi Ajrak to Chairman DMC Malir Jan Muhammad Baloch.



Karachi: Group photo taken on the occasion of visit of DSP Javed Gulzar and SHO Liaqat Hayat to Liaqat Cloth Market. Chairman Abdul Rehman and others also seen in picture.

### Over 8263 cameras to be installed under safe city project in district West

KARACHI, Feb 20 (Pir-khunoori): Over 8263 CCTV cameras of 4 megapixels

will be installed within the limits of Pakistan Bazaar and other police stations under the safe city project by district West police.

The cameras will be installed at marriage halls, hotels, schools, mobile phone markets, petrol pumps, mosques, post offices, main roads and other important places. Spokesman to West Police told APP that the cameras would be installed with consultation and coordination of relevant stakeholders.

Besides, he said, a successful drive against current crime index. Last year, Karachi was listed at the 88th spot. In 2014, Karachi ranked 6th on the World Crime Index while the

### Children are the architects of the future, there should be no negligence in their character development: Sadia Rashid

KARACHI, (PR): Children are the future of Pakistan and in order to have a brighter and prosperous future of our country, we must not neglect the crucial stages of character building and mental development of our young minds, said Mrs. Sadia Rashid, Chairperson Hamdard Laboratories (Waqf) Pakistan, while delivering her keynote address at Naunehal Assembly meeting after generation of young minds," she said.

"It always gives us immense pleasure when former members of Naunehal Assembly and avid readers of Hamdard Naunehal, now serving in key offices in different organizations, come to us and share their experiences at Naunehal Assembly and reading Hamdard Naunehal while growing up as to how they were inspired and



motivated by these two iconic initiatives of Hakim Said to strive and achieve their goals and objectives. Indeed, it is a realization of the dream of founder Hamdard Pakistan that today many former pupils of Naunehal Assembly play significant roles in the socioeconomic uplift of Pakistan," she added.

Speaking on the occasion as a chief guest, a seasoned journalist and a prolific writer & poet, Mehmood Shaam paid rich tribute to Hakim Said over his accomplishments and service to Pakistan. He said "Shaheed-e-Pakistan Hakim Said's vision of educating the youth and building their character should be implemented all over Pakistan. Hakim Said followed the guidelines of Quaid-e-Kam with best of his abilities and established one of a kind education city named "Madinat-al-Hikmah" which will play important role in the prosperous future of Pakistan," he said. He

### Trend of double-digit rise in public debt stops

ISLAMABAD: The trend of a double-digit increase in Pakistan's total debt and liabilities has, for now, stopped as they increased



only 2% to Rs41 trillion in the past six months due to a relatively stable exchange rate and pause in building huge cash buffers. From July to December 2019, the country's total debt and liabilities increased to Rs41 trillion, an addition of Rs770 billion or 2% as compared to the June 2019 position, reported the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Monday. PTI govt to freeze power tariff for a year. However, where the overall pace of increase in debt and liabilities slowed down, the servicing of debt and liabilities increased significantly in the first half due to the high policy rate of 13.25% set by the SBP.

In June 2019, the total debt and liabilities had increased to Rs40.2 trillion, which was equal to 104.3% of the gross domestic product (GDP). By December 2019, the ratio came down to 94.1% of the projected GDP for fiscal year 2019-20. But it is still at a dangerously high level and unsustainable. Total debt and liabilities also include the public sector enterprises (PSEs)

### Karachi's ranking improves world crime index

Karachi (PR) President All City Tajir Itehad@Hammat Poonawala said that with efforts of Karachi Police, Rangers and other



Law Enforcement Agencies Karachi, once riddled with mugging and target-killing incidents, has seen an improvement in terms of crime rate, as per the global, survey-based organization Numbro, Numbro, which provides data on cities and prevalent living conditions around the world, put the city at the 93rd spot on its

### Stop politics over Kemari incident as it hurts business & economic activities: Agha Shahab

KARACHI: President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) Agha Shahab Ahmed Khan has said that everyone including the Federal, Provincial and Local Governments are doing politics over the Kemari incident which must stop as it is actually hurting the economic & business activities of Karachi and Pakistan.

"Any disruption in the activities at Karachi Port Trust (KPT) would obviously have a deep negative impact on the overall economic performance of Karachi as this port contributes the highest revenue to the national exchequer as compared to other ports," he added. In a statement issued, Agha Shahab, while expressing deep grief and sorrow over the sad demise of 14 people who died of suffocation in this incident, stressed that instead of doing politics over dead bodies of innocent people, a thorough investigation must be initiated and whosoever is responsible must be strictly punished.

He said that although it is widely being claimed since yesterday that it was being caused by soybean dust from a particular shipment, but it is highly unlikely as around 25 consignments arrive at KPT each year and no such incident has ever been reported. "Shifting the suspicious consignments to Port Qasim is not the solution hence there is a dire need to carry out a detailed forensic investigation and truth must emerge while the actual culprits responsible for this disaster must be strictly taken to task," he added.

### PPP not believes in victimization: Jam Ikramullah Dharejo

Karachi, 20 February: Sindh minister for Industries and Commerce & Cooperative Department and Anti-corruption Jam Ikramullah Dharejo has said that Pakistan Peoples Party does not believe in victimization of the opponents, we believe in fair justice. In Sindh, we are ensuring to eradicate corruption in the departments and hopefully Sindh Anti-Corruption will keep a vigilant eye on the activities of corrupt elements and will take action accordingly against them.



On this occasion Chairman Anti-corruption Muhammad Waseem Ahmed, Director Sohail Boloch and other officials were also present. It is to mention here that the said Complaint Cell/Help Line will work round the clock.

### In Pakistan, FDI surges 66% to \$1.56b in Jul-Jan FY20

KARACHI: Pakistan has recorded a notable growth in fresh foreign direct investment in projects related to oil and gas explo-



ration, power production and mobile phone services in recent months. The growth in investment, however, remains low compared to the existing potential as investors anxiously wait for consistency in economic policies before initiating new projects in the country. The inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) surged 65.7% to \$1.56 billion in first seven months (Jul-Jan) of the current fiscal year compared to \$943.6 million in the same period of last year, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported. Trend of double-digit rise in public debt stops. In January alone, the investment increased 52% to \$223.1 million compared to \$146.8 million in the

### Special Children Celebrate Spring Festival

Karachi, 20 February: Sindh Chief Secretary Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah joined the Special Children at Spring Festival celebrations organized by provin-



cial department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities at Education and Rehabilitation Center of Special Children at Gulistan-e-Johar Karachi on Wednesday. Addressing the ceremony, Mumtaz Ali Shah said it is matter of great honor for him to celebrate spring festival with special children. Appreciating the performances of kids at the festival, Chief Secretary Sindh said such kind of activities would help enhance the

abilities of special children. "I must applaud the teachers who trained the special kids to perform well. I am sure these teachers would strengthen the Department

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## UN chief concerned about discrimination against Muslims in India

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said he is concerned that "there is a risk of statelessness" for the two million people, mostly of Muslim origin excluded by the divisive Citizenship Amendment Act passed by the Indian parliament.

When asked if he was personally concerned about the rising discrimination against minorities in India, Mr Guterres exclaimed, "Of course" as it is pertinent that whenever nationality laws are changed, efforts are taken to avoid statelessness and to ensure that every citizen of the world is also a citizen of a country.

In an exclusive interview to Dawn News, the UN chief was asked about reports in the international media, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and recent fact-finding reports on Kashmir released in New Delhi, regarding torture, sexual abuse and incarceration of children as young as seven by the Indian military.

He said all these reports, including two by the UN High Commissioner, played an important role in "clarifying exactly what is happening" in Kashmir and "it is essential that these reports are taken seriously".

When asked by this scribe why the UN has failed to constitute a high-powered inquiry commission to go to the Indian occupied valley and investigate the atrocities committed there, the secretary general said: "Only the governing bodies of the UN or the Security Council can make that decision, but these

reports are credible, relevant and very important."

He was eager to acknowledge that the current structure of the UN

"We lived in a bipolar world, the rules were relatively clear. Today it is no longer bipolar, not yet multipolar. It is a kind of a chaotic world."



and veto power to only its five permanent member states were hampering the ability of the UN to deliver the very objective it was created for — conflict resolution. The rules-based system that came post-World War II was a result of a cohesion amongst western countries which is rapidly dissipating yet the top bureaucrat thought the UN was not threatened as much as it was challenged by this new reality.

In order to ensure increased efficacy of the UN, he felt the body had to be reformed to be made "more democratic, more open and more effective" and to be more representative of the multilateral world we live in today.

Power relations are unclear so we see situations of conflict to which many spoilers can do whatever they want because there is no way to create a minimum of order," he added. The world moderator felt that we live in a moment of paradoxes "on one hand, we need global responses to global problems, we need multilateral governance more than ever, yet we live in a chaotic world in which it is difficult to make things move forward. It is a challenge to which we must respond by reforming the UN".

Responding to the alleged ineffectuality of the UN by saying that "it does not rule the world" and that it was vital that countries "respect

UN Security Council resolutions", Mr Guterres implored that "all I have in my words. People all over the world are unhappy with the way that UN establishments are working and with the way that globalisation has left so many people behind".

When asked about the position of the United Nations regarding the Palestinian question, the UN secretary general responded that "our position has not changed", asserting that he remained committed to the two-state solution, with "two states living side by side". He said he believed that "these states should have borders based on the borders of 1967" and that "west Jerusalem should be the capital of Israel and that east Jerusalem should be the capital of Palestine", reaffirming that "this is our line and our line has not changed". Mr Guterres also affirmed that the UN stood ready to facilitate a dialogue between Israel and Palestine "based on international law and principles".

When asked about the UN contingency plans with regard to a greater refugee influx in Pakistan and delay in Afghan refugees' repatriation if the Afghan peace process falls through, and the withdrawal of US troops leaves a dangerous power vacuum leading to resurgence in the Afghan civil conflict, the world moderator said that "we don't have a contingency plan". He stressed that "there is an opportunity for peace" and that "Pakistan is playing a very important and positive role". He proclaimed that "we must do everything for peace in Afghanistan".

## Quarantined passengers disembark ship in Japan; new China coronavirus cases fall

Tokyo: Hundreds of people began disembarking a quarantined cruise ship off Japan on Wednesday as the death toll from the new coronavirus in mainland China passed 2,000 and the number of new cases in the country fell for a second straight day.

Around 500 passengers were due to disembark the virus-hit Diamond Princess docked at

Yokohama near Tokyo, public broadcaster NHK said, ending an ordeal that began when the ship was quarantined on February 3 after a former passenger was diagnosed with the virus in Hong Kong. There were also more promising signs out of China, where the National Health Commission reported the lowest daily rise in new infections since January 29, or 1,749 new confirmed cases. Hubei province — the epicentre of the outbreak — reported the lowest number of new infections since Feb 11.

The latest figures bring the total number of cases in China to over 74,000 and the total death toll to 2,004, three quarters of which have



occurred in the Hubei provincial capital of Wuhan. Six people have died outside mainland China, including a new fatality announced on Wednesday in Hong Kong.

The biggest concentration of infections outside of China was aboard the Carnival Corp-owned Diamond Princess, with more than 540 people infected out of about 3,700 passengers and crew on board when the quarantine was imposed. The United States has already flown back over 300 American evacuees from the ship and other countries are queuing up to collect their citizens, including an Australian flight due to arrive in Japan later on Wednesday.

"We were lucky. We booked a room with a balcony and a lounge area, but after being confined to this cabin I am very keen to get off this ship," Australian passenger Vicki Presland told Reuters. Only passengers who had tested negative for the virus and did not show symptoms during quarantine period would be allowed to leave the ship.

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## 'We're not treated very well by India': Trump raises doubts on trade deal before India visit

Washington: US President Donald Trump said the United States and India were working on a major trade deal, but he was not sure if it would be completed before the presidential election in November.

As Trump heads to India on his first official trip on Monday, negotiators have been trying for weeks to put together a limited accord giving the US greater access to India's dairy and poultry markets and lowering tariffs on other products.

But no breakthrough has yet been announced and a planned trip by United States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer was canceled, underlining the difficulties the sides face in narrowing differences ahead of Trump's visit.

"We can have a trade deal with India. We'll have it. I don't know if it'll be done before the election, but we'll have a very big deal with India," he said, in a transcript of remarks released by the White House.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has tried to build a personal rapport with Trump, is pulling out all the stops for his visit, hosting him next week in Modi's western home state of Gujarat for a reception in a cricket stadium.

"We're not treated very well by India, but I happen to like Prime Minister Modi a lot. And he told me we'll have 7 million people between

the airport and the event," Trump said, referring to a cash-for-cash deal for a "Hello Trump" rally in Ahmedabad, the main city in Gujarat



where he will begin the trip.

The United States is India's second largest trade partner after China, with their goods and services trade hitting a record \$142.6 billion in 2018.

Last year, the United States had a \$23.2 billion goods trade deficit in 2019 with India, its 9th largest trading partner in goods.

Since Trump took office in 2017, long-standing trade differences between the world's biggest democracies have come to the fore, with Trump calling India the tariff king.

The two have waded over everything from tariffs on farm goods to Harley Davidson motorcycles and price caps on medical devices and India's new rules on local data stor-

age.

India and the United States have built close political and security ties in recent years, with New Delhi turning into Washington as a top arms supplier, edging out traditional partner Russia.

Modi's cabinet was meeting on Wednesday to give formal clearance for a \$2.6-billion deal for two dozen military helicopters from U.S. defense firm Lockheed Martin.

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sides face in narrowing differences ahead of Trump's visit.

"We can have a trade deal with India, but I'm really saving the big deal for later on," Trump told reporters on Tuesday, outside Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland.

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## AG's reply in Justice Qazi Faez Isa case begins on sour note

ISLAMABAD: Attorney General Anwar Mansoor began his answer to a set of petitions challenging the filing of the presidential reference against Justice Qazi Faez Isa with some fireworks on Tuesday. Usually this does not go down well on a solemn occasion like a full court of the Supreme Court.

Taking exception to what the AG stated before the full court, the judges asked the highest law officer to withdraw the statement and dubbed it as "uncalled for" and "too serious". At the same time, they restrained the media from reporting on the matter. After the hearing, a number of lawyers described the incident as something done by the government team as part of a ploy.

The AG began by stating he realised that he had said something which was not pleasant for the bench. The mood at Courtroom No 1 suddenly turned sombre.

"This was uncalled for," reacted Justice Maqbool Bago. The AG replied that he would not add anything, but Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah observed the AG had made a "serious statement" and he should withdraw it.

"You are the state and if you have some issues or reservations, you can put it in writing instead of expressing it at the rostrum," observed Justice Umar Ata Bandial. "We (judges) function with the fullest confidence of the people."

Attorney General Anwar Mansoor replied: "All the judges will act fairly. I have full confidence in them."

Justice Bago again asked the AG to withdraw his remarks so that things proceed swiftly. "We don't want complications."

But the attorney general refused to retract the remarks. The court, however, asked the media not to publish the comments since the "AG has withdrawn them".

The AG then read out the preamble to the Constitution to establish the importance of an independent judiciary and how it should be secured. While citing a quote from a book that

"nothing can call nations to flourish like justice", he argued whether the perception that Justice Isa owned three offshore properties or the same have been financed by him were correct or not.

Anwar Mansoor said the judges who sit on the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) had been asked to verify whether the perception so created was true or not, adding these were only perceptions and not allegations.

The Attorney General emphasised that by sending the reference, no ultimate conclusion



had been or could have been drawn by the executive, including the president.

He cited the judges' oath and went on to argue that through this oath, a judge promises to act without fear or favour. "Does it mean that the motto of judges should be put to rest," wondered Justice Bandial. Subject matter: The AG then asked what the subject matter of the case was and whether it was an inquiry commenced before the SJC against the petitioner judge for determination of facts and would the apex court wish to proceed further in the matter.

Whether the petition under Article 184(3) of the Constitution is maintainable when an investigation is being made by the SJC on personal matters even if it relates to his fundamental rights, the AG wondered.

## PSL 2020 trophy unveiled at Karachi's National Stadium

Karachi: The HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2020 trophy was unveiled at the National Stadium in Karachi on Wednesday. The fifth edition of the PSL will be played from Feb 20 to March 22 in four cities — Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Multan.

"Incredible" interest PCB Chairman Mani while addressing media after the ceremony said the promise made by the board to the country was today being fulfilled with the entire PSL being staged in Pakistan.

He thanked Jahangir Khan for unveiling the trophy, saying the spirit of cricket mandates that "excellence should be recognised".

He said the ongoing year was "one of the heaviest seasons in Pakistan cricket's history", with a total of 190 matches having been played.

Mani said although the PCB still was going through a "transitional stage", its focus is "sim-

ply to make PCB a professional and highly efficient organisation working completely transparently".

He said the interest surrounding PSL 2020 had been "incredible" around the world, with more than 450 players registered to be considered for the event.

Although only 36 were chosen by the six franchises, "it reflects the confidence of the foreign teams to come and play in Pakistan".

Mani sought to reassure people who he said complain about the "inconvenience" and "expenses" of the league, saying these were short-term issues. He said in the long term the tournament will send a message to the world that "Pakistan is safe to play."

He said the PSL also promotes

domestic tourism, with thousands of visitors supporting the local economies of the cities where the matches are held.

Termining PSL Pakistan's "largest cricketing event", Mani revealed that the PCB plans to bid to host International Cricket Council (ICC) events between 2023 and 2031.

"We want to show the ICC that all the countries that Pakistan has the capability and depth to hold ICC events," he said, adding that the PCB will bid "aggressively" for the said events.

He also announced that the PCB hopes to hold PSL matches in Peshawar as well next year, if the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa completes the stadium being built for the purpose.

Peshawar Zalmi owner Javed Afridi thanked the media and the corporate sector for supporting the PSL teams. He said the franchisees had in a request to the president to grant Zalmi skipper Darren Sammy honorary citizenship of Pakistan and requested Mani to pursue it personally so that the application is approved.

Karachi Kings owner Salman Iqbal in his comments said they were waiting for the day when all PSL matches would be held in Pakistan, which has now arrived. He said the players will get to experience the true "home ground feeling" in this year's tournament.

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## Umar Sharif's daughter falls victim to illegal organ transplant racket

LAHORE: A joint team of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the Human Organ Transplant Authority (HOTA) on Tuesday raided the house of transplant surgeon Dr Fawad Mumtaz in Bahria Town.

When it transpired that known comedian Umar Sharif's daughter died from serious complications after he carried out her allegedly "illegal kidney transplant" at an undisclosed location in Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

Presently serving at the Lahore General Hospital, Dr Fawad was not allowed to bring an organ trade network in various parts of Punjab, an official told Dawn.

He said the team returned when it learnt that Dr Fawad had already left his home to avoid arrest.

The joint team of the FIA and the HOTA acted on a written complaint of Umar Sharif's son Jawad Umar, who said his sister Hira Sharif died in the wake of her illegal kidney transplant carried out by Dr Fawad Mumtaz. He said Dr Fawad charged Rs3.4 million for the organ transplant and took her to an undisclosed place in AJK where she

developed serious complications a week after the operation. He, however, did not say whether the family was aware that this was going to be an illegal transplant.

Mr Jawad alleged that his sister was brought to a private hospital at Raiwind Road in a life-threatening condition and she breathed her last on Monday night due to serious complications. He, however, expressed ignorance about the exact location, building or road where surgery on his sister was performed.

Following his application, HOTA formed a four-member committee to probe the allegations, the official said.

Umar Sharif was on a three-month visit to the United States.

"Faulty criminal justice system"

An official, who was privy to the entire process, said that the criminal record of transplant surgeon Dr Fawad and the network he was running to perform illegal organ transplant uninterceptedly was a 'slap in the face of faulty criminal justice system'.

He said Dr Fawad was nabbed in several criminal cases lodged in Faisalabad.



Stadium in Karachi on Wednesday. In what was the first-ever trophy unveiling ceremony for the tournament on Pakistani soil.

Squash icon Jahangir Khan brought the glittering trophy to the stadium before unveiling it alongside Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Ehsan Mani and other officials.

Captains of the PSL franchises and their owners were also present on the occasion.

The trophy has been designed by UK-based based Ottewill Silversmiths. It has a crescent and star representing Pakistan and multi-coloured strips of enamel representing the vibrant culture of the country.

The trophy will be used in all

The fifth edition of the PSL will be played from Feb 20 to March 22 in four cities — Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Multan.

"Incredible" interest PCB Chairman Mani while addressing media after the ceremony said the promise made by the board to the country was today being fulfilled with the entire PSL being staged in Pakistan.

He thanked Jahangir Khan for unveiling the trophy, saying the spirit of cricket mandates that "excellence should be recognised".

He said the ongoing year was "one of the heaviest seasons in Pakistan cricket's history", with a total of 190 matches having been played.

Mani said although the PCB still was going through a "transitional stage", its focus is "sim-

ply to make PCB a professional and highly efficient organisation working completely transparently".

He said the interest surrounding PSL 2020 had been "incredible" around the world, with more than 450 players registered to be considered for the event.

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