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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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SCO Secy General wishes success to Daily Islamabad Post

Japanese envoy greets Lt. General Nigar Johar

India trying to destabilize Pakistan: FM



Briefs

Proposal of lowering petroleum levy by Rs10 rejected

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Finance Ministry on Wednesday rejected a recommendation by Petroleum Division to reduce levy on petroleum products by 10 rupees.

According to sources, reduction of Rs10 in levy was recommended to provide relief to masses; however petrol pump owners strongly objected to the move and urged government not to reduce the levy.

Petrol pump owners were of the view that immediate reduction in levy will result in loss of around Rs1 million to already struggling petrol pumps due to coronavirus lockdown.

Earlier on June 26, government decided to revise the existing prices of petroleum products in view of the rising oil prices trend in the global market. The price of petrol was increased by Rs25.58 to Rs100.10 per litre, while price of High Speed Diesel (HSD) increased by Rs21.13 to Rs101.46 per litre.

On the other hand, the price of Light Diesel Oil (LDO) increased by Rs17.84 to Rs55.98 per litre and the price of Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO), has been increased by Rs23.50 to Rs59.06 per litre.

IHC rejects petition against fuel prices

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has declared the case inadmissible and said that pricing of petroleum products is the prerogative of the government.

According to details, the court of Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court Athar Minallah dismissed the petition against the increase in prices of petroleum products as inadmissible.

During the hearing, Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mian Aslam along with his lawyer Rao Abdul Rahim appeared before the court and argued that the prices were increased before the end of June without Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) summary as the government cannot legally raise prices without OGRA's recommendation. He said the government's hike in petroleum prices five days before the end of month was due to malice. Even today, there is nothing on the OGRA website regarding pricing, he argued.

Cabinet backs civil aviation reform process

Pilots with dubious credentials have been grounded forthwith. He said the pilots whose licenses were found to be suspicious have been terminated: Shibli

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Meeting of the Federal Cabinet was held in Islamabad on Wednesday with Prime Minister Imran Khan in the chair. The meeting discussed overall political and economic situation in the country. Briefing media after the cabinet meeting in Islamabad, Information Minister Senator Shibli Faraz said federal government has initiated a thorough process of reforms in Civil Aviation Authority and all airlines of the country to ensure trans-

parency in all procedures and licensing of pilots. The Information Minister said pilots with dubious credentials have been grounded forthwith. He said the pilots whose licenses were found to be suspicious have been terminated from service.

He said five employees of CAA have also been grounded till the process is completed. In addition, the CAA has been directed to start further action on fast track basis. He said degrees of all airline staff will be verified. The Minister said Prime

Minister strongly believes in meritocracy and transparency in all sectors. Senator Shibli Faraz said the cabinet deliberated on the report of Auditor General and expressed satisfaction that remarkable improvement has been made in procedures during this government. He said the cabinet also endorsed the decisions taken in ECC meeting of 25th of last month. The cabinet accorded approval to three agreements of hydro power projects.

Continued on Page 6

India trying to destabilize Pakistan

Shah Mahmood Qureshi talks to Ambassador Sadiq; says terrorists involved in Stock Exchange attack wanted to make people hostage

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said India has been continuously trying to destabilize Pakistan to divert attention from its own inter-

national chaos. In a statement, he said India is interfering in Balochistan province of Pakistan at the same time it is also adversely affecting peace efforts in Afghanistan. The Minister said he has apprised US Special Representative about Indian

intentions. Shah Mahmood Qureshi said terrorists involved in Stock Exchange attack wanted to make people hostage, but Pakistani security personnel successfully foiled their bid. He said India wants incidents of terrorism to divert world attention. He said it is India, which orchestrated the drama of Pulwama attack. Later talking to Pakistan's Special Envoy for Afghanistan in Islamabad on Wednesday, Shah Mahmood Qureshi said India can sabotage peace of the region to divert attention from its internal failures.

Continued on Page 6

UAE writes to Pakistan for verification of 54 pilots

"EASA has temporarily suspended PIA's authorisation to operate to the EU member states

DNA

ISLAMABAD: United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Wednesday wrote a letter to Pakistani authorities for verification of licenses of 54 pilots. According to the letter, UAE seeks information of licensing credentials of pilots to make air travel and safe and secure. Licenses of aircraft engineers working in the UAE will also be verified, it stated.

The European Union Air Safety Agency (EASA) has also suspended the authorisation for the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to operate in Europe for six months.

"EASA has temporarily suspended PIA's authorisation to operate to the EU member states for a period of 6 months effective July 1, 2020, with the right to appeal against this decision," a PIA statement said. Earlier, Federal Minister

for Aviation Gulam Sarwar Khan has said that the licenses of 262 pilots are 'suspicious' or 'doubtful', including 141 captains of PIA, 10 captains of Serene Air and 9 captains of Air Blue. Inquiries have been completed against 128 pilots while 148 have been grounded. Five officers who issued fake licenses have also been suspended and all these recruitments were made during the last two terms.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs Cabinet meeting. - DNA

Shibli greets Lt. Gen Nigar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz on Wednesday congratulated first female Pakistani lieutenant general Nigar Gohar. Tagging a news item from an English daily, the minister said in a tweet: "Congratulations to first female Pakistani to achieve this milestone. Proud of women of our nation". The announcement of her promotion as lieutenant general was made by DG ISPR yesterday who also said that the officer has also been appointed as the first female surgeon general of the Pakistan Army.

Indian envoy summoned over LoC violations

The Indian occupation forces along the LoC and the Working Boundary (WB) have been continuously targeting civilian populated areas with artillery fire

NEHAL MIRAZ

ISLAMABAD: Indian Charge d'Affaires Gaurav Ahluwalia was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday to register Pakistan's strong protest over the ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC) on 29th and 30th June 2020, resulting in shahadat of one and serious injuries to five innocent civilians.

Due to indiscriminate and unprovoked firing by the Indian occupation forces in Kayani and Jura sectors of the LoC, on 29th and 30th June 2020, 16 year old Muhammad Taheed s/o Muhammad Ismail, resident of Talwari village embraced shahadat; and 2 year old Azad Ahmed s/o Mushahid Ibrahim, 6 year old Aneesa Waqas d/o Muhammad Waqas, 28 year old Siraj Din s/o Nizam Din, 16 year old Sarmad Akram s/o Muhammad Akram and 42

year old Abdul Qayyum s/o Junaid Ali sustained serious injuries, (all injured are residents of Falakan village). The Indian occupation forces along the LoC and the Working Boundary (WB) have been continuously targeting civilian populated areas with artillery fire, heavy-caliber mortars and automatic weapons. This year, India has committed 1546 ceasefire violations to date, resulting in 14 shahadats and serious injuries to 114 innocent civilians.

PTI Govt wants Asif Zardari dead, says Bilawal

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Zardari has accused the incumbent government of wanting to kill his father, former President Asif Ali Zardari.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore, he said that the Prime Minister is too afraid to address the National Assembly in our presence. He also challenged the Prime Minister to have a debate with him if he dares to do so. Bilawal Zardari said that the government has turned every crisis it faced in the past two years into a catastrophe. He said that the sudden price increase in petrol is an attempt to rob the already impoverished public, while nothing has been done to deal with the coronavirus since day one. Bilawal said that the PTI government was intensifying the country's problems instead of fixing them. He accused the government of using Mafias as front men, benefiting the rich in the name of the poor. The rising petroleum prices will further increase inflation, he added.

Japanese envoy greets Nigar



SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: MATSUDA Kuniori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, has extended his heartfelt congratulations to Lieutenant General Nigar Johar for becoming the Pakistan army's first female officer to be promoted to that rank, saying this should indeed be a moment of pride and inspiration for all Pakistani women. Ambassador MATSUDA commented on Wednesday, "my heartfelt congratulations to Lt Gen Johar and her family for achieving this milestone and making history. This is indeed a great inspirational success story for all the Pakistani women who must feel pride and encouragement for pursuing their dreams." The Ambassador further stated that empowering women is one of the most important

tasks in Japan and that we are seeing an increase in the number of female members of Japan's Self-Defense Forces. In addition to Lt Gen Johar's achievement, the Ambassador congratulated Pakistan's efforts on promoting women's empowerment in various fields of society. "We have been extending support and cooperation to the Government of Pakistan as well as to the private institutions by funding projects such as girls' education, women's skill development and vocational training and so on," added the Ambassador. Ambassador MATSUDA reiterated his resolve that the Government of Japan would continue extending support to further empower and strengthen the Pakistani women as their effective participation in the progress and development of the country is very pivotal.

No protocol at airports

The SOPs that came into immediate effect on July 1 will be implemented until August 31

DNA

KARACHI: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on Wednesday issued standard operating procedures (SOPs) for domestic, chartered and private flights to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The SOPs that came into immediate effect on July 1 will be implemented until August 31. According to the SOPs: No person, except passengers and airport staff, shall be allowed to go beyond the parking area; Passengers shall be dropped by drivers at the entrance to domestic departures; No protocol will be allowed at airports; Airport Managers shall ensure people practice social distancing at every stage of the departure formalities; A domestic passenger health declaration form will be given to all travellers and flight crew to fill out necessary health and travel details before boarding.

Inside...

Karachi shipyard & engineering works building indigenous platforms for Navy - Page 02

Indian hegemonic designs sabotaged opportunity for economic cooperation - Page 03

Ehsaas payment Centers closed only for Wednesday: Dr. Nishtar - Page 04

Myth of India's Military Muscle Shattered Between Balakot and Ladakh - Page 05

Lionel Messi joins 700 club with a panenka - Page 06

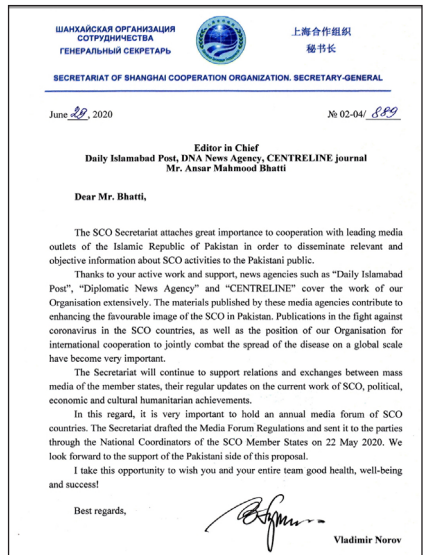
Hong Kong marks hand-over anniversary under shadow of security law - Page 07

SCO Secy Gen wishes success to Islamabad POST

The Secretariat will continue to support relations and exchanges between mass media of the member states, their regular updates on the current work of SCO, political, economic and cultural humanitarian achievements

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization Vladimir Norov has wished the team of Daily Islamabad Post success in a letter written by Vladimir Norov, Secretary General of the SCO and the Editor-in-Chief of Daily Islamabad Post Anzar Mahmood Bhatti. The secretary general wrote that the SCO Secretariat attaches great importance to cooperation with leading media outlets of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in order to disseminate relevant and objective information about SCO activities to the Pakistani public. Thanks to your active work and support, news agencies such as "Daily Islamabad Post", "Diplomatic News Agency" and "CENTRELINE" cover the work of our Organisation extensively. The materials published by these media agencies contribute to enhancing the favourable image of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the SCO countries. The Secretariat attaches great importance to cooperation with leading media outlets of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in order to disseminate relevant and objective information about SCO activities to the Pakistani public. Thanks to your active work and support, news agencies such as "Daily Islamabad Post", "Diplomatic News Agency" and "CENTRELINE" cover the work of our Organisation extensively. The materials published by these media agencies contribute to enhancing the favourable image



of the SCO in Pakistan.

The letter further added that publications in the fight against coronavirus in the SCO countries, as well as the position of our Organisation for international cooperation to jointly combat the spread of the disease on a global scale have become very important. The letter said the Secretariat will continue to support relations and exchanges between mass media of the member states, their regular updates on the current work of SCO, political, economic and cultural humanitarian achievements. In this regard, it is very important to hold an annual media forum of SCO countries. The Secretariat drafted the Media Forum Regulations and sent it to the parties through the National Coordinators of the SCO member States on 22 May 2020. We look forward to the support of the Pakistani side of this proposal. The Secretary General SCO Vladimir Norov wished the team good health, well-being and success.

Facebook bans hundreds of accounts

DNA

NEW YORK: Facebook on Tuesday announced that it had banned a violent anti-government network loosely associated with the broader "Boogaloo" movement, a slang term supporters use to refer to a second US civil war or a collapse of civilisation. But the platform did not try to name the group, underscoring the difficulty of grappling with an amorphous network linked to a string of domestic terror plots that appears to obfuscate its existence.

Briefs

Fake licensed pilots' list presented in Cabinet

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A list of pilots having fake license on Wednesday has been presented in Federal Cabinet meeting presided over by Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan.

According to details, the pilots are likely to be sacked from their jobs as per the strategy discussed by the participants of the cabinet. An increase in the pensions of Employees Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) pensioners is also expected. The meeting is scheduled to present a visitor policy regulatory framework for Iran, Iraq and other countries.

Young boy martyred by unprovoked Indian firing

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A young boy was martyred by unprovoked aggression by the Indian Army in the Lipa Sector along the Line of Control (LoC) late last night (Tuesday) said the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Wednesday. In a statement, the ISPR said that the Indian Army had resorted to indiscriminate firing that targeted the civilian population in the sector, which resulted in the martyrdom of a young boy. Pakistan Army responded effectively to Indian firing targeting those posts which initiated fire.

"Indian troops unprovoked ceasefire violation targeting civil population used Artillery, Mortars and heavy weapons," the press release added.

Inflation edges up to 8.6pc in June

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate edged up slightly to 8.6 per cent year-on-year in June, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics said in its monthly report published on Wednesday. The rate was 8.22pc year-on-year in May. Prices of eggs, tomatoes, wheat, flour, fresh vegetables and chicken increased in June, the bureau said. Petroleum prices that had fallen sharply in previous weeks shot up again last week across the country, a factor that will have its impact in next month's CPI. The average inflation rate currently stands at 10.74pc in outgoing fiscal year 2019-20 that ended June 30. The CPI peaked in January, registering 14.56pc year-on-year.

Govt releases Rs 2,790.913 mln for power projects

ISLAMABAD: The government has released an amount of Rs 2,790.913 million for various power projects under annual Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for fiscal year 2019-20. According to the data of Planning Commission, an amount of Rs 35,156.212 million was allocated for various power sector projects in the fiscal year 2019-20. — APP

Karachi shipyard & engineering works building indigenous platforms for Navy

The Gun Boat possessing stealth features, armor protection and capable of achieving high speed will be indigenously designed by Pakistan Navy, while its construction will be undertaken by KS&EW



Managing Director Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KS&EW), Rear Admiral Ather Salem and Director General Munitions Production, Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Qaiser Janjua during Contract signing ceremony of indigenously designed Gun Boat and Tugs for Pakistan Navy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The contract signing ceremony of indigenously designed Gun Boat and Tugs was held at Ministry of Defence Production. The Managing Director Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KS&EW), Rear Admiral Ather Salem and Director Gen-

eral Munitions Production, Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Qaiser Janjua signed the contracts. Maj General Akif Iqbal, Additional Secretary Defence Production and Rear Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) were also present at the occasion. The Gun Boat possessing stealth features, armor protection and

capable of achieving high speed will be indigenously designed by Pakistan Navy, while its construction will be undertaken by KS&EW. Additionally, 02 x Tugs equipped with state of the art machinery, adept to operate in rough weather and capable to conduct salvage operations will also be constructed. Speaking at the occasion, MD

KS&EW highlighted that projects are manifestation of indigenization and self-sufficiency in defence ship building. He also underlined that presently various vessels are under construction at KS&EW including MILGEM Corvette, Fast Attack Craft (Missile) and tugs for Pakistan Navy and Maritime Patrol Vessel for Pakistan Maritime Security

Agency. Director General Munitions Production appreciated the management and workforce of KS&EW for ensuring successful and timely delivery of vessels in the past while ensuring highest quality international standards. The ceremony was attended by various officials from Ministry of Defence Production and Pakistan Navy.

Opposition's 'hypocrisy' won't work: Haleem Adil

ISLAMABAD: Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) of Sindh Assembly (SA) from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Haleem Adil Sheikh Wednesday assured that corrupt politicians will face the music as the incumbent government is committed to fulfill its promise to restore fair system in the country. Talking to a private news channel, Haleem Adil Sheikh said his government would condemn PPP and PML-N's politics of 'hypocrisy' as both the parties had plundered national wealth but now this corrupt

mafia would not be able to mislead public any more. He said past corrupt politicians have now joined hands against government in the name of democracy and blaming the incumbent government did nothing for the welfare of the people. The prime minister Imran Khan would not compromise with any person involved in plundering national exchequer, he said. He said the PTI government had come into power with clear mandate and Imran Khan as a party head would never compromise with corrupt elements.

Corrupt mafia wanted to blackmail government over current economic crisis but their politics of hypocrisy would not work more, he added. He said his government will not make any compromise on corruption and will not enter into any deal with those who looted, plundered and laundered the public money abroad. The opposition parties of PML-N and PPP, he said, were crying fake slogans that democracy was in danger only because their own political future was at stake.

While they had no leadership and no agenda for the country's betterment, he said, adding, the political journey of Nawaz Sharif and Asif Zardari was now over, he added. People have rejected those filled their pockets with looted money in the last general elections, he mentioned. Haleem Adil said that now no more corrupt politician would be able to mislead the nation and these plunderer politicians have broken the records of corruption in the past under the garb of democracy. — APP

Gwadar future hub of world trade: Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Wednesday said that Gwadar is future hub of world trade and investors from Egypt can benefit from this opportunity. He further said that the Senate of Pakistan is ready to provide any support needed in coordination with provincial governments or relevant departments. He made these remarks in a meeting with Egyptian Ambassador Tarek Dahroug who called on him here at the Parliament House, said a news release. The Chairman said that Egyptian investors can invest in the areas of fisheries, livestock, minerals, services sector and others. He said that Egypt has been a centre of ancient civilization, culture and traditions and is a very important part of the global community due to its rich history. He said that Pakistan attaches huge importance to its ties with Egypt who are deeply rooted in history due to common religion as well as shared values and traditions. He said that steps need to be taken to establish relations on level of masses as well as Parliaments by increased Parliamentary exchanges and diplomacy. Chairman Senate also told the ambassador about the initiative of International Parliamentarians' Congress and extended an invitation to Egyptian Parliamentarians to become a part of this unique forum. He also emphasized upon enhancing the collaboration between two countries in the field of education and called for more opportunities for students of both countries to study in the other as students can serve as the best cultural ambassadors for any state and this will also help in further cementing the relationship. The Chairman invited Chairman of Egyptian Majlis e Nawab to visit Pakistan along with Parliamentary and business delegations to explore avenues of cooperation. — APP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from Facebook held a virtual meeting with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to discuss the Citizens Protection (Against Online Harm) Rules 2020, and to propose recommendations as part of an ongoing consultation process. In the meeting, Facebook representatives highlighted that the rules should: strive for greater transparency on content restricted in Pakistan; preserve citizens' right to freedom of expression as guaranteed under Pakistan's Constitution; incorporate due process requirements; and develop an independent oversight mechanism as required by PECA.

No. of virus recoveries cross 100,000 mark

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The number of recoveries in Pakistan crossed the 100,000 mark as 2,299 more patients were cured from the virus, the government's Covid-19 portal said. The total number of recovered cases in the country is now 100,802, while 2,741 patients are in a critical state. Meanwhile, Pakistan has confirmed 91 deaths in a single day by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 213,249. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 4,395. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 4,133 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Sindh has become the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Till now 84,640 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 76,262 in Punjab, 26,598 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 10,476 in Balochistan, 12,912 in Islamabad, 1,489 in Gilgit-Baltistan and 1,093 in Azad Kashmir.

AIU announces autumn admission date

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University Wednesday announced to offer first phase of Autumn semester admissions, 2020 from July 15. The students would get admission forms from the main campus as well as all regional centres/ campuses across the country. The forms will also be available online. According to Director Admissions of the University, Mian Muhammad Riaz, in the first phase of Autumn semester, the university is going to offer admissions in Matric, FA (general), FA (Daras-e-Nizami), BS/Msc (face-to-face), MS, M.Phil and PhD programmes however, overseas students could get admission only in Matric, FA, and bachelor programmes. It is to mention here that Allama Iqbal Open University offers admissions in different courses for aspiring students based in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, and America. He said that as per the directives of Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Zia-ul-Qayyum, all regional offices/centres have been directed to open a sale points within their premises wherefrom the desiring students can get the admission forms. Moreover, each regional office/centre will also establish information desk where students will be facilitated in downloading/ filling online computerized admission forms. The Director further informed that admission forms for Matric, FA (general), and FA (Darase-Nizami) will be available online till September 4, whereas those desiring for admission into BS/ MSc(face-to-face), MS, M.Phil and PhD programmes will get the admission forms downloaded till 19 August. — APP



FAISALABAD: A beautiful bird preparing nest on tree of dates. — APP

Chashma Plant Unit-4 makes history

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) Wednesday announced that its Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit-4 has made a new record in Pakistan's history by running for a year continuously, becoming the first electricity generation plant of the country to achieve this milestone. Previously, Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit-2 (Chashma-2), held the record of running for continuous 302 days. Member Power of PAEC Mr. Saeed-ur-Rahman, while making the announcement, said that, "This unique record of efficient and safe

operations of Chashma-4 bespoke the acumen and hard work of PAEC's teams of technicians, scientists and engineers." PAEC operates four nuclear power plants at Chashma, near Mianwali, that collectively generate about 1330 megawatts of electricity. Currently Chashma Power Plants (C-1 to C-4) are producing electricity at an average tariff of Rs. 11.16/kWh, while operating at above 95% of Capacity Factor. PAEC's Karachi Nuclear Power Plants (KANUPP)-2 and 3 are expected to connect to the national grid by the

end of next year. KANUPP-2 and 3 shall add another 2200 megawatts of sustained electricity to the grid, said a news release issued here. On this historic achievement, Chairman of PAEC Mr. Muhammad Naeem congratulated Member Power and his team at Chashma-4 for achieving this milestone of continuous operations and ensuring all safety parameters even in the difficult time of Covid-19 pandemic. He said that PAEC has an enviable 48 years operational experience since its KANUPP-1 was connected to the national grid in 1972.

Buzdar takes notice of harassment incident

"Action against the accused should be taken in accordance with the law," said CM Buzdar. He added that the affected students will be provided justice at any cost

DNA

LAHORE: A day after a Lahore private school fired four employees, including a teacher, accused of sexually harassing multiple female students, Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar took notice of the incident on Wednesday. The chief minister directed CCPO Lahore to carry out an impartial inquiry into the incident, adding that harassment of students will not be tolerated at any cost. "Action against the accused should be taken in accordance with the law," said CM Buzdar. He added



that the affected students will be provided justice at any cost. On Tuesday, four employees of a private school in Lahore, including a teacher, were sacked by the administration after they were accused of sexually harassing female students. Numerous students said that they were being harassed since 2016 but had decided to report the incidents to the management after it became unbearable. According to the school administration, the four persons against whom the complaint was lodged include a chemistry teacher, an administrative officer, an accountant and a janitor.

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Briefs

PAL organize Online New Generation Mushaira

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) in collaboration with Inter-University Consortium and Islamia University, Bahawalpur organized "Online New Generation Mushaira" in which students from 30 different universities of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Azad Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan participated and presented their creations online. Dr Yousuf Khushk, Chairman, PAL, said that the PAL would continue to play an active role in maintaining literary activities in this epidemic situation. Holding the "New Generation Mushaira" will provide opportunities for our new generation to move forward. He said that the PAL would continue to organize such programs in the future to encourage the young generation. Dr Engineer Athar Mehbob, Vice-Chancellor, Islamia University, Bahawalpur was the Chief Guest. He said that along with higher education in the new generation, creating interest in poetry and literature is also an important need of the day. Dr Mehbob said that despite the fears of a deadly epidemic like Corona, the Pakistan Academy of Letters fully cooperated.

Police search operation, three drug dealers arrested

DNA

ATTOCK: Police conducted a search operation in various police stations across the district to maintain law and order. During the search operation, three drug dealers were arrested and 4 kg 700 grams were recovered from their possession, according to the District Police Officer. Attock police is conducting search operations in the district on the special instructions of Attock Syed Khalid Hamdani. The search operations were carried out in different areas of Attock police station, Attock Khurd police station and Basal police station. A large contingent of Punjab Police and elite force participated in the search operations in which search was conducted under full SOPs. Search Operations During the search operation in Sultani, 61 families were checked and biometric verification of 161 persons was done. During the search operation, the team of Basal police station recovered 2250 grams of chairs from three drug dealers, Zeenat Ali, 1350 grams of chairs from Gulam Haider and 1100 grams of chairs from Kamran Sajjad and registered separate cases against the accused.

IRSA releases 313,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 313,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 332,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1463.06 feet, which was 77.06 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 152,400 cusecs and outflow as 160,000 cusecs. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1217.00 feet, which was 177.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 46,300 cusecs and 20,000 cusecs respectively. — APP

Indian hegemonic designs sabotaged opportunity for economic cooperation

It's certainly not the time to fight but to enhance geo-strategic cooperation for the wellbeing of people in the region," Saadat said, adding that the pandemic is a non-traditional challenge for all the countries in the region

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Indian hegemonic designs have sabotaged the opportunity to enhance regional economic cooperation and integration being felt in the wake of COVID-19 and has made the situation in South Asian region more volatile putting the socio-economic wellbeing of millions of people as well as the peace and stability in the region at stake. These views were expressed by the experts, scholars and academics at an online dialogue titled: "South Asia: Regional Stability and Security amid COVID-19" organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) here on Wednesday.

Highlighting the importance of broader regional and global cooperation to fight the pandemic, Air Chief Marshal (ret'd) Kaleem Saadat, President of Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), expressed his dismay over the situation and said despite UNICEF's immediate call for global ceasefire, the conflicts in Yemen, Syria and Indian occupied Kashmir remained unabated and the tension between India and China at Ladakh border has further deteriorated the situation. "It's certainly not the time to fight but to enhance geo-strategic cooperation for the wellbeing of people in the region," Saadat said, adding that the pandemic is a non-traditional challenge for all the countries in the region

but the Indian government is not ready to give peace a chance to flourish whereas it is heightening the tension with all of its neighbors. Prof. Dr Guo Xuetang, Department of International Relations, Shanghai University of International Business and Economics, highlighting various dimensions of the geo-political situation in South Asia, said that South Asia has become hotspot of the international conflicts. He further said that China doesn't want war and instead, its policy revolves around regional and international development. Indian nationalism, which carries hateful and hostile sentiments against China, is dangerous for the regional peace and

stability, he said and added that talks with Indian authorities for the de-escalation of tension are going on, but the attitude of Indian government is a big impediment for the peace. Earlier, SDPI Executive Director Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri stressed the need for regional cooperation to deal with the pandemic effectively. In the best-case scenario, he argued, the regional countries should have learnt from China how to cure and control the disease. But, unfortunately, we are observing worst case scenario where three countries of the region, i.e. China, Pakistan and Nepal, are facing the hostile maneuvers of the Indian government. "The locust swarm and COVID-19 are two unprecedented

challenges that regional countries are facing," Dr Suleri said and added that no country could respond to such massive challenges in isolation, therefore, resorting to regional cooperation is need of the hour. Brig. (ret'd) Dr Saif Malik, Director, India Study Centre at Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), opined that India has proved it time and again that it's a big regional country by the size but small by heart. He said that the jingoistic approach of the Indian government is having far-reaching negative impacts upon India itself and the entire region. He said that the sad part of this approach is that the Indian government has tried to take advan-

tage of COVID-19 and passing special controversial laws against Kashmir and Indian citizens. Dr Sylvie Matelly, Assistant Director, Institut de Relations Internationales et Stratégiques (IRIS), France, was of view that COVID-19 has affected all the spheres of life from human health to economy and has worsened the situation of inequalities at various levels. The escalation of the localized secondary conflicts reflects the patterns that were witnessed by us during the Cold War era. She said that the economic situation of various countries in South Asia amidst COVID-19 provides us something to be optimistic that it would push the regional economies for an enhanced cooperation.



RAWALPINDI: Traffic police warden removing Suzuki wrongly parked at Katchery Chowk. — APP

'We move towards a human rights apocalypse in IOK'

SHUJAAT HAMZA

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan has said that the worst human rights violations in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) and the silence of the United Nations over it indicates that the world body has been side-lined in the dispute over Kashmir. "The United Nations has been side-lined in the dispute over Kashmir... (and as such) we are moving towards a human rights apocalypse in the Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir." He made these remarks in an interview with the International news web portal, Byline Times. The President said that in its resolutions, the UN Security Council has emphatically stated that Kashmir is a disputed region, and its future is to be decided through a



free and impartial plebiscite in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people, but in violation of these resolutions, India has been denying right to self-determination to the Kashmiri people for the last seven decades. Khan urged the OIC and sub-state members of the international community to stop India from implementing its next phase of Hindu settler colonial project in Muslim-majority Kashmir, in defiance of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions numbered 47, 51,

80, 96, 98, 122 and 126, which determine that the final status of the disputed territory "will be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations". "For the past seven decades, India has defied these resolutions in denying eight million Kashmiri Muslims the right to determine their own future by maintaining military control over the territory while granting semi-political autonomy to the local population," Khan said. He added that on 5 August 2019, however, New Delhi suddenly revoked this symbolic status by signaling its intent to illegally annex the territory and launch its Hindu settler colonial project, and illegally incorporated the disputed territory into Indian union and announced to settle Hindu citizen there.

RCCI felicitates Iftikhar Ali Malik

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Saboor Malik and group leader Sohail Altaf has felicitated Iftikhar Ali Malik on assuming charge as the President of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry. During a visit to the FPCCI building in Islamabad, President Saboor Malik and group leader Sohail Altaf presented a bouquet to Iftikhar Ali Malik. On this occasion, President RCCI said that it was an honor for Pakistan that a prominent businessman has been elected as President of the SAARC Chamber for a term of two years. He said that Iftikhar Malik would continue to serve the business community with his key capabilities to promote trade and industry in South Asia. Group Leader Sohail Altaf said that it was a matter of pride for the United Business Group that UBG Chairman was elected President of SAARC Chamber.

DIG Wisal Fakhir Sultan visits Sector N5

Special emphasis should be placed on all officers to perform their duties

QAZI SHOEB

KAMRA: A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Hazro (Representative Nawa-e-Waqt) DIG Muhammad and Sal Fakhir Sultan at National Highways and Motorways Police Sector N5 North Operational Camera, Attock Khurd in which Sector Commander

and all BAT Commanders participated. In the meeting, Sector Commander North Jawad Shah gave a briefing on the performance and operational affairs of the sector. On the occasion, the DIG directed the officers and employees of all sectors to take special precautionary measures to prevent the spread of Corona (COVID-19) in

the country. Regarding the violations on National Highways, the DIG asked the officers in all sectors to take action against illegal encroachments. He expressed these views while visiting Kamra and Attock Khurd. Temporarily suspend or cancel their route permits for continuous lane violations and revoke the licenses of habitual

reckless drivers. Cancel and brief motorcyclists on the importance of helmets and arrange for free distribution of helmets. Finally, special emphasis should be placed on all officers to perform their duties in good faith and honesty and to treat road users with high morals and ensure their safety, better transportation and timely assistance.

PTI official congratulates new President SAARC CCI

Fehmida said Iftikhar Malik has an extensive exposure in the Asia Pacific region and it is very much likely under his tenure Pak may be taken strong footage in the SAARC region in the account of regional trade

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Vice President Fehmida Kausar Jamali congratulates Iftikhar Ali Malik, a veteran trade leader who took over as the new President of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI). Fehmida said Iftikhar Ali Malik has an extensive exposure in the Asia Pacific region and it is very much likely under his tenure Pakistan may be taken strong footage in the SAARC region in the

account of regional trade. The South Asian countries commonly feature high concentration of economic activity in larger cities, vast untapped potential and excellence in apparel industry, struggle in attracting investment within the region, less participation in products of high value and ICT — the world largest and fastest growing industry, limited success in global and regional value chain, low productivity coupled with weak management capabilities. As a way forward, SAARC CCI has a pivotal role to play under the steward-



ship of Iftikhar Ali Malik in narrowing down difference of opinion of south Asian chambers, bringing the much-needed reconciliation, policy advocacy and lobbying through deeper understanding among members. She said the new world order after COVID-19 has opened up new opportunities for business communities in the world and especially towards the integration of South Asian economies. As of today COVID-19 and climate change are two common issues faced by all South Asian

countries. She also hoped President Iftikhar Malik and the new team of SAARC CCI to start a fruitful dialogue among South Asian chambers with a view to take a joint action to help South Asian industries make use of opportunities arising out of both COVID-19 and climate change. It may also mentioned here Iftikhar Malik a third Pakistani to head SAARC Chamber of Commerce while two other businessmen from Pakistan also held this office SM Inam from 1993-1995 and Tariq Sayeed from 2008-2010.

Regional Director AIOU Attock transferred

MUNIR FAISAL

ATTOCK: Regional Director Allama Iqbal Open University Attock will be remembered for his outstanding services to the education department. Regional Director Allama Iqbal Open University Attock has been transferred to Mianwali District. During his five-year tenure at Attock, he carried out university-related affairs efficiently, and due to his most effective strategy, there was a marked increase in the number of students in the admission campaign. He had a unique position in adopting methods and attracting the use of modern means of education. During his deployment in Attock, he devoted his special efforts and personal interest to the Allama Iqbal Open University campus in the heart of Attock. Allocated space which will also be formally started after some time, in backward areas during deployment in Attock district. Take all possible steps to strengthen the roots of distance education system, Controller Examinations Allama Iqbal Open University Dr. Tauqeer Ahmad Malik, Coordinator Open University Pindi Gheb Prof. Hafiz Abdul Ghaffar, Prof. Majid Wasim, Headmaster High School No. 1 Pindi Gheb Tahir Altaf, Section Incharge Waqas Baig, Hafizullah Malik Jund and several other dignitaries from the academic circles have expressed their hope for Malik's services to the education sector through Allama Iqbal University. The newly appointed Regional Director Aftab Ahmed will also continue his efforts for the betterment of the distance education system with the same dedication., Headmaster High School No. 1 Pindi Gheb Tahir Altaf, Section Incharge Waqas Baig, Hafeezullah Malik Jund and several eminent personalities from the academic circles providing services to the education department through Amanullah Malik's Allama Iqbal University. The newly appointed Regional Director Aftab Ahmed will continue to work hard for the betterment of the distance education system with the same dedication., Headmaster High School No. 1 Pindi Gheb Tahir Altaf, Section Incharge Waqas Baig, Hafeez ullah Malik Jund and several dignitaries from academic circles rendered services to the education department through Amanullah Malik's Allama Iqbal University. The newly appointed Regional Director Aftab Ahmed will continue to work hard for the betterment of the distance education system with the same.

Experts term facilitation as a key to boost e-commerce

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: E-commerce offers huge scope and potential for Pakistani markets. However, the right policy reforms and facilitations by the government could play a key role in tapping the real potential of this crucial component of the business and trade. The representatives from public & private sector and civil society organizations said this while sharing their views with the participants at online dialogue 'E-commerce-the scope and facilitation' organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Insti-

tute (SDPI) here. Ms Hussan Bano Burki, Chief of Party at USAID supported Pakistan Regional Economic Integration Activity (PREIA), on the occasion said that timely implementation of e-commerce policy could enable Pakistani market to get benefitted from the opportunities in the digital space that is available to local and foreign firms. Ms Burki said that we need to strengthen the spirit of public private dialogue to reach at the better understanding of diverse perspectives and to have a shared vision for e-commerce reforms that are required.

Sugar mills case hearing on 2nd

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court will take up on July 2 (Thursday) the federal government's appeal challenging the Sindh High Court's June 23 stay order that restrained it from taking action against sugar mills in light of the sugar inquiry commission's recommendations. Headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Gulzar Ahmed, a three-judge bench of the apex court will hear the case. The top court's registrar office has issued a notice to the attorney general for Pakistan for the hearing.

Briefs

'Positive use of technology urged'

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the PM on Political Communication Dr Shahbaz Gill while lamenting over nonprofessional journalism urged that information technology and social media should play its positive role to disseminate authentic information to enhance the image of the government's committed performance. Talking to a private news channel, he said unfortunately technology and social media had produced a lot of untrained and self-claimed journalists to spread rumours. He said inauthentic information was being disseminated to gain fake popularity, moreover these false and cheap tactics could not harm the image of PTI government.

"Prime Minister Imran Khan has never claimed that he is the last option, rather he says that nation could now trust on PTI only as masses had seen the corrupt faces of PPP and PML-N," he commented. Replying to a question, Shehbaz Gill said PTI's mission was to eliminate corruption from the country and to provide justice to all, no one could make PM Imran Khan to compromise on his objectives.

Dr. Syed Zawar Shah posted as MS LUMHS

KARACHI: Dr. Syed Zawar Hussain Shah, Senior Medical Officer (BS-19), presently posted as the Additional Medical Superintendent (BS-19), Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) Hyderabad has been transferred and posted with immediate effect and until further orders as the Medical Superintendent (MS) (BS-20), LUMHS, Hyderabad against an existing vacancy, as per government's approved policy for the general cadre doctors (BS-19) of health department. This was stated in a communique issued here on Wednesday. — APP

NDMA provides 1.43 mln PPEs to hospitals

ISLAMABAD: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has so far provided 1,424,699 million Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to hospitals across the country amid onward distribution among doctors and Health Care Workers (HCWs). According to spokesman of NDMA, the distribution of tenth tranche of PPEs was being transported to all provinces. Right now PPEs transportation was continuing to Balochistan and Gilgit-Baltistan. He said Balochistan has so far been provided 121,986 masks of different sizes, 5,811 safety suits, 32,885 medical gowns face shields, surgical caps, gloves, plastic shoes, covers and safety goggles to hospitals. Similarly, Gilgit-Baltistan has been sent 55,950 masks of different sizes, 3,385 to safety suits, 15,069 medical gowns, face shields, surgical caps, gloves, plastic shoes, covers and safety goggles. — APP

NBF to open membership drive in July

ISLAMABAD: National Book Foundation (NBF) has planned to open a membership drive in first week of July under Readers Club Scheme to provide books on discounted rates. Readers Club Scheme was the most popular development scheme and through this it a member can get books on 55 percent discounted rates. The membership drive will be opened in more than 50 main cities and membership fee restricted to Rs 110. According to an official, Readers Club Scheme attracts number of book lovers who wait anxiously for opening of this scheme. The membership drive will continue for three months to facilitate books on low-priced rates. He said that to get membership there is only need of copy of National Identity Card (NIC) and 2 passport size photos. — APP



ISLAMABAD: MCI staff busy in anti-dengue measures. — DNA

Ehsaas payment Centers closed only for Wednesday: Dr. Nishtar

In AJK, over 2.46 billion have been distributed among 201,000 persons while Rs. 1.7 bln has been distributed among more than 87,000 people in GB

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Sania Nishtar Wednesday made it clear that the Ehsaas Emergency Cash Payment centers will remain

close only for Wednesday due to the annual holiday of the banks.

In a tweet, Dr. Nishtar said an amount of over Rs148.59 billion has been disbursed among over 12,277,000 beneficiaries under different categories. The programme was initiated the to disburse

cash amount of Rs12,000 among those affected from the coronavirus lockdown. The payment process under different categories of the programme was continued across the country. According to the cash update received on July 01, a total of over Rs 66.23 billion has been disbursed

among over 5,470,000 deserving families in Punjab so far while around Rs 44.70 billion has been disbursed among 3,706,000 families in Sindh. Over Rs 25.78 billion has been disbursed among more than 2,123,000 beneficiaries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while over

Rs7.56 billion has been disbursed among 622,000 persons in Balochistan. In Azad Jammu and Kashmir, over 2.46 billion have been distributed among 201,000 persons while Rs. 1.7 billion has been distributed among more than 87,000 people in Gilgit Baltistan.

An amount of Rs 780 million has been disbursed among more than 64,000 beneficiaries in Islamabad. It is pertinent to mention here that out of the total amount disbursed so far Rs. 1.26 billion was paid to the existing Kafalat beneficiaries.

PIAF lauds OGRA action against OMCs

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Association Front has appreciated the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority for taking action against companies responsible for fuel scarcity, urging it to also take notice of the record jump in oil prices, which were announced out of schedule, neither adopting any legal process nor prompted by any summary moved by the regulator.

PIAF Chairman Mian Nauman Kabir, in a joint statement with senior vice chairman Nasir Hameed and vice chairman Javed Siddiqi, welcomed the move by the oil regulator, imposing Rs5 million penalty each on three oil marketing companies (OMCs) after they were found involved in creating artificial shortage of petrol in the country by hoarding the commodity. Mian Nauman Kabir observed that the fuel shortage, especially of gasoline, had caused serious difficulties to businesses as well as citizens for almost the whole month across Pakistan, as long queues of mo-

tor riders at fuel stations were also seen to fill their vehicles' tanks. The fuel shortage started because of the short supply to the fuel stations by the private oil companies after the central government reduced fuel prices in the start of this month. PIAF chairman said that majority of the



fuel stations across the country have been closed by the owners, while the fuel stations, which had the stock increased the prices of the commodity by more than 100 percent. PIAF senior vice chairman Nasir Hameed said that smooth and uninterrupted

supply of furnace oil to the industry is of paramount importance as the industry is heavily dependent on it not only for captive power plants but also for running steam boilers. He complained that the entire cost of fuel was paid in advance to the oil marketing companies but they had halted the supplies for no obvious reason. The industry continued to demand dispatch of oil shipments by oil companies to the industry for which payments had already been made in advance, he said.

Vice chairman Javed Siddiqi appreciated the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority for issuing first show-cause notices to oil marketing companies seeking explanations and reasons for the petrol shortage at the fuel stations. It is also good news that the Competition Commission of Pakistan had initiated an inquiry into the issue saying that the sudden shortage of fuel across the country at a time when the government reduced prices and low demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic raised suspicion that artificial shortage might have been created, he added.

UPaisa customers can easily transfer money

IBRAN KHAN

ISLAMABAD: UPaisa customers can transfer money from their mobile wallet accounts to CNIC with the ease of their home. In light of the new regulations introduced by State Bank of Pakistan, transfer funds from CNIC to CNIC will no longer be available on any Mobile Financial Services platform retailers/franchises/service centres/bank branches effective 1st July, 2020.

In order to open a new UPaisa account Ufone customers can simply dial *786# from their Ufone SIM, accept the terms and conditions, enter CNIC issuance date and create MPIN upon receiving confirmation SMS. Money can also be deposited into UPaisa account from any other bank account by simply selecting U Microfinance Bank from the list and adding the mobile number/UPaisa wallet account number.

UPaisa is the branchless banking service provided by Ufone and U Microfinance Bank; it offers a suite of services available at the comfort of one's home, or at retail locations, Ufone Service Centres, Ufone Franchises and U Microfinance Bank branches across Pakistan.

'PTI govt has no justification to remain in power'

Mr. Mughal said that masses have braved over half a dozen crisis engineered by the mafia that includes flour, wheat, poultry, medicine and petrol crisis

SHAHEEN QURESHI

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Tuesday said the government has no justification to remain in power as it has failed to deliver and has added to the miseries of masses. Action against different business mafias have left much to be desired as these gangs cannot operate without the support of authorities, he said.

Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President PEW said that politicians and mafia have always remained close to each other but now the situation has worsened as the opposition has also decided not to oppose the moves which have made life difficult for the masses.

Those who matter should look into the situation as mass unrest and massive protests are unavoidable with serious consequences for the ruling elite, he observed. He noted that ministers are doing nothing but issuing flowery statements, providing lame excuses for crises and condemning former rulers for everything.

Those who voted for the ruling cabal are no more able to defend the actions of the government and the popularity of the PTI is on the lowest ebb, he said.

Mr. Mughal said that masses have braved over half a dozen crisis engineered by the mafia that includes flour, wheat, poultry, medicine and petrol crisis and now they will see LPG and other crisis within days.

The government which is dancing on the tunes of IMF is set to increase gas tariff substantially any time soon which will open flood gates for inflation, he warned. The government claims to make Pakistan an Asian Tiger but its actions are pushing the country into Stone Age, he said.

Plastic exports decrease 5.53%

ISLAMABAD: The exports of plastic materials from the country witnessed decreased of 5.53 percent during the eleven months of financial year (2019-20) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. Pakistan exported plastic worth \$274.198 million during July-May (2019-20) compared to the exports of \$290.240 million during July-May (2018-19), showing a decline of 5.53 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

In terms of quantity, the exports of plastic witnessed an increase of 16.03 percent as the country exported 264,380 metric ton of plastic during the period under review as compared to the exports of 227,855 metric ton during last fiscal year. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the plastic exports from the country during May 2020 witnessed increase of 4.47 percent as compared to the exports of the same month of the last year. The plastic exports during the months under review were recorded at \$27.830 million against the exports of \$26.639 million during May 2019.

On month-on-month basis, the plastic exports during May 2020 also rose by 3.96 percent as compared to the exports of \$26.769 million in April 2020, the data revealed. It is pertinent to mention here that the country's trade deficit witnessed significant reduction in eleven months of current financial year and declined by 27.75% as compared to the corresponding period of last year. The exports witnessed decrease of 6.85% and reached to \$19.801 billion against the exports of \$21.256 billion of the same period of last year. — APP

NUST' for collective efforts to tackle health issues

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The members of Research and Innovation Steering Committee of National University of Science and Technology (NUST) in a virtual meeting pledged to make collective efforts to tackle global health issues like COVID-19, address industrial problems and align Research and Development (R&D) with social and industrial needs.

Being a research-intensive university, NUST lays great emphasis on research and innovation to accrue greater impact and positive outcomes.

In order to leverage fully upon NUST research capabilities, and to further enhance its Research and Innovation portfolio, NUST held its first online meeting of Research and Innovation (R&I) Steering Committee.

The Committee constitutes leading academicians from universities abroad, CEOs of prominent local industries and NUST experts.

The steering committee has multiple objectives, primarily aimed at elevating NUST R&I to greater heights and steering it to create higher societal impact.

Committee formed for SOPs preparations for private schools

The Chief Minister KP has formed the committee on June 20 to look into the demands and genuine problems of private schools and submit recommendations within 10 days

PESHAWAR: The Education Department Wednesday constituted a high-level committee for preparations of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and relief package for opening of private schools.

A high level meeting with Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Sultan Muhammad Khan in chair and attended by Education Minister, Akbar Ayub and Secretary Education Nadeem Afzal Chaudhry, high up and representatives of private schools was held in Charsadda district, directed the committee to present report within two days.

The committee has been directed to submit recommendations regarding proposed relief package, SOPs and solutions of problems of private schools.

The Chief Minister KP has formed the committee on June 20 to look into the demands and genuine problems of private schools and submit recommendations within 10 days. Law Minister said the current situation arising out of coronavirus pandemic had badly affected most sectors of life, including private education sector and the government was taking all possible measures to give maximum relief to all the affected sectors. He said the provincial government would take all possible measures on priority basis to resolve all the genuine issues being faced by the private schools. Managing Director, Private Schools Regulatory Authority Tashfeen Haider were also present. — APP



RAWALPINDI: A view of closed shops and road at Bara Market which were sealed after corona positive cases were reported. — APP

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Safer schools

INCIDENTS continue to be reported from time to time which suggest that our school classrooms may be unsafe, particularly for girls who face harassment from male teachers or possibly even their peers. As is the case in other countries, a policy on this needs to be devised by associations representing private schools (from where the loudest allegations come).

In the first place, a definition of abuse and harassment needs to be formulated and made clear to students, both female and male, who often may not understand precisely what it can comprise. This is especially true in a culture where children and teenagers are encouraged to obey adults and avoid challenging them in any way. At the same time, schools need to draw up policies on harassment and circulate rules amongst staff.

This is not a trivial matter. It is sad that too often, students or parents have had to take up the matter before schools take any action. What we need is for our schools – whether they are of or for the elite or for the lesser privileged child – to take the lead in ensuring that they are offering a safe, secure environment for all students. One way of establishing this would be to have a complaints panel to which students can bring their concerns, with student representatives possibly made a part of this body so that no individual feels intimidated about approaching the committee. It should also be a strict policy that every complaint is held in complete confidence and the first priority is to protect the student. It is always unsafe to claim that a student is concocting a story unless there is very definite proof of this.

Harassment can occur easily in schools because of a culture which puts adults firmly in charge over young people. We also live in a society where harassment is widely accepted by women and girls, and also by men and boys who do not see it as a crime. Most of all, those in charge of running these institutions all over the country need to be themselves clear about a zero tolerance policy for harassment and the need to protect children above any other consideration. For this, much more needs to be done: including changing the sort of culture that allows the bullying and moral policing of young girls and boys who speak up about such incidents. The future of our children is in the hands of those who teach them and those who work at those places of learning. We must educate the educators first.



Broadening horizons

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

THE objective of education is to impart knowledge among the students. Those who have completed their bachelor's or masters must continue to follow this principle. We must pursue to increase our learning curve every day. This will happen if we are open to absorbing content in any form. This could be achieved through reading, writing, watching videos, listening to discussions, or being a part of conversations. Our mental horizon is akin to a rubber band. It stretches once it is exposed to an idea. This expansion continues. The learning we receive at school, college, and the university is towards making us compatible with the modalities of the corporate world. On the other hand, our self-learning makes us understand ourselves, our environment and equips us to become better professionals.

A student studying graphic design will try to earn good grades to complete the degree. A person who is studying graphic design to fulfill his passion to learn designing will have a different perspective altogether. Learning backed by grades also has the element of fear. Students are afraid of failing a course or not earning good grades. Learning backed by passion has the element of curiosity. Such people gain insights into the skills they are learning and continue to do so every day. This is why learning must become a part of our things-to-do list every day. We must learn skills that relate to our profession. We must equip ourselves with the skills that pertain to our passion. Students, in particular, while pursuing their intermediate education or those studying at universities must follow this principle. They must learn new skills and make it a point to use it as a freelancer. Freelancing enables a student or a professional to utilize their free time to deliver a service in return for financial gains. It is a source of a parallel stream of income. It helps the person to utilize his skills and to learn new ones. The Internet is the home for learning all skills and putting them to good use. What we learn today will help us in one form or the other.

Myth of India's Military Muscle Shattered Between Balakot and Ladakh

Iqbal Khan

International community is in a wait and sees mood. Modi rejected President Donald Trump's mediation offer. Then Russia came in the game and invited the two foreign ministers for a meeting, but this trilateral meeting scheduled for June 22, could not materialise. This will delay disengagement of troops on ground. PLA is in its permanent habitat in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), hence it will not be affected, Indian Army formations inducted from outside to beef Ladakh based forces will have problems. Indian Army is in low morale and is in no mood to fight. It has transported Bofors Artillery with its Israeli Copper tipped shells

AN India politician and columnist Sudheendra Kulkarni, who helped former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee write his speeches has recently commented that "After thousands of lives lost with Pakistan, soldiers and civilian together, in so many years we couldn't take an inch from them, how do you see India taking Aksai Chin Back [from China]?" India's Balakot misadventure is the latest episode to support this argument.

On June 19, while addressing an all-party meeting, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said: "Neither is anyone inside our territory nor are any of our posts captured". Amongst Indian people, this outright lie has been taken as Modi's unconditional surrender to China.

In his reaction to Indian humiliation in Ladakh, former Indian Prime Minister said Manmohan Singh said, "PM must be mindful of implications of words". He added China was brazenly and illegally seeking to claim parts of Indian territory such as the Galwan Valley and the Pangong Tso Lake. "We cannot and will not be cowed down by threats and intimidation nor permit a compromise with our territorial integrity. Disinformation is no substitute for diplomacy or decisive leadership. "At this moment, we stand at historic cross-roads. Our government's decisions and actions will have serious bearings on how the future generations perceive us", Manmohan added.

If India maintains that Line of Actual Control (LAC) is the de facto border between China and India, at least in Ladakh area, then Chinese are deep inside Indian territory. Though from Chinese perspective they are still well inside Chinese Claim Line (CCL). Has India abdicated its claim with regard to LAC without fighting? Apparently yes.

Wake up Narendra Modi! It's War Stupid! And yes, everyone knows you do not have the option to fight a war against China—not even against Pakistan. The US leadership (bipartisan) is biting their nails for having invested so heavily on India for doing heavy lifting in their task—China containment.

War against China was not an option for Nehru either, in 1962. According to Shekhar Gupta "Nehru took a decision ("I have told my army to throw out the Chinese") that might have looked brave, but was divorced from reality. History has judged him harshly. Not as a brave, tough leader

who "died" fighting, as politically and physically, he never recovered from that decision. He will forever be seen as a weakling who went to war against his conviction".

In 1962, China was not a nuclear power, and linear battle was called war. Today, Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) can activate land, space, cyber, air, missiles, Electro Magnetic Spectrum even in limited war. The politics and strategic, philosophical and ideological thought Modi and his ideological and political parents, RSS and BJP, have constructed is founded on not being like Nehru. In 2020, Modi has many advantages. The opposition is weak, parliament is no threat and the armed forces are in an enormously better state, despite the PLA's modernisation.

The pressure on Modi is to respond immediately, in anger, and exasperation just to be seen to be doing something, as Nehru did. The dilemma is "How to show fellow Indians and the world that you [Modi] are not Nehru of 1962, without doing precisely what Nehru did under pressure in that fateful year".

He [Modi], however, shares one weakness with Nehru: "A larger than life public image, and a thin skin. That is what Xi has seen as an exposed flank". From Chumar to Doklam to Pulwama, the Chinese have noticed how vital a factor "face" is for Modi in his domestic politics. There is a compulsion to look hard, decisive, risk-taking, start something and then conclude it in a way you can claim victory. There is no easy option to achieve that against China. Remember how embarrassing Pakistan's response to Balakot was.

China has the capability of algorithmic multi-domain and cross-domain war. Indian military leadership has not even started conceptualizing this kind of war. They are not yet able to come out of mesmerising illusions of conceptually stale war fighting strategy—Hybrid Warfare. With China would bring India another crushing defeat, in exchange for paltry American aid and ego massaging; and nothing is free as long as Trump is in the White House.

International community is in a wait and sees mood. Modi rejected President Donald Trump's mediation offer. Then Russia came in the game and invited the two foreign ministers for a meeting, but this trilateral meeting scheduled for June 22, could not materialise. This will delay disengage-

ment of troops on ground. PLA is in its permanent habitat in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), hence it will not be affected, Indian Army formations inducted from outside to beef Ladakh based forces will have problems.

Indian Army is in low morale and is in no mood to fight. It has transported Bofors Artillery with its Israeli Copper tipped shells. Without realising that there are no corresponding targets for it. Indian Air Force is not fit for war, its performance in Pulwama-Balakot episode with Pakistan brought it humiliation. And India Navy is no factor, one does not expect Indian air craft carriers and nuclear submarines to come to combat zone.

Indian army's professional proficiency was found lacking during recent ambush type mission. CDS General Bipin Rawat like to call such gimmicks Surgical Strike. A contingent of 35 men along with their Commanding officer crossed over to Chinese area during night, ostensibly to evict Chinese from some of the tactically important features. In hand to hand fight that ensued, India expeditioners suffered heavy casualties. Alongside 22 deaths including the commanding officer, ten combatants were taken prisoner. Prisoners have since been released and Indian media is mourning the slain combatants. Episode of unarmed yet deadly combat has triggered an interesting debate in India Military circles as to: Why did contingent go "Unarmed" to Chinese side to tell them to vacate area? As per Military drill personnel should have carried arms. In all probability, political leadership had made clear to Indian Army that it did not want escalation. Apparently because India is not prepared for that.

Azaan Javid in his June 20 piece for The Print, titled: "Ladakh, scenic Himalayan desert at the centre of most fierce India-China conflict in 53 yrs", reported that: "When the United Nations Security Council held a discussion on Kashmir on 16 August last year... Security officials began to discuss how the diplomatic tussle would translate or manifest on the ground. The speculations ended with death of 20 Indian soldiers, including a Colonel".

India cannot fight China. It does not have China specific munitions. It has all along been piling up Pakistan specific paraphernalia. Modi is sailing smooth now, but history won't be kind to him.

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India Sharpening the tusk: arming without aiming plus

Ubaid Ahmed

Presently India is vociferously seeking to strengthen its strategic triad. India is and has already spent billions procuring conventional arm buildup. However, in the milieu of aforementioned brief historical background of Indian military modernization, one cannot require a crystal ball to extrapolate that India lacks a strategic thinking in pursuit of its designs pertaining the region and IOR. India has projected itself for the past couple of years as a net security provider and Asia-Pacific regional power, but, what India lacks is clarity of thought and a strong economic base to further those aspirations

FORCE posture is the actual output of one's own resource input and organizational process, and as such, is not always what one anticipates. Force posture is predominantly a comparative term. Its two main dimensions are structural capabilities and policy intent; given the relative difficulty of accessing the intentions, there is generally more inclination towards analysis of capabilities. Likewise, there are two major components of force posture: Force structuring and Force Development. Force posturing is an evolving process essentially dealing with the size, type and structure of the armed forces and constantly shifts from the contemporary to the future requirements. Whereas Force development runs parallel to the modernization, an imperative component in the quest to acquire state of art technologies and weapon systems as well as meet the life cycle requirements of existing inventories.

In a bid to pursuit its hegemonic designs, project itself as a great power and to proclaim its regional military superiority, India continues to upgrade its conventional arms buildup especially suitable against Pakistan. However, on the contrary India has always maintained that its main threat emanates from China. Moreover, the large conventional asymmetry between India and Pakistan is due to former's highest rate of military growth. Historically there are three stages of the Indian military modernization and conventional force posture development. The first attempt was made in the 1960s when India launched a significant military expansion program, doubled the size of army and raised a fighting air force after its defeat from China in 1962, well without having a sufficient power and economic base. The second attempt was made in 1980s with defence and military reforms and introduction of the concept of simultaneity, a Soviet concept of multi-tiered offensive to engage front line defensive forces, though the efficacy of policy was always questionable due to imbalances in organizational makeup of the armed forces. The same era

was also prompted by the Sundarji doctrine, aimed at employment of large scale mechanized forces, supported by massive air support and thus India toyed with the concept of preventive war. This culminated with the Brass-tacks exercise intended to launch preemptive attack on Pakistani nuclear facilities consequently undermining its conventional military capability and territorial integrity. The last attempt can be translated into India's concept of Limited war. In view of the legacy of Kargil Conflict and its frustration over the stalemate of Operation Parakaram, India tried to explore strategic space for limited war/military operations against Pakistan guised under the Cold Start Doctrine. The former Indian Defence Minister, George Fernandes once declared that Pakistan's possession of nuclear weapons doesn't rule out the possibility of a limited conventional war.

Presently India is vociferously seeking to strengthen its strategic triad. India is and has already spent billions procuring conventional arm buildup. However, in the milieu of aforementioned brief historical background of Indian military modernization, one cannot require a crystal ball to extrapolate that India lacks a strategic thinking in pursuit of its designs pertaining the region and IOR. India has projected itself for the past couple of years as a net security provider and Asia-Pacific regional power, but, what India lacks is clarity of thought and a strong economic base to further those aspirations. Given the recent statements by the newly created post of the Chief of Defence Staff that Indian Military is not an expeditionary force and should not be deploying forces around the globe clearly shows the void in India's evolving strategic thought and their organizational structure. Moreover, the economic impact and the financial implications of the COVID-19 pandemic is going to be significant. The percent increase in Indian defense budget allocation over the last two years has been the lowest since the early 1960s, but the COVID-19 impact is likely to lead to further slashing the defense budget. This

in turn will affect major defense procurements, particularly for the Navy and Air Force. The Indian Navy was certain to acquire a third aircraft carrier citing it as an operational necessity but CDS comments out rightly dismissed the plan by terming it misinterpretation of operational necessities. While suggesting proper prioritization of operational requirements, CDS directed Indian Navy to decide whether it should push for a third aircraft carrier at this stage. "Anything on the surface can be picked up by satellites and knocked off by missiles". Indian defence analysts while rightfully terming it a continental mindset questioned the Indian Navy "Maritime Capability Perspective Plan" goal of fielding a 200-warship Navy by 2027. Moreover, the continued cycle of civil war in the east, the present indigenous uprising in the IOK and the defiance exhibited by the brave unarmed Kashmiris even in the face of brutalities being perpetrated by Indian security forces has brought India down to desperate measures. The international community is not even ready to countenance the grave violations of human rights and resultantly has shown less understanding of Indian position.

In a nutshell, though India aspires to be the regional hegemon and regional if not a global player to the power politics but the ground realities speak otherwise. Modi led BJP's heavy reliance on sub-conventional warfare or Doval doctrine, conventional buildup, stated Cold Start Doctrine and advancement in non-conventional weaponry has led India towards mass starvation and increased economic crisis. Thus it can be said that India is arming but certainly without aiming.

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Ronaldo scores in Juventus' win

DNA

TURIN: Cristiano Ronaldo's stunning long-range strike helped defending champions Juventus beat Genoa 3-1 as the Italian giants maintained their four-point advantage at the top of Serie A. After a goalless first half, Paulo Dybala's fine solo effort put Juventus ahead five minutes after the restart. Ronaldo then got his 24th goal of the season with a fierce 25-yard strike. Douglas Costa curled home a third before Andrea Pinamonti hit a consolation. Ronaldo's effort came on the day his great rival Lionel Messi joined him in the 700-goal club with a chipped penalty in Barcelona's 2-2 draw with Atletico Madrid. Ronaldo has 726 goals, with Messi now on 700. The strike also means Ronaldo is just one goal away from becoming the first Juventus player to reach the 25-goal mark since Omar Sivori in 1960-61. Juventus now have 72 points, four more than second-place Lazio, who beat Torino 2-0 earlier on Tuesday.

Chinese football season to begin July 25

BEIJING: The Chinese Super League season will begin on July 25 after the coronavirus pandemic delayed it by five months, the country's football association said on Wednesday. It is a major boost for sport in China and another sign of life returning to normality in the country where COVID-19 emerged late last year before spreading globally. The 16-team league, which had been originally due to kick off in February, will be played under a different format instead of the usual home-and-away competition. Clubs will be split into two groups, one in the north-eastern city of Dalian and the other in Suzhou, near Shanghai, the China Football Association (CFA) said. The CFA said the league would "strictly abide by the requirements of national epidemic prevention work". But the CFA statement did not say whether fans would be allowed to attend, or which teams will play in each group in the revamped format. The CSL, which has drawn international interest in recent years by luring big-name players and coaches on world-leading wages, had been scheduled to start on February 22. However, it became one of the first sporting victims of the coronavirus in January when the new season was indefinitely postponed. — APP

Second group of Pak squad to depart on July 3

LAHORE: The second group of six players of Pakistan cricket squad will depart for Manchester, England on July 3 (Friday), by the national carrier. The players who will travel by the Pakistan International Airlines are: Fakhar Zaman, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Hafeez, Mohammad Rizwan, Shadab Khan and Wahab Riaz, said a spokesman of the Pakistan Cricket Board here on Wednesday. "From Manchester, the six players will be transported to Worcester and will integrate with the side after they test negative in the ECB testing programme", he said. — APP

Abid proud to play alongside Babar Azam

ISLAMABAD, Jul 01 (APP): Pakistan opener Abid Ali feels proud for playing next to Babar Azam, saying expectations were high from the limited-overs skipper. "I am proud to play alongside Babar. My best wishes are with him. People are expecting more from him now, since he is the captain in two formats. I hope he continues to perform for Pakistan," cricketpakistan.com.pk quoted Abid as saying. "When I was batting with him on my debut, I was under pressure but he backed me and advised me not to worry and take my time at the crease. When I finally reached my hundred, he hugged me with all his heart. It is a pleasure to watch him bat from the other end," he said. — APP

Lionel Messi joins 700 club with a panenka

DNA

BARCELONA: Lionel Messi scored the 700th goal of his career with a Panenka penalty in Barcelona's La Liga draw with Atletico Madrid on Tuesday. The Spanish giants' all-time top scorer hit the landmark goal for club and country by gently chipping the ball into the net as Jan Oblak dived the wrong way. The goal had put Barcelona 2-1 up but Atletico hit back to draw 2-2. Barca remain second, one point behind Real Madrid, who have a game in hand. Messi's penalty was also his 630th goal in his 724th appearance for the club. The Argentina star played a part in the opener for Barcelona when his whipped corner hit Diego Costa and deflected into the back of the net. Former Chelsea striker Costa quickly had the chance to make amends when Atletico were awarded a penalty after Yannick Carrasco was fouled inside the box. Costa stepped up to take the spot kick only to see it saved by Marc-Andre ter



Stegen, but it had to be re-taken because the Barcelona goalkeeper had come off his line early. Saul Niguez took the second penalty and sent Ter Stegen the wrong way. Messi restored Barcelona's lead and reached his career milestone with his cheeky Panenka - named after Antonin Panenka's famous penalty for Czechoslovakia in the final of the 1976 European Championship - but Niguez equalised again with another penalty as Barca dropped points which could cost them dear in the title race. His 700th career goal - coming just over 14 months after netting for the 600th time for Barcelona - means he joins a select group. According to data, Messi is now one of seven players to have reached the 700-goal mark in their career. Czech-Austrian Josef Bican leads the way with 805 career goals, followed by Brazil legend Romario, who bagged 772, with his compatriot Pele third on 767. Hungary legend Ferenc Puskas hit 746 goals, while former Germany striker Gerd Muller rounds out the top five with 735 goals.

Alex Zanardi's condition is 'serious but stable'

Zanardi raced in the United States-based Champ Car series from 1996-98, winning the title in 1997 and 1998

DNA

PIENZA: Alex Zanardi's condition is "serious but stable" two days after a second operation on head injuries suffered in a hand cycle accident. The 53-year-old, a former Formula 1 driver turned four-time Paralympic gold medallist, collided with a lorry during a race in Pienza, Italy, on 19 June. A statement from the hospital in Siena said Italian Zanardi remains sedated and intubated. Further updates will be provided if there are "significant developments". Zanardi has become a global sporting icon for the strength of will and determination he has shown in overcoming adversity in his career, after he lost both his legs in an accident while racing in a Champ Car event in Germany in 2001. He drove in F1 from 1991-94 and in 1999 - for the Jordan, Minardi, Lotus and Williams teams - scoring a best result of sixth place. Zanardi raced in the United States-based Champ Car series from 1996-98, winning the title in 1997 and 1998. He returned to Champ Cars in 2001, when he had the accident at Germany's Lausitzring. After extensive rehabilitation, he returned to motorsport in 2005, spending four years racing for BMW in the World Touring Car Championship, and winning four races. He then turned to hand-cycling, in which he has won 12 world championships in addition to his four Paralympic gold medals, as well as the New York City marathon in 2011.

Shoaib Akhtar wants Pakistan to showcase 90s brand of cricket

ISLAMABAD: Former pacer Shoaib Akhtar wants Green-shirts to showcase the late 1990s brand of cricket against England, for which Pakistan was known for, saying the whole world would be watching the series and the expectations were high. "Pakistan needs to play good cricket by making the right combinations after accessing the situation. We should not just play to draw the Test series but win it. In the past we lost many series just because of the batting and mind-set which we could have won,"

he said in a video on his YouTube channel. He said in the late 1990s when we used to play cricket in the likes of Aamir Sohail, Saeed Anwar, Ijaz Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Salim Malik, Wasim Akram, Razzaq, they all played with aggression. "I need that type of aggression and that brand of cricket which we were known for. I want Pakistan to play sensible innings as the whole world will be watching the series. I have a lot of expectations from Babar Azam and Haider Ali (in 'Twenty20)," he said.

Shoaib, who bagged 178 wickets in 46 Tests, said he wants to see Pakistan come out as a good team. "I want the fast bowlers to go out and see their length as the aggression lies in the length and not in the pace. Glen Mcgraw, Wasim Akram, Makhum Marshall were the bowlers who knew when to hit the deck. So keep up the pace and test English batting and skill," he said. The former speedster regretted that there was no practice match before the series where spinners Yasir Shah and Shadab Khan's form would have been checked.

"Yasir is a very good spinner and he needs to compete and perform. Shadab is also brought for reentry and rebuilding as he can be a part of the test team. I am seeing that Pakistan will go in the series with three pacers, one all-rounder and a spinner depending on the wickets," he said. About batting coach Younis Khan, he said Younis was a good man and needs to transfer his attitude to the youngsters. "I want to see Pakistani batsmen playing like Younis. He should transfer his courage, knowledge

and experience to the youngsters," he said. Shoaib, who took 247 wickets in 163 ODIs, said England has a long batting line up in the likes of Barristrow, Joe Root, Ben Stokes etc. "I want Pakistan team to be aggressive and test the England batting and their skills. At the same time Pakistan needs to come out as a great team, as a unit. "And when it comes to leading the pack with Wahab Raiz or Shaheen Shah Afridi, I just want Pakistan to look like a better team," he said. — APP

Cabinet backs civil aviation reform process

From Page 1

It also took into consideration the renewable energy options for power production including solar and wind. The Prime Minister directed to remove any hurdles and bottlenecks in the way of these alternative sources to encourage cheap energy production. The cabinet also discussed sustainable development goals and on the suggestion of Minister for Information

Technology Aminul Haq the Prime Minister directed to reallocate development funds within a month before their lapse. Shibli Faraz said the Prime Minister directed to activate provincial finance commission in order for equitable development in all parts of provinces in an organized way and without any undue influence. This will also help remove sense of deprivation among residents of different areas in a province.

He said Prime Minister directed to form a committee under the leadership of Federal Minister of Economic Affairs Khuro Bakhtiar to look into public sector projects to be undertaken on reduced costs and improved quality. The committee will submit its report in 90 days' time. The cabinet accorded approval to appoint auditor for SECP. The Minister said the cabinet discussed the potential of IT exports and how to

increase Pakistan's share in the international market. This sector has the potential to increase exports to 5 billion dollars from the earlier one billion dollars. The forum discussed the issue of evacuee properties and their optimal use for income generation. It was decided that education and health related properties can be offered to private parties to not only generate their business but also provide facilities to the public.

India trying to destabilize Pakistan

From Page 1

He said we have been continuously apprising the global community about peace and security in the region. He said durable peace and stability in Afghanistan is inevitable for development and progress of the region. He said Pakistan, as a common responsibility, played a reconciliatory role in the Afghan Peace Process with utmost sincerity, which was commended by the entire world. He expressed the resolve that Pakistan will continue its efforts for peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region. They also exchanged views on Afghan Peace Process and regional peace and stability.

Sindh extends lockdown till July 15

DNA

KARACHI: The Sindh Home Department has issued a notification to extend the ongoing lockdown in the province including Karachi for another 15 days due to the Coronavirus. According to the notification issued by the Sindh home department, beauty parlours, gyms, inter-provincial transport and tourism spots will also remain closed in the province. The Sindh government has also instructed people to unnecessary leave their homes from 7pm to 6am and wear face mask in public places. Restaurants have been allowed to deliver food to homes till 11pm. The medical stores, tandoors and puncture shops, however, will remain opened 24 hours a day. On Saturday and Sunday's complete lockdown will be imposed. On the other hand, the governments in Punjab and Balochistan have also extended the coronavirus smart lockdown for 15 more days, according to the notifications issued by the provincial governments.

It's good to be back on field after long time: Misbah



WORCESTER: Head coach-cum-chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq enjoyed being on the field after a gap of almost three months. In a video released by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) after the squad did their first training session here ahead of Test series against England, Misbah said that players are motivated and are looking forward to making the most of given time period before they take on the English side in August. "It is good to be back on the field after a long time. We really enjoyed our session today and we are looking forward to continuing this positivity throughout the whole tour," he said. Batting coach Younis Khan hopes that youngsters will adjust in new cricket conditions soon and will deliver against the home side. "It is exciting to be a part of Pakistan's contingent once again. I believe youngsters will show their strength here," the former cricketer reiterated. It must be noted here that Pakistan will play three Tests and as many T20Is against England in August and September.

Ben Stokes to captain England for first Windies test

DNA

HAMPSHIRE: Ben Stokes will captain England for the first time next week after it was confirmed Joe Root will miss the first Test against West Indies to attend the birth of his second child. Root, 29, will leave England's training camp in Southampton on Wednesday, with the birth expected later this week. With the series being held

in a bio-secure environment, Root will have to self-isolate for a week after leaving hospital before re-joining the squad. The first Test begins on 8 July. England coach Chris Silverwood said Stokes was a "talisman" who "leads from the front". He added: "He's conscious of the people around him, so I think he'll do a great job in Rooty's absence. "It will be interesting to see what he does, because obvi-

ously it is his first time captaining England. We know he has got an aggressive nature, but equally there is a good cricket brain in there as well. "He will have a lot of say in what is going on and he will play a big part in giving his opinions across the selection as well." Root will rejoin the squad on 13 July before the second Test at Emirates Old Trafford, which begins on 16 July.

He will also miss the three-day intra-squad warm-up match in Southampton, which begins on Wednesday. In Root's absence, Stokes will captain one side and Jos Buttler, who has been confirmed as vice-captain for the first Test, will lead another. From the 30 men who have been training in Southampton, 27 will take part in the match. As well as Root, pace bowler Jamie Overton and spinner Amar Virdi miss out.

Pakistan committed to Afghan peace

SHAHEEN QURESHI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, on Wednesday, received Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation. Ambassador Khalilzad's visit to Pakistan is part of his regular engagement for consultations and exchange of views on the Afghan peace and reconciliation process. The Foreign Minister highlighted Pakistan's positive contribution to the U.S.-Taliban direct talks

culminating in the Peace Agreement of 29 February 2020 and stressed that the Afghan leaders should seize this historic opportunity and work together to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive political settlement. Reiterating that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan is important for peace and stability in the region and beyond, Foreign Minister Qureshi welcomed the latest developments including announcements on formation of negotiating team and establishment of High Council of Nation-

al Reconciliation. He expressed the hope that release of prisoners would be completed soon to pave the way for the earliest commencement of Intra-Afghan negotiations. He urged that all sides should make earnest efforts for reduction in violence. He also emphasized that it was important to not let the spoilers undermine or derail the process of Intra-Afghan Negotiations. Noting the 40 years of hospitality extended by Pakistan to the Afghan refugees, the Foreign Minister underlined the role of

the international community for a time-bound and well-resourced roadmap for the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland with dignity and honor. Foreign Minister Qureshi reiterated Pakistan's commitment to continue working with regional and international partners to support efforts for a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan. He added that Pakistan remained ready to engage in endeavours to facilitate closer Pakistan-Afghanistan economic partnership and regional connectivity projects.

Briefs

Australia seeks long-range missiles

DNA

CANBERRA: Australia says it will significantly increase military spending and focus on the Indo-Pacific region amid rising tensions between the US and China. PM Scott Morrison pledged A\$270bn (£150bn; \$186bn) to Australia's arms budget over 10 years - a 40% boost. He said Australia would acquire long-range missiles and other capabilities to "deter" future conflicts. It was necessary because the region was the "focus of the dominant global contest of our age", he added. Mr Morrison named several areas of tension including the border between India and China, and conflict over the South China Sea and East China Sea. It follows deteriorating relations between Australia and China - which are widely seen to be at their worst in decades. The new defence capability budget - about 2% of GDP - replaces a previous decade-long strategy, set only in 2016, which had set aside A\$195bn.

US stocks concluding best quarter since 1998

NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks rallied for a second straight session Tuesday, concluding the best quarter for equities in more than two decades and shrugging off a resurgence in US coronavirus cases. The S&P 500, the broadest of the three major indices, finished at 3,100.29, up 1.5 percent for the day and around 20 percent for the quarter, the biggest gain since 1998. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.9 percent to 25,812.88, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index jumped 1.9 percent to 10,058.77. - APP

Japan begins charging for plastic bags

TOKYO: Retailers in Japan began charging for plastic bags Wednesday, a move aimed at curbing Japanese consumers' love for packaging and finally bringing the country in line with other major economies. Shops including the ubiquitous convenience stores can decide how much to charge customers for the bags, with a common price being three yen (around three US cents). The new rule seemed to be having some effect, with one shopper telling public broadcaster NHK: "I buy things at a convenience store every morning. I knew the charge was starting so I brought my own bag." Visitors to Japan are often surprised by the amount of packaging involved in even the most basic of transactions, most convenience stores wrap individual bananas in plastic. The country produces more plastic packaging waste per capita than any nation apart from the United States, according to the UN, with campaigners criticising Tokyo for moving too slowly on reducing plastic consumption. - APP

VW, Adidas, Puma join Facebook ad boycott

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: German giants Volkswagen, Puma and Adidas on Tuesday joined a growing advertiser boycott over hate speech against Facebook, following major consumer companies like Levi's and Coca-Cola. Some 200 brands have now paused advertising with the social media giant as part of the #StopHateForProfit campaign launched by social justice activists. The unprecedented move has already wiped billions off Facebook's market value. Car giant Volkswagen, which also owns the Audi, Porsche and Skoda brands, said it was suspending the group's ads on Facebook. "Hate speech, discriminating comments and posts containing dangerous false information must not be published uncorrected and must have consequences," the group said. Sportsgear maker Puma said it was joining the #StopHateForProfit campaign "throughout July". - APP



KABUL: Ambassador Stefano Pontecorvo meet Dr Simasamar The talked about the need for inclusive Afghan Peace Process in which all representatives of Afghan society have their voices heard, especially women, minorities & victims. Inclusive process will deliver durable peace. - DNA

Hong Kong marks handover anniversary under shadow of security law

Chief Executive Carrie Lam joined her predecessors and other officials at the harbour's edge for a flag-raising ceremony and a reception for specially-invited guests, as the territory's annual pro-democracy march was banned for the first time

DNA

BEIJING: Hong Kong officials marked the 23rd anniversary of the territory's return to China on Wednesday hours after Beijing's imposition of a new national security law that drew defiant protests and international condemnation. Chief Executive Carrie Lam joined her predecessors and other officials at the harbour's edge for a flag-raising ceremony and a reception for specially-in-

ited guests, as the territory's annual pro-democracy march was banned for the first time.

In her speech, Lam praised the new law as "the most important development" in the relationship between Beijing and Hong Kong since the 1997 handover, saying it is "necessary and timely" move to restore stability. She defended the legislation, which came into force overnight after being rushed through China's rubber-stamp parliament as "constitutional, lawful, sen-

sible and reasonable". Pro-democracy protesters march during a demonstration near a flag-raising ceremony on the anniversary of Hong Kong's handover on Wednesday (Tyronne Siu/Reuters) In a press briefing following the ceremony, Zhang Xiaoming, the Executive Deputy Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, said suspects arrested under the law would be tried in the mainland, adding that Hong Kong's legal system could not be expected

to implement the laws of the mainland. Spreading "rumours" and "directing hatred" towards the Hong Kong police Among transgressions could be among transgressions potentially prosecuted and punished under the new law, he said. In a separate press conference on Wednesday afternoon, Lam also said that the law reflects Beijing's desire to uphold one country, two system. Amid threats of possible arrest, protesters gathered near the conference centre

where the ceremony was held, carrying banners and shouting their opposition to the new law, which seeks to punish crimes of secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces with punishments including life in prison. Authorities barred civil society's annual demonstration, citing a ban on gatherings of more than 50 people because of the coronavirus, but many activists have said they will defy the order and march later in the afternoon.

As of 0500 GMT, police officers were seen making arrests, including Democratic Party legislator Andrew Wan, who was seen being led by police in handcuff. Images on social media also showed police using pepper spray on Wan's face. At the city's Causeway Bay area, one man wearing a "Free Hong Kong" shirt became the first person arrested by police for violating the new law. A search also yielded a "Hong Kong independence" flag, police said in a statement.



BAKU: In the framework of the "Imagine" IT Summer Camp for #Girls, 35 schoolgirls from remote regions/villages of #Azerbaijan gained the new ICT knowledge, including the coding and programming languages. - DNA

Palestinian civil society rejects EU's conditional funding

The Palestinian National Campaign to Reject Conditional Funding, which has been signed by some 230 Palestinian civil organisations, calls on the EU to revoke the anti-terrorism clause from its contracts with Palestinian civil society institutions

DNA

DOHA: Palestinian civil society organisations have formed a national campaign that rejects the European Union's conditional funding based its "anti-terror clause". The stipulation, which was included in EU grant proposals late last year, identifies at least seven Palestinian political parties as "terrorist groups", and calls for Palestinian civil society organisations to vet individuals to ensure they are not affiliated with such parties. However, these organisations have described these conditions as "criminalising" the Palestinian national struggle against the Israeli occupation. "The EU's imposition of the clause and restrictive measures constitutes the criminalisation of the Pal-

estian liberation struggle and its freedom fighters based on Western criteria and standards," said Lubnah Shomali, the spokeswoman for the anti-EU conditional funding campaign. "It does not take into consideration the legal status of Palestine under international law - as a country and a people facing oppression and a foreign colonial domination." The response comes as Israel is expected to commence plans to annex areas in the West Bank and Jordan Valley on Wednesday. "Security accomplice" According to Article 1.5 of Annex II listed in the "General conditions applicable to European Union-financed grant contracts for external actions", several Palestinian factions - including Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) - are list-

ed as terrorist groups or entities on the EU's sanctions list. A Palestinian truck driver in the Gaza Strip places an EU flag on a fuel tanker as he waits for fuel coming from Israel. The clause also calls on civil organisations to screen individuals involved in projects based on the EU Re-

strictive Measures - which have been denounced by the Palestinian national campaign as being forced to play the role of a "security accomplice against its people". This will create a situation in which recipient organisations are forced to determine who can and cannot benefit or partici-

pate in EU-funded projects, Shomali told Al Jazeera. "Such policing actions fall under the purview of states and government agencies, not civil organisations," she said, adding the credibility of Palestinian organisations will suffer in terms of their relationship with civil society. Hanan Hussein, who works

with the Bisan Center for Research and Development, said signing the anti-terrorist clause represents an agreement with the EU position. "The vetting process includes banning anyone involved in a potential project that was ever arrested by Israel," Hussein said. "This is completely devoid of the context of our reality, which is living under an Israeli occupation. Are we, as civil society organisations that work for the betterment of Palestinian society, supposed to vet everyone who has been arrested by Israel?" Explore a comprehensive collection of historic and present-day maps of Palestine and Israel. The Palestinian National Campaign to Reject Conditional Funding, which has been signed by some 230 Palestinian civil organisations, calls on the EU to

President Aliyev: Azerbaijan to continue investing in tourism

"The flow of tourists naturally decreased during the pandemic, but the recovery of this area in the post-pandemic, of course, will be associated with certain limitations"

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan will continue to invest in the tourism sector and create more favourable conditions for foreign tourists, President Ilham Aliyev said at a video conference with Secretary-General of the UN World Tourism Organization Zurab Pololikashvili.

"We will continue to invest in this area and create better conditions for foreign tourists. It is because Azerbaijan has all the factors that can support: stable socio-political conditions, security, hospitality of our people, historical monuments, diversity of nature, summer tourism, winter tourism and the Azerbaijani cuisine. Both our geographical position and our aviation relations with different countries of the world. Therefore, it is necessary not only to work purposefully and increase capacity but also, of course, to eliminate, for example, bureaucratic obstacles that hinder the large influx of foreigners into the country", Aliyev noted. Speaking about the domestic tourism, the president said: "Especially, during the pandemic, we pay great attention to domestic tourism. Although domestic tourism does not completely replace foreign tourism, in any case, it can to some extent fill our tourism infrastructure, including in the regions. Given that Azerbaijani citizens are not yet able to go abroad, of course, this may be a factor supporting the domestic tourism industry."

Airbus cuts 15,000 jobs

DNA

LEIDEN: European aircraft maker Airbus said on Tuesday it is planning to cut around 15,000 jobs worldwide, 11 per cent of its total workforce, in response to the "gravest crisis" the industry has ever seen caused by the coronavirus. The cuts are to be implemented by the summer of 2021, Airbus said in a statement, and follow a drop of nearly 40pc of the commercial aviation business in recent months. "With air traffic not expected to recover to pre-Covid levels before 2023 and potentially as late as 2025, Airbus now needs to take additional measures to reflect the post Covid-19 industry outlook," it said in a statement. The company said 5,000 positions would be cut France, 5,100 in Germany, 900 in Spain, 1,700 positions in Britain and 1,300 positions at Airbus' other worldwide sites.



Briefs

"Hong Kong law is none of your business" China warns critics

Officials insisted there had been wide consultation with members of Hong Kong society

BEIJING: China on Wednesday slammed international criticism over a new national security law for Hong Kong, saying other countries should keep their noses out. Western governments and critics have warned the new law could curb the city's freedoms and undermine its "One Country, Two Systems" governance scheme, which technically allows freedoms unseen on the mainland.

But Beijing officials rebuffed the criticism of the law at a press conference.

"What's this got to do with you?" said Zhang Xiaoming of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs office of the State Council. "It's none of your business".

Officials insisted there had been wide consultation with members of Hong Kong society and they hit back at criticism. "If what we want is one country one system, it would have been simple," Zhang said.

"Why would we need to put so much effort into formulating a national security law tailor-made for Hong Kong? And he lashed out at suggestions of punishment from other nations. "As for... some countries now saying that they will impose severe sanctions on some Chinese officials, I think this is the logic of bandits."

UNGA condemns terrorist attack on PSX

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: The President of the UN General Assembly, Tijani Muhammad-Bande, has condemned Monday's terrorist attack on the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) in Karachi, and expressed sympathy with the Pakistani government and people.

"The President of the General Assembly is saddened by the news of the terrorist attack on 29 June 2020 against the Pakistani Stock Exchange and reiterates the United Nations General Assembly's condemnation of all terrorist acts in all their forms and manifestations," his Spokesperson Reem Abaza said when asked for comments.

"The President of General Assembly wishes to express his sympathy with the Government and People of Pakistan," the spokesperson added.

According to media reports, four terrorists carried out the gun and grenade attack on the Pakistan Stock Exchange in one of Karachi's high security zones on Monday morning. All the terrorists were killed by the police, after they opened fire and killed security guards and a police sub-inspector.

Beijing lifts some lockdowns

BEIJING: Beijing lifted several lockdowns imposed to control a fresh coronavirus outbreak and reported just three new cases in the city on Wednesday, raising hopes that the cluster had been brought under control. The Chinese capital had closed off dozens of residential compounds and carried out mass testing last month after hundreds of infections raised fears of a virus resurgence.

But five residential communities that have had no new virus cases during a control period were released from lockdown on Tuesday, state media reported, as the city relaxed curbs. Seven other Beijing communities saw their lockdowns lifted last Friday. - APP

PIA allowed to operate flights to Europe till July 3

The spokesperson said that all PIA flights to and from Islamabad to London, PK785 and PK 786 will operate as per schedule. An announcement with regard to other flights will be made soon, stated the PIA spokesperson

COMMERCE DESK

ISLAMABAD: The European Union has allowed the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to operate flights to and from Europe till July 3, confirmed the national flag carrier's spokesperson on Wednesday. The spokesperson said that all PIA flights to and from Islamabad to London, PK785 and PK 786 will operate as per schedule. An announcement with regard to other flights will be made soon, stated the PIA spokesperson.

He confirmed that the PIA administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Pakistani diplomats were in constant contact with European authorities over the matter. The spokesperson added that the foreign secretary had contacted European diplo-

mats on an urgent basis after which the national flag carrier was allowed to land in Britain, Europe and fly over them as well. PIA flights to Europe suspended for six months by air safety agency

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) had suspended PIA's air operations permit for a period of six

months, the national carrier's spokesperson Abdullah Hafeez Khan had said on Tuesday. He had said that the suspension will take effect from July 1, at 12 noon UTC time. "Those who have a PIA booking can move the date forward or get a refund," the

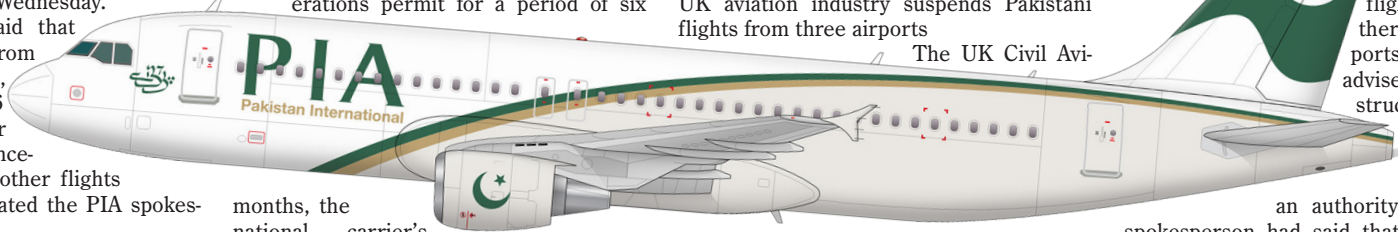
spokesperson had said. "PIA is in constant contact with the agency," he had said, adding: "We are taking steps to address their concerns." "It is hoped that the suspension will end soon due to the [remedial] steps taken by the government and the administration." UK aviation industry suspends Pakistani flights from three airports

The UK Civil Avi-

ation minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan termed "dubious". UK coming to

sumers intend-travel via PIA flights from either of these airports have been advised to follow instructions provided here. About the ban by the Europe-

an authority, the airline's spokesperson had said that the PIA was dedicated to implement new confidence building measures and would try to get this decision reversed as soon as possible. As far as the same development in the UK was concerned, the spokesperson said he had not received official correspondence.



Indian troops martyred 54 Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD: Indian troops in their continued acts of state terrorism martyred fifty-four Kashmiris including two young boys during the last month of June.

According to the data issued by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service, Wednesday, these killings rendered two women widowed and five children orphaned, Kashmir Media Service reported.

During the period, at least twenty nine persons were injured due to the use of brute force including firing of bullets, pellets and tear-gas shells by Indian troops and police personnel on mourners and peaceful protesters in the territory.

Indian police and paramilitary personnel arrested eighty-two people including an aged woman and molested and disgraced three women during five hundred sixty seven cordon and search operations in different areas of the territory. - APP

Air Chief visits special services wing of PAF

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force visited an operational base, today.

The Air Chief reviewed various operational activities at the base and interacted with personnel.

Later in the day, the Air Chief also visited PAF's Spe-

cial Services Wing. Chief of the Air Staff witnessed a demonstration of anti terrorist operation by the SSW personnel.

He also planted a tree at SSW Headquarters. Interacting with the combat crew, Chief of the Air Staff expressed satisfaction over the operational preparedness of personnel and lauded their high morale and dedication.



KALLAR KAHAR: Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan firing live ammunition during his visit to PAF Base Kallar Kahar. - DNA

Venezuela to hold elections in Dec

DNA

CARACAS: Venezuela will hold elections in December to renew the National Assembly, the only institution where the opposition has a majority, the country's electoral authority has announced.

Candidates will contest an expanded number of seats in the new legislature, which will increase from 167 to 277, Indira Alfonzo, who was named chief of the National Electoral Council (CNE) by the Maduro-friendly Supreme Court earlier this month, said on

Tuesday. "We unanimously debated and built the special rules that will govern this December's parliamentary elections," Alfonso said, announcing the increase in seats.

President Nicolas Maduro welcomed the electoral authority's announcement, adding that his Socialist Party is already "working" with allied organisations to nominate candidates.

"We will prepare for the birth of a new National Assembly," he said, speaking on the official television station VTV.

Israel shows no progress in annexation plan

DNA

AMMAN: Israel is expected to back down over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's threat to annex swaths of the West Bank and Jordan Valley.

The new land grab is part of US President Donald Trump's Israeli-Palestinian "peace plan," unveiled in January, which proposes Israeli sovereignty over a third of the West Bank and

the creation of a Palestinian state.

Netanyahu had threatened to begin annexations on Wednesday, but no session of the Israeli Cabinet is scheduled and analysts told foreign media on Tuesday they expected no significant moves.

Wadie Abunassar, director of the International Centre for Consultation in Haifa, said there were three reasons for Netanyahu's failure to carry out the threat.

"He has not received the green light from the Americans yet, he has received several strong messages from Arab and foreign countries", Palestinian leaders, the UN, European powers and the Gulf states have all denounced the proposed annexation of land that Israel captured in the 1967 war.

In addition, Netanyahu's coalition partner Benny Gantz, leader of the Blue and White party, has urged a delay until the coronavi-

rus pandemic has receded. Israeli Education Minister Zeev Elkin dismissed the likelihood of any immediate annexations.

"Whoever painted a picture of everything happening in one day, on July 1, did so at their own risk," he said on Tuesday. "From tomorrow, the clock will start ticking."

Hani Al-Masri, head of the Masarat think tank in Ramallah, said the Palestinian leadership was keeping its options open.

EU bars visitors from US

DNA

WASHINGTON: The European Union reopened its borders Wednesday to visitors from 15 countries - but not the virus-stricken United States, where a top health official warned the country is headed in the "wrong direction" as cases spike in multiple states.

US infectious diseases expert Anthony Fauci said that the United States could see 100,000 new COVID-19 cases a day, and several US states imposed 14-day quarantines on travelers from other states.

Also in the US, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden announced he will not hold rallies during the outbreak, a move that is in stark contrast with President Donald Trump, who has already held large campaign gatherings.

Saudi ministry launches National Cultural Awards

RIVADH: New Saudi cultural awards will celebrate artistic achievements in the Kingdom, the Saudi Ministry of Culture said on Tuesday.

The National Cultural Awards are part of the ministry's Quality of Life program and will feature 14 categories. The awards will be given annually to individuals or institutions who have made significant contributions to the preservation or enhancement of the Saudi cultural scene.

In a statement on the award's website, Minister of Culture Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Farhan said the awards will encourage individuals and organizations to continue efforts to further

the Kingdom's cultural agenda.

"The National Cultural Awards celebrate the cultural achievements and artistic talent of individuals and groups across several cultural sectors, in addition to encouraging cultural activity within the 16 cultural sectors of the Ministry of Culture. The initiative supports the realization of Vision 2030 through the Quality of Life program by advocating culture as a lifestyle and supporting the status of the Kingdom as a hub of cultural activity," he said.

The awards are divided into four tracks: The Pioneer Award, the Youth Culture Award, and the Cultural Institutions Award. The fourth

track includes 11 awards: The Film and Visual Show award, the Fashion Award, the Music Award, the National Heritage Award, the Literature Award, the Theater and Performing Award, the Visual Arts Award, the Architecture and Design Award, the Culinary Award, the Publishing Award and the Translation Award.

Nominations are open to Saudis over the age of 21 and local Saudi cultural institutions, for work that has had a significant contribution over the past two to five years, depending on the award category. Interested applicants can apply at culturalawards.moc.gov.sa until Sept. 30.

NAB's effective Strategy acknowledged by Transparency International

ADNAN YOUSAF

ISLAMABAD: Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB has said that eradication of Corruption is top most priority of NAB. The present management of NAB has chalked out an effective and proactive Anti Corruption Strategy which has been acknowledged by Transparency International (TI), Pakistan, World Economic Forum, PILDAT and Mishal Pakistan. He said that the initiatives taken by the present management of NAB started yielding excellent results. Similarly Gilani and Gallop's survey indicated that 59 percent of people of Pakistan have full faith upon NAB which is ample evidence of NAB's across the board accountability under the dynamic leadership of Honourable Justice Mr. Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB.

Today due to NAB's proactive Anti-Corruption Strategy, NAB's overall conviction ratio is about 68.8 percent which is a remarkable achievement in investigation of White Collar Crimes in the world. He said that NAB has geared up and rejuvenated to eradicate corruption within all its forms and manifestations. He said that NAB's prime focus is on corruption and corrupt practices i.e.; money laundering, cases of cheating public at large, bank frauds, willful bank loan defaults, misuse of authority and embezzlement of state funds. Since NAB's inception, one of NAB's major achievements has been the recovery of around Rs.466.069 billion which is a great achievement as per the annual report of 2019 of NAB. Starting from the year 2017 which can be called basically a year of reinvigoration of NAB, we have moved with new zeal



and effort after through detailed introspection and analysis of organizational weaknesses, overhaul of procedures and all pillars of the organization i.e. Operations, Prosecution, Human Resource

Management, Training and Research and Awareness and Prevention have been reactivated.

He said that the overall complaints in 2019 were 53643 and processed 42760 whereas complaints in 2018 were 48591 and processed 41414.

Increase in the number of complaints also reflects enhanced public trusted in the NAB. NAB during 2019, processed 1308 complaint verifications, 1686 inquiries and 609 investigations and recovered Rs 141.542 billion from corrupt elements in 2019.

He said that NAB has introduced a new concept of Combine Investigation Team (CIT) in order to benefit from the experience and collective wisdom of senior supervisory officers, a system of CIT comprising of Director, Additional Director, Investigation Officer and a Senior Legal Counsel has been put in place.

This is not only lending quality to the work. He said that NAB has established its state of the art Forensic Science Laboratory in NAB Rawalpindi. In 2019, 15747 questioned documents and 300 thumb impressions were analyzed in 50 cases and forensic analysis was carried out on 74 digital devices (Laptops, Mobile phones, Hard Disks etc). He said that NAB is the focal Organization of United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) which is pride for Pakistan due to NAB's efforts.

He said Pakistan is committed to United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in eradicating corruption through its three pronged Anti Corruption Strategy of Awareness, Prevention and Enforcement which has started yielding excellent results under the dynamic leadership of Honourable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB.