



Islamabad POST

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

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PM Imran Khan slams Indian occupation in IoK

Parliament, provinces under attack: Sherry

RCCI to hold Virtual Trade Forum: Saboor



Briefs

Kashmiri struggle 'destined to succeed': DG ISPR

SHUJAAT HAMZA

RAWALPINDI: Director-General (DG) Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar has said that Kashmir Martyrs Day is reminiscent of utmost price paid for freedom by brave Kashmiris. In a statement shared on his Twitter account, the Pakistan Army's spokesperson said: "Every single drop of blood shed shall not be forgotten nor be forgiven. Decades of Indian atrocities failed to suppress insurmountable spirit and legitimate freedom struggle, destined to succeed, Inshallah." Hundreds of people in occupied Kashmir have been staging protests against the Indian government. The Muslim-majority region has been under a brutal siege for almost a year, after India scrapped its special status on August 5, 2019, and imposed a communications and media blackout.

CGGC sends third batch of techs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A total of 215 Chinese technicians arrived here on Monday by a chartered plane which is the third batch of builders sent by China Gezhouba Group Corporation (CGGC). According to Gwadar Pro, these technicians were sent for various projects under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Upon the completion of quarantine, the 215 Chinese technicians will be dispatched to Dasu Hydropower Project, Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Station, Suki Kinari Hydroelectric Project and Mohmand hydroelectric project. Due to the impact of the COVID-19, various projects are generally facing tight deadlines.

Pak tally surges past 250,000

ISLAMABAD: 69 more people died due to complications related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the country over the past 24 hours, taking the death toll from the disease to 5,266. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), the national tally of cases soared to 251,624 with the addition of 2,769 new cases detected during the previous 24 hours. As many as 22,532 COVID-19 tests were conducted. — DNA

PM Imran slams Indian occupation

The shuhada of 13 July 1931 were the forefathers of today's Kashmiri resistance

No one can subjugate Kashmiris: FM

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Monday has said that no occupation can subjugate spirit of brave people of Indian occupied Kashmir. In a post on social-networking website on the occasion of 89th Kashmir Martyrs Day, the minister paid tribute to courage of 22 sons of the valley who rendered their lives on this day in 1931 in the face of brutal Dogra forces. — DNA

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan paid tribute to the people of Kashmir Monday for laying down their lives "for freedom and today they continue to fight and defy a Hindutva supremacist regime" which is adamant on wiping out the Kashmiri people. The prime minister in his message on Kashmir Martyrs' Day, while saluting the Kashmiris for their continued struggle against the illegal and barbaric Indian occupation of occupied Kashmir said, "The shuhada of 13 July 1931 were the forefathers of

Continued on Page-06

Shibli praises Kashmiris struggle

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz said on Monday that Kashmir Martyrs' Day was a bright chapter in the history of Kashmiris' struggle against oppression. In a tweet, he said that this is the day of remembrance of the sacrifice of the great sons of the soil who bravely gave up their lives in the face of oppression. — DNA

Pak to resume Afghan exports via Wagah

Pakistan remains fully committed to further strengthening its bilateral relations with Afghanistan in all areas including trade, and to facilitate Afghanistan's transit trade under APTTA

ANDAN YOUSAF

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday has decided to resume Afghan exports through Wagah border crossing from July 15, 2020, after implementing COVID-19 related protocols. According to the press release of Foreign Office, the

decision was taken on the special request of the government of Afghanistan and with a view to facilitating Afghanistan's transit trade. With this step, Pakistan has fulfilled its commitments under Pakistan-Afghanistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA). Pakistan has restored bilateral trade and Afghan transit trade at all

border crossing terminals to pre-COVID-19 status, the FO stated. The press release further read, "Pakistan remains fully committed to further strengthening its bilateral relations with Afghanistan in all areas including trade, and to facilitate Afghanistan's transit trade under APTTA."

Bilawal says PM Imran a 'danger' to democracy

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: PPP chairperson Bilawal Bhutto said Monday Prime Minister Imran Khan was a "danger" to democracy, economy, and the nation as he slammed the PTI's foreign policy on Kashmir.

Addressing a press conference flanked by PPP leaders in the metropolis, he said: "Imran Khan is the first and the last prime minister who failed to unite the nation on the Kashmir cause." Every government in the past — dictatorship, democratic, selected, or elected — was able to unite the people on the cause of Kashmir, he said, adding: "I am surprised that despite



all these problems, prime minister, on the floor of the house, said that PTI's foreign policy has been the most successful." "I am the only politician from opposition and treasury benches to oppose Modi. Unlike the appeasement policy that either of the ruling parties has had with Modi, PPP has always maintained its stance and has opposed him from day

one and will do so in the future," Bilawal said. "But this incompetent prime minister has failed to form national unity on Kashmir cause, he is the prime minister who ran Modi's election campaign claiming that if Modi wins, the Kashmir issue would be resolved," he said. The government's appeasement policy with Modi must come to an end, Bilawal said, adding that the PTI-led government's foreign policy has damaged Pakistan. PPP has always been at the forefront of the Kashmir issue. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto had fought the case of Kashmir and today Pakistanis and Kashmiris remember his speeches in the United Nations.

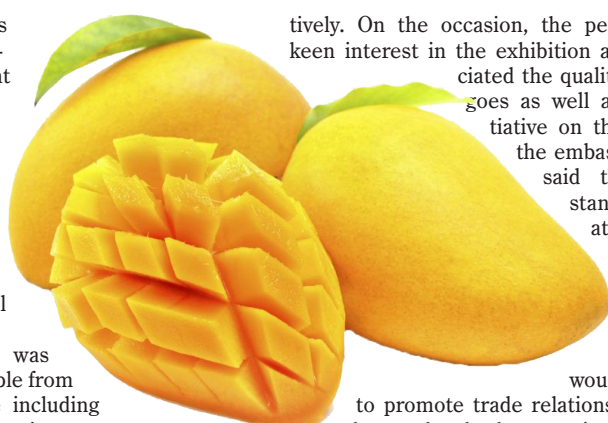
Kyrgyzstan: Pak embassy arranges mango show

ISLAMABAD: As part of the initiatives of President Dr Arif Alvi to promote export of mangoes, Pakistan Embassy in Kyrgyzstan organized a mango exhibition at the City Centre of Capital Bishkek.

The exhibition was attended by people from all walks of life including owners of the prominent stores and importers of fruits.

According to a press release on Monday, the embassy delivered gifts of mangoes on behalf of the President of Pakistan to the President and Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic Sooronbay Sharipovich Jeeenbekov and Kubatbek Aiytychevich Boronov respectively.

On the occasion, the people took keen interest in the exhibition and appreciated the quality of mangoes as well as the initiative on the part of the embassy. They said that Pakistan embassy at Bishkek needed to arrange such events which would help to promote trade relations between the two brotherly countries. The embassy also delivered mangoes as gifts to other dignitaries, including ministers, parliamentarians, officials of Chamber of Commerce and other prominent functionaries of the Kyrgyz government. They praised and greatly admired the taste, aroma and texture of the mangoes. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Kwak Sung-Kyu of Republic of Korea handing over support documents to Chris Kaye WFP Pakistan Representative and Country Director. — DNA

Kashmir Martyrs' Day observed

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: Kashmiris living on both sides of the Line of Control as well as rest of the world observed the Kashmir Martyrs Day on Monday with a pledge to continue their struggle for achievement of their birthright right to self-determination and freedom of Kashmir from the Indian yoke. Kashmir Martyrs' Day has been commemorated annually on July 13 to mark the incident of July 13, 1931, when 22 Kashmiris were martyred in their attempts to complete the call for prayer outside the Srinagar Central jail, by soldiers of Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh. The people rose against Dogra rule and protested against the prosecution of sympathizer of Kashmir struggle, Abdul Qadeer Khan Ghazi. It was the beginning of Kashmir freedom struggle which has different phases including political struggle as well as civilian protests.

Afghan forces suffer casualties

DNA

KABUL: The Afghan forces suffered casualties in an attack by Taliban group in northern Parwan province of Afghanistan. A spokesman for the Provincial government, Wahida Shakkar, said that a group of Taliban militants attacked the security posts in Shinwari district on Sunday night. The attack left at least 4 security personnel dead and wounded at least 3 others. She further added that the Taliban militants also suffered heavy casualties during the clashes and the dead bodies of three Taliban militants were left in the area as of early Monday.

Foreign remittances shot up

STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: Foreign remittances shot up almost 8% during the four months of the coronavirus pandemic, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said in a statement issued Monday, as compared to 2019's comparable period. Overseas Pakistanis sent record remittances in the fiscal year 2020 (FY20), totalling at \$23.12 billion and reflecting a surge of 6.4%. Moreover, in the months of the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown specifically, including March, April, May, and June, the figure rose 7.8%, the central bank noted.

Korea extends support for locusts control

We hope that the additional support we provide will help effectively control the ongoing spread of locust swarms in Pakistan: Ambassador Kwak

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Korean Government is rolling up its sleeves and contributing additional support of \$200,000 to help the Government of Pakistan combat desert locusts. Korea's additional support is a follow-up to its previous support of \$200,000 provided for a joint project by United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in March, this year.

"We hope that the additional support we provide will help effectively control the ongoing spread of locust swarms in Pakistan and prevent further damages to Pakistan's agriculture sector," said Korean Ambassador Kwak Sung-Kyu in his

Locust swarms attack feared

ISLAMABAD: Officials warned that the next few weeks could be crucial in the fight against desert locust infestation with major swarms expected to be reaching here later this month from the Horn of Africa. They are confident that the country is much better prepared to deal with the short-horned grasshoppers, considered as one of the most voracious insects, this time than the last major attack here in 1993, but the shortage of resources could impede the effort to contain the problem. — DNA

meeting with Chris Kaye, WFP Pakistan Representative and Country Director in Islamabad on Friday. "The additional support from the Government of Korea is very timely as WFP and FAO are expanding their collaboration to protect those rural communities whose lives and livelihoods are most at risk from the second wave of infestation", said Mr. Kaye. Badly hit by the first wave of locust swarms earlier this year, Pakistan's agriculture sector can be devastated by the second wave, seriously affecting the livelihood of farmers, and triggering hunger in Pakistan. Totalling \$4,000,000, the Korean Government is providing financial support to countries affected by locust swarms including Pakistan, Yemen, and Ethiopia.

Inside...

- Parliament, provinces under attack — Page 02
- Businesswomen to get KVV, DFID financing — Page 03
- NAHE, United States Embassy launch professional development webinars — Page 04
- Walled City of Baku: World Cultural Heritage — Page 05
- US presses again for full school reopening despite risks — Page 06
- Pak businessmen asked to learn from China's live broadcast business — Page 07
- London: Protest encouraged by India against China fails — Page 08

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Briefs

'Moon observatory to be set up in Islamabad'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry said Monday the country will have a moon observatory next Eid in Islamabad, hoping that it will lessen the burden on the Ruet-e-Hilal Committee when it comes to moon-sighting. The minister, while addressing an event held to start the production of drones to target locusts, said he would speak to provinces to spend a little bit of their budget on science and technology. He said that if the provinces were in favour of the idea, they could set up moon observatories of their own. Highlighting his ministry's achievements, Chaudhry said that when the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in Pakistan, the country was not manufacturing anything. "Today we are manufacturing ventilators, protective gear and N-95 masks," the minister remarked. "Today, we have granted permission to three more companies to manufacture ventilators." "With four companies, we will be able to export ventilators," he added. — APP

'Sindh testing capacity higher than other provinces'

DNA
KARACHI: Sindh government spokesperson Murtaza Wahab has said the coronavirus testing capacity of Sindh is higher than other provinces in the country with 12,004 tests conducted per million throughout Sindh on Monday. Wahab, while presenting a provincial comparison in a tweet, said there were 5,427 tests carried out per million in Punjab, 4,952 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 4,348 in Balochistan. He added the Sindh government was working hard to prevent the virus while other provinces had less testing capacity due to which fewer cases were being reported.

ATC declares Habib Baloch wanted

KARACHI: An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Monday declared Habib Jan Baloch and others wanted in the Arshad Pappu murder case. The court declared London-based Baloch wanted in the case along with other key members of the Lyari Gang war such as Zahid Ladla, Asif Mithal, Faisal Pathan, Ustad Taju, Shabbir Ahmad, Yasir Pathan, Saqib Boxer, Jawad Langra, Hameed aka Lala Orangi, Shahid Mixed Patti and Shiraz Comrade. Police told the court that Baloch had managed to evade arrest by going underground, overseas. The Rangers prosecutor requested the ATC judge to include suspect Baloch's confession statement in the case. "I haven't recorded any confession statement," said the alleged gangster.

Pak: First underground water storage launched

LAHORE: Pakistan has launched its first underground water reservoir system to store water from seasonal rains and reduce flooding in Lahore, a city of over 11 million people. The project, titled "Monsoon Underground Water Reservoir", took three months to be completed at Lahore's Lawrence Garden. Built at the cost of Rs. 149 million, the water tank can hold up to 1.5 million gallons of water after a heavy downpour. It is modelled after reservoirs in Japan and the United States, which offer an effective use of water resources and disaster prevention especially in metropolitan areas. The city's Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA), a government body responsible for the planning and maintenance of water supply and sewerage, identified 22 trouble spots in Lahore. After a monsoon shower, these areas, mostly low lying, would be submerged, forcing residents to wade into water-logged streets.



ISLAMABAD: People busy in purchasing plastic bath tubs during hot weather in capital city. — DNA

Parliament, provinces under attack, says Sherry Rehman

The 1973 constitution, 18th Amendment and this formula have gone through a mature democratic process. Don't attack the parliament and its constitution this way

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Strongly opposing Senator Saif Ali Khan's constitutional amendment to amend the NFC in the senate today, Parliamentary leader of the PPP in the Senate, Senator Sherry Rehman in her speech said, "It is the provinces tax collection that is running Pakistan, not the federation which is complaining about 'giving away its resources' to the provinces. This is a backdoor attack on the federation's unity and stability. Have people not seen the history of the country? Where Pakistan broke because of such attacks on provinces rights?" She said, "The 1973 constitution, 18th Amendment and this formula have gone through a mature

democratic process. Don't attack the parliament and its constitution this way. These attacks are coming from the treasury bench. When they don't like the parliamentary system, one speaker asks to undo the social contract between the province and the federation while another says bring in the presidential system." "This is Pakistan's basic social contract which keeps the country and provinces together. This is a federation. One thing keeps us bonded together, and that is our constitution. But now there are efforts to change this which has made their dubious aims clear. We will not allow this," she added. "Why the need to extract more money from the provinces? Because they can't do basic things like even maintain records of tax



collection; the record-breaking increase in public debt and liabilities, Rehman said. "The federal Government is staggering in its incompetence and inability to run the country. They are running on unprecedented debt. No government in the past 73 years has taken on additional debt of Rs 619 billion a month, every month. But this government has set a new record, over the past

630 days, the federal government has taken an average of Rs20 billions of additional debt a day, every single day". "The provinces are in surplus re tax collection. If you can't run the federation outsource it to us in Sindh as we are 8% over our targeted tax collection. So are other provinces. It is Islamabad that is repeatedly failing and slipping drastically on every target," she added. "We challenge them to talk about this. The NFC has better allot all tax collection to the provinces." She said, "The federal government has changed 5 FBR heads in the past 18 months which reflects their gross mismanagement. We are given IMF targets which even they know cannot be met. Now even IMF is saying that the recent budget is not balancing.

This has nothing to do with the provinces as they are providing the salaries and running the country financially. I challenge the government to open up the tax collection books and check the records. If the federal government cannot meet their targets then outsource the tax collection to Sindh if they can't do it. We will deliver above the targets". Parliamentary leader of the PPP in the Senate, Senator Sherry Rehman concluded by saying that, "The attack on the NFC award is unacceptable. The incompetence and unprecedented mismanagement of this government is a threat to Pakistan. The provinces are running this country and we will not allow the Federal government to steal from the people".

CEC announces Pakistan Chapter

DNA
KARACHI: Mobin Rafiq, Founder Chairman, The Commonwealth Entrepreneurs Club, has announced the heads of the Pakistan Chapter. Majid Aziz, Former President of Employers Federation of Pakistan is the Chairman of Pakistan Chapter as well as of SAARC countries. Mian Muhammad Adrees, Former President FPCCI, and Capt. (R)Dr Ruqiyah Saeed Hashmi, Former Balochistan Minister and Social Activist, are Senior Vice Chairman and Vice Chairperson of Pakistan Chapter. Mobin Rafiq has also announced that Lt Gen (R) Abdul Qayyum has been appointed as President of Pakistan Chapter while Maj. Gen Ejaz Hussain Awan, Zubair Tufail, Sabur Sethi and Lt Gen (R) Abdul Qadir Baloch have been appointed as the Provincial Presidents from Punjab, Sindh, KPK and Balochistan.

Mobin Rafiq also stated that the CEC, with its head office in London, builds international private and government partnerships to alleviate poverty. CEC drives capital access, distribution, innovation, SME growth and industry expertise in agriculture, infrastructure, energy, manufacturing, education and real estate.

NCHD prepares video lessons

ISLAMABAD: National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) has prepared six video lessons on community mobilization, literacy and topics in English and Math subjects. An official of NCHD told APP on Monday said that these videos would be used in the training of thousands of literacy and non-formal teachers, he added. He said that Commission has been taking different initiatives to improve the effectiveness of our programs and interventions in the field of literacy and non-formal basic education. — APP

Pak's imports from china decrease 11.30pc

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's imports of goods and services from China witnessed decrease of 11.30 percent during the eleven months of fiscal year (2019-20) as compared to the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported. The overall imports from China were recorded at US \$8255.034 million during July-May (2019-20) against the imports of \$9307.173 million during July-May (2018-19), showing a decline of 11.30 percent, SBP data revealed. The overall imports were also decreased by 18.72 percent, from \$47.831 billion to \$38.877 billion, according to the data. On the other hand, the exports to China during the period under review were recorded at \$1535.454 million against exports of \$1701.506 million during same period of last year, showing decline of 9.75 percent. Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed decline of 6.77 percent in eleven months, from \$22.457 billion to \$20.936 billion, the SBP data revealed. Based on the trade figures, the trade of goods and services with China witnessed decrease of 11.65 percent in deficit during first eleven months of fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year. The deficit during the period under review was recorded at \$6719.580 million against \$7605.667 million during same period of last year, showing negative growth of 11.65 percent, the data revealed. — APP

Pak's envoy to Syria calls on President Alvi

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Syrian Arab Republic, Air Marshal (Retd.) Saeed M Khan, called on President Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-i-Sadr. Talking to Air Marshal (Retd.) Saeed M Khan, the President said that Pakistan attached utmost importance to its ties with Syria, and wanted to further expand and promote bilateral relations in areas of mutual interest. The president asked the am-

bassador-designate to work for promoting trade and economic relations between the two brotherly countries as well as focus on highlighting the Kashmir issue and the atrocities being committed by India in the occupied Jammu & Kashmir, in the wake of imposition of lockdown since August last year, during his stay in the host country. The President also emphasized the need for increasing bilateral engagement at the senior level and asked the Ambassador-designate to play his role in this regard.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani's Ambassador designate to Syria Air Marshal @ Saeed Muhammad Khan calls on President Arif Alvi. — DNA

Bank Alfalah, IBA launch scholarship fund

ATHAR SUFI
KARACHI: Bank Alfalah Islamic and the Institute of Business Administration have announced the Alfalah Islamic Scholarship Program to provide financial assistance for five fresh undergraduate students for their entire first year. The MoU for this initiative was signed by Mr. Atif Bajwa, CEO and President of Bank Alfalah and Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director IBA, at a ceremony held at Bank Alfalah Head Office. Under this agreement, Bank Alfalah Islamic will be contributing

PKR 850,000 each for a total of PKR 4.2 million to seed the fund to support students on the basis of academic excellence, personal circumstances or economic hardship. The scholarships will be awarded on a case-by-case basis, and funding can cover complete educational expenses such as admis-

sion, tuition, hostel and books to support deserving students in furthering their education. Commenting on the partnership, CEO & President Bank Alfalah, Mr. Atif Bajwa said, "The launch of the Alfalah Islamic Scholarship Program not only reaffirms Bank Alfalah's commitment of giving back to the society, but is also in line with our vision of building a future for Pakistan where our youth has access to quality education. "At this time when many families are struggling financially, we have launched this initiative to allow

bright, young talent to pursue their education without any obstacles. We believe supporting these students goes beyond investing in their individual futures." "We are grateful to Bank Alfalah Islamic for extending their support for students from our upcoming classes. "Their generosity will help students and their families in this time of unprecedented crisis by enabling the gift of higher education and their better future, which represents an investment in a better future for all of Pakistan." said Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director, IBA.

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Asad issues warning to K-Electric

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar has once again issued a warning to Karachi-Electric (KE) over prolonged loadshedding in the metropolis which has caused a nuisance for the city's residents.

The minister, in an interview, said that it was not possible that the Centre did nothing while the needs of its citizens were not met. "The power distributor should fulfill its responsibility otherwise National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) will take action against it," he said. "If KE will not do its job, the Centre will play its role. If KE violates its agreement, an action would be taken against them," Umar warned.

It is pertinent to mention that a meeting on power outages in Karachi was held in Karachi on July 11 under the chairmanship of the governor Sindh in which KE and NEPRA officials were also present.

Cattle markets to function from 6am to 7pm: NCOC

DNA

LAHORE: A meeting of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) held in provincial capital of Punjab has decided that cattle markets will be set up outside city limits and will function between 6am and 7pm. NCOC has also decided to ensure strict implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) including social distancing, wearing of face masks and screening of customers. A special meeting of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) was held in Lahore today. Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar and National Coordinator Lt. General Hamood Uz Zaman Khan presided over the meeting while representatives of Islamabad, Azad Kashmir and other provinces attended the meeting via video-link. During the meeting it was also decided to increase the number of cattle markets to reduce overcrowding while plan which was followed for Eid-ul-Fitr prayers will also be followed on Eid-ul-Azha. Meanwhile, Chief Corporation Officer Syed Ali Abbas Bukhari said that the markets would be located two to 45 km away from the urban population and will become operational 10 days before the Eid and each market will have a livestock and health department camp. Only 2 persons will be allowed in the market with mandatory masks.

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Forensic test of Wazir's alleged audio

DNA

PESHAWAR: Government has decided to send the alleged audio tape of Ajmal Wazir for forensic test and the matter will be referred to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) or Anti-Corruption for investigation. In this regard, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Provincial Chief Secretary Kazim Niaz. The Chief Secretary will prepare and send a summary to the Chief Minister (CM) today and the summary will decide an investigation agency.

Briefs

All main rivers run normal: FFC

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that at present, there is "no flood situation" in the country and all main rivers of Indus River System are discharging "normal flows".

According to daily FFC report on Monday water availability owing to healthy reservoir position is quite prominent.

Tarbela, Chashma and Mangla reservoirs cumulatively have attained a storage of 7.780 MAF (57.15% of total 13.614 MAF) against 4.002 MAF (29.40% of total 13.614 MAF) of July 13, 2019.

Trough of Westerly Wave earlier over Northern parts of Pakistan presently lies over Kashmir and adjoining areas with weak Seasonal Low over North-eastern Balochistan.

Moist currents generated from the Arabian Sea are penetrating upto 4000 feet into the upper parts of Pakistan. Isolated wind thunderstorm/ rain may occur over Punjab (Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Sargodha, Gujranwala, Lahore, Sahiwal, Bahawalpur, Multan & D.G. Khan Divisions), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Malakand, Hazara, Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu & D.I. Khan Divisions), Eastern Balochistan, Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir besides over the upper catchments of all the major rivers during the next 24 hours. - APP

12-year old girl reunited with parents

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Sihala police on Monday reunited 12-year old missing girl with his parents, a police spokesman said.

According to details, Manzoor Hussain informed Sihala police station that his 12-year old girl Ayesha Bibi had been missing and could not be traced despite hectic efforts by family members. Following this information, SP (Rural) Malik Naeem Iqbal constituted a special team under supervision of DSP (Sihala Circle) Rukhsar Medhi to trace the missing girl.

This team including SHO Sihala police station Inspector Muhammad Basheer Malik along with police officials searched various under-construction buildings, houses and garbage heaps. Various people were inquired about the missing girl, and finally police team succeeded to recover her safely. Police reunited the girl with her parents who thanked police team over safe recovery. IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfikar and DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed have appreciated the performance of police team. - APP

502 VIPs fined over traffic violations

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has imposed fine on 502 VIPs for committing traffic rules violations on major thoroughfares of the federal capital during ongoing year. The present management was committed to transform the ITP into public-friendly force by eliminating the VIP culture, a senior officer told APP while sharing the six month progress report on Monday.

The fined VIPs included 24 police officers, 47 media persons, 63 politicians, 39 judiciary and celebrities each, 71 diplomats and 131 bureaucrats. As per details 315,436 fine tickets worth Rs. 85,667,700 were issued to road users over different traffic rules violations during the same period.

He claimed that federal capital has witnessed 35 percent decline in fatal accidents while 16 percent non-fatal accidents were occurred in 2020 as compared to the previous year of 2019. The IGP said that ITP was a role model for all other departments and appealed the citizens for their cooperation and follow traffic rules. - APP



ISLAMABAD: A view of artworks on the wall of Murree motorway near Angoori area in the outskirts of federal capital. - APP

Mayor calls for efforts to fight virus

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Mayor Islamabad Sheikh Anser Aziz has emphasized on collective efforts to combat COVID-19. The Mayor alongwith Director General Health Services and his team, led a free covid testing marathon at Islamabad Bar and expressed his personal concern all the way through these last few months.

The COVID19 is a curse and till its proper cure turns up through the streets, its all about prevention and that too through timely diagnosis and testing. Mayor urged the community to support free-testing cause in all parts of ICT, to make Capital City a resilient and role model Covid fighting city.

Sania opens Compost Processing Unit

DNA

ISLAMABAD: During a visit to NARC, Dr. Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant to PM, inaugurated the Bio-compost Plant. This plant, aimed at controlling locust in country, will enable standard compost production from a mixture of locust with other bio-waste materials.

She told keeping in view the fact that agriculture plays a very vital role for economy of Pakistan and its development therefore, it is always a main concern to PTI government.

Dr. Nishtar further pointed out the threats to land integrity, due to increasing and combined pressures of agricultural production. Prosperity of farmers is depending upon agriculture so the need to enhance improved land management and amelioration strategies in agricultural research and development programs is necessary.

Dr. Muhammad Azeem Khan, Chairman, PARC told about the advantage and importance of Compost Plant in agriculture. Engr. Shamin ul Sibtain Shah, Director General NARC, Dr. Sarfraz Ahmad, Member National Resources Division, PARC, Director Land Resources, Dr. Shahid Masud Gul, Director Special Initiator, Nasir Mehmood Cheema, Dr. Tariq Sultan In-charg Compost Processing Unit, Director Admin, NARC, Dr. Iqbal Anjum, Dr. Khalid Ehsaas Program, Dr. Amjad, CEO PATCO and other scientists were also present in the inaugural ceremony.

Connected Women to hold competition

ISLAMABAD: Connected Women Pakistan will start a competition for women entrepreneurial businesses working in Pakistan to motivate and develop the future entrepreneurs from 15 July to 14 August. The competition would put a spotlight on women entrepreneurial businesses working in Pakistan to encourage and to devote its entire focus towards fostering Women Entrepreneurship in Pakistan. - APP

Businesswomen to get KVV, DFID financing

WV has a unique approach because growth capital provision is augmented by customized business development services that helps maximise chances of success of women-led businesses

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Karandaaz Pakistan, with support from UK's Department for International Development (DFID), has launched a new financing programme to improve access to finance for women businesses.

This new initiative, titled "Women Ventures", will start accepting applications from eligible women-led and owned businesses on a rolling basis throughout the year. Women Ventures (WV) has evolved from Karandaaz's earlier pilot programme-Women Entrepreneurship Challenge (WEC)-which successfully ran for three consecutive years and has made invest-

ments of PKR 340 million in 18 women-led businesses and generated approximately PKR 700 million in revenue for these businesses and supported over 900 jobs.

As part of WV, Karandaaz will be entering into partnerships with co-investors and market developers to serve a larger number of women enterprises and to strengthen the ecosystem supporting this market segment.

Accredited institutional partners that are interested in pipeline-sharing and or co-investing can apply to become part of the WV initiative. Currently Fatima Gobi Ventures - a joint venture between Fatima Ventures (Pvt.) Limited and Gobi

Partners, Social Innovation Lab, and Telenor Velocity have already partnered with Karandaaz on the WV programme.

WV is open to businesses from all sectors and applicants may apply from anywhere in the country.

WV will support high growth, scalable, women-led enterprises in Pakistan; a segment that has traditionally faced a negative bias in accessing growth capital through formal financial channels.

WV has a unique approach because growth capital provision is augmented by customized business development services that helps maximise chances of success of women-led businesses. It is the only investment

instrument in the local market that offers meaningful capital on development finance terms based on the capacity and growth needs of these businesses.

Through WV, Karandaaz aims to support a larger number of women led businesses to meet their ambition of business expansion, increase organisational sophistication and improve their prospects of raising commercial capital from formal financial markets."

Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Chairperson Karandaaz said, "The case for supporting women-led businesses is simple. In Pakistan only 8 percent of micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) owners are women. Access to finance is 6

percent and only 1 percent of women are engaged in entrepreneurial activities as opposed to 21 percent of men.

Notwithstanding the dearth of capital and tough business conditions, a growing number of women-led businesses are emerging in both traditional and non-traditional areas. They are creating new jobs and introducing innovation in business practices.

However, for a positive cyclical effect and to fully realise women's economic potential institutional mechanisms and partnerships are needed in terms of access to finance and supportive ancillary business development services. By providing growth capital

to women-led businesses under the newly structured Women Ventures, we hope to demonstrate their commercial viability for investment, motivating banks and investors to view them as serious market contenders."

Ms. Annabel Gerry, Country Director DFID Pakistan said, "No lasting developmental impact is possible, either socially or economically, if half of the world's population is not empowered to reach their full potential. Eliminating extreme poverty in the developing world and meeting the global challenges that will emerge in the next decade will require the talents and potential of whole populations, not just one half.

RCI to organize Virtual International Trade Forum

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Virtual International Trade Forum, organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) will be held on July 22. Giving details, Chamber President Saboor Malik said that this forum is the continuity of the Africa Trade Forum organized by RCCI last year.

The virtual forum will be attended by commercial and trade consular from Pakistan and abroad, officials of the Ministry of Commerce and CEOs of the companies. The trade forum will be inaugurated by Commerce Minister Razaq Dawood. The purpose of the trade forum is to make the business community aware of trade and export opportunities in African markets, he added.

He said that Pakistan would have to find new markets to boost exports. Africa is a continent of more than fifty countries. Pakistan's trade volume with African countries is only close to 3 billion dollars, which could be doubled in the next three years. He said that an increase in trade in food, textile and pharmaceutical sectors could be made possible. He said that in order to increase Pakistani exports to African countries, new trade avenues would have to be explored. "Exports have been affected due to the lockdown, but we have to advertise our products and potential through virtual platforms," Malik said. In the current difficult situation amid Covid-19, there is an important opportunity for us to re-examine our market and products," he said.

Economic emergency demanded

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PML-Q Deputy Secretary Information Khawaja Rameez Hassan has said that in order to strengthen the infrastructure of the state, it is necessary to impose at least 20 years of economic emergency in the country.

He said that corrupt elements in tax and revenue collection agencies have hollowed out the roots of the country. To strengthen the process of accountability, the assets of corrupt individuals should be confiscated and handed over to national custody. Cases against them should be tried in military courts instead of civil courts where a strong scope for justice is expected.

PhD students allowed to continue research work

DNA

ISLAMABAD: After Federal Minister for Education Shafiqat Mahmood announced to reopen educational institutions from September 15, the government has allowed universities to call PhD students to their laboratories for research work.

According to details, the federal education ministry has allowed all educational institutions across the country to open their administrative and academic offices in order to begin preparations for safe reopening and ensure implementation of SOPs. Meanwhile, the decision regarding the opening of

hostels for students will be taken after Eid-ul-Azha and witnessing the Covid-19 situation.

Sources told that students' residing in hotels will undergo coronavirus tests. The universities and colleges will be allowed to conduct examinations and entrance test under strict enforcement of SOPs. Last week, Federal Minister for Education Shafiqat Mahmood had announced to reopen educational institutions from September 15 with strict enforcement of standard operating procedures (SOPs). Addressing a press conference here in Islamabad, the education minister said that the government had decided to resume ed-

ucational activities from September 15 and provinces have been asked to formulate SOPs for school's reopening in this regard.

The situation of Covid-19 in the country will be reviewed in August and September before the opening of the educational institutions. If the Covid-19 situation gets better, the educational institutions will reopen from September 15," he said.

It is pertinent to mention here that govt had earlier canceled all board exams across the country and extended the closure of schools till July 15 as part of measures to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Dacoits' gang busted, 12 vehicles recovered

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Shalimar police station has busted a gang of dacoits involved in several crime incidents and recovered snatched cash, motorbike and weapons from their possession, a police spokesman said.

According to details, a team headed by Shalimar police station SHO Sub-Inspector Suleman Shah arrested three members of a criminal gang involved in snatching cash and other valuables from the citizens at gun point. The gangsters have been identified as Bilal Zahoor, Adnan and Asad Mehmood while police team recovered snatched cash Rs 130,000, motorbikes and weapon along with ammunition from their possession.

During the preliminary investigation, the accused confessed to their involvement in several cases of snatching in the various areas of the city. Cases have been registered against them and further investigation is underway from them.

Meanwhile, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Saddar Circle Khalid Mehmood Awan along with team impounded 12 vehicles during checking at various pickets and shifted them at police station for clearance. On checking through lab, these vehicles were found stolen from various districts including Islamabad. Further legal action is underway into the matter. - APP



ISLAMABAD: An attractive view of clouds hovering over Margalla hilla in the federal capital. - APP

Briefs

Think-tank discusses refineries' up-gradation

ISLAMABAD: An energy sector think-tank held its second meeting here on Monday and discussed matters related to up-gradation of refineries, fuel pricing, oil depots' automation and expansion of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) industry. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Petroleum Nadeem Babar chaired the meeting, which was attended among others by renowned experts and professionals from the energy sector, a news release said.

"The forum discussed the petroleum sector with prime focus on the up-gradation of refineries, improvement of downstream pricing of oil sector, introduction of automation system for oil depots and expansion of LPG sector." The meeting identified key areas of policy and regulatory interventions for improvement in pricing mechanism deregulation of oil market, licensing of retail/petrol pumps and meeting other challenges besides deliberating on the role of refineries in downstream oil sector.

After extensive deliberations, the SAPM assigned the task to the forum members to prepare working papers on use of technology and automation system for collection of real-time data in oil sector and up-gradation of oil refineries. — APP

AIOU announces PTC, CT, B.Ed results

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced results of Autumn 2019 semester of PTC, CT and B.Ed (old) programmes. The results have been uploaded onto varsity website www.aiou.edu.pk, while result cards of all the candidates were being sent through Pakistan post at their respective mailing addresses.

Meanwhile Controller of Examinations, AIOU, Dr. Tauqir Ahmed Khan has informed that completers (provisional certificates) of students of matric, FA and BA who have completed their studies in Autumn 2019 semester have also been uploaded at the university website.

According to the Controller, "these students are eligible for admission in next level academic programmes on the basis of these completers". — APP

ATC adjourns Parliament attack case

ISLAMABAD: An Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) in Islamabad on Monday adjourned the hearing of a case pertaining to an alleged attack on Parliament and PTV buildings during the 2014 sit-in against rigging in general elections. The hearing was adjourned by the court of ATC judge Raja Jawad Abbas Hassan till August 18.

The advocate Rai Tajammal Hussain produced a power of attorney to appear as counsel replacing Babar Awan who is serving as Adviser to PM on Parliamentary Affairs. The court accepted the attorney and granted time to the new counsel to prepare the case. — APP

IRSA releases 324,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 324,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 325,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1459.85 feet, which was 73.85 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 163,800 cusecs and outflow as 175,000 cusecs.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1224.95 feet, which was 184.95 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 38,000 cusecs and 25,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 226,800, 188,400 and 57,700 cusecs respectively. — APP



ISLAMABAD: A view of damaged and out of order fountain at F-10 Chowk that needs the attention of concerned authorities. — DNA

NAHE, United States Embassy launch professional development webinars

Established by the HEC, NAHE is working to improve the quality of teaching, research and governance in higher education institutions across Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The US Embassy Islamabad, in collaboration with the National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) has launched a series of professional development webinars. The series of webinars is focused on assess-

ment of student performance in online higher education degree programmes.

Addressing the first webinar, Rector NAHE, Prof. Shaheen Sardar Ali said that these webinars will contribute to a smooth transition to online learning, as the higher education institutions in Pakistan are developing online degree pro-

grammes to cater to the students' critical need for an enabling environment amidst the crises posed by COVID-19 pandemic.

She said the webinars respond to an urgent need of the academic community to find ways to make online assessments an effective measure of student performance. She also appreciated the US Em-

bassy's collaboration in holding the webinars. "NAHE is fortunate to co-host the live webinars on student assessment in online education with the US Embassy."

Prof. Stephanie L. Moore, Director, Instructional Design, School of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Virginia, is the expert leading the sessions.

The first webinar was attended by NAHE officials, Vice Chancellors, faculty and senior administration of over 80 universities from across Pakistan. Established by the Higher Education Commission (HEC), NAHE is working to improve the quality of teaching, research and governance in higher education institutions across Pakistan.

Govt to maintain daily data of petroleum

ISLAMABAD: The government is working out a multi-pronged strategy to ensure smooth supply of fuel across the country by maintaining daily sales data of depots and petrol pumps, bringing necessary changes in rules and procedures of OGRA besides sealing all illegal filling stations.

"Accordingly, a law will be enacted under which live data of oil depots' sales and 'nozzle sale' data (actual dispensed fuel) of petrol pumps to be recorded in a system on daily basis," a senior official privy to petroleum sector developments told APP.

He said it would help streamline the matters

related to keeping the fuel supply chain intact without any disturbance besides ensuring effective monitoring of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) fuel stocks, supply to petroleum pumps and their onward sale to end consumers.

The official hoped that the system for maintaining the data of oil depots would be in place during next a few weeks, while its implementation on petrol pumps could be time consuming due to a big number of almost 9,000 legal registered filling stations operating across the country. "These pumps are selling fuel under a label of their

respective OMCs."

In addition, he said there were more than 1,500 illegal stations, which were not associated or in agreement with any OMC. He vowed to shut down all such illegal filling outlets through an effective crackdown.

"The government wants to end the issue of fuel hoarding once for all," he said, adding that it would not be tolerated that some OMCs curtailed supply to petrol pumps when the government reduced the oil prices to pass on benefit to the common man, and they started their routine business after surge in petroleum prices to make a quick buck. — APP

Karandaaz Women Ventures launched

DNA

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This new initiative, titled "Women Ventures", will start accepting applications from eligible women-led and owned businesses on a rolling basis throughout the year. Women Ventures (WV) has evolved from Karandaaz's earlier pilot programme-Women Entrepreneurship Challenge (WEC)-which successfully ran for three consecutive years and has made invest-

ments of PKR 340 million in 18 women-led businesses and generated approximately PKR 700 million in revenue for these businesses and supported over 900 jobs.

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Accredited institutional partners that are interested in pipeline-sharing and or co-investing can apply to become part of the WV initiative. Currently Fatima Gobi Ventures - a joint venture between Fatima Ventures (Pvt.) Limited and Gobi Partners, Social Innovation Lab, and Tel-

enor Velocity have already partnered with Karandaaz on the WV programme. WV is open to businesses from all sectors and applicants may apply from anywhere in the country.

Businesses with at least 51% or majority shareholding by a woman who has a direct role in the management are eligible to apply for WV financing.

Ideally, the business should have operational history of at least 3 years and revenue (sales) of at least PKR 5 million in the last 12 months. In exceptional cases, a business with an operational history of less than 3 years may also be considered provided it is generating sufficient revenues and demonstrates high potential for scalability and growth.



ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam addresses participants of the event "Sustainable Development Report 2020 - Pakistan's Landmark Achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 13: 'Climate Action'". — APP

Rs 15,000 mln for establishing Rehab Centre

ISLAMABAD: The government has allocated a sum of Rs 15,000 million for conducting feasibility study (PC-II) for establishing a Sub Directorate of primary level Rehabilitation Centre for multiple disabilities at sector H-11/4, Islamabad. A data revealed by Ministry of Human Rights here on Monday. A sum of Rs 12,000 million has been allocated for imparting education among Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) under pilot project for Inclusive Education of Children with Disabilities in Public and Private Schools at Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). Yet another Rs 18,000 million has been allocated for up-gradation of Special Education Centre for Visually Handicapped Children, Islamabad. — APP

Rs 152.96 billion disbursed among 12,640,000 people

ISLAMABAD: The Ehsaas Emergency Cash programme has so far disbursed an amount of over Rs 152.96 billion among over 12,640,000 lockdown affectees under different categories. The federal government had initiated the programme to disburse cash amount of Rs 12,000 among those affected by the coronavirus lockdown. The payment process under different categories of the programme continued across the country. According to the cash update received on July 13, a total of over Rs 69.29 billion has been disbursed among over 5,725,000 deserving families in Punjab so far while around Rs

45.36 billion has been disbursed among 3,761,000 families in Sindh.

Over Rs 26.18 billion have been disbursed among more than 2,157,000 beneficiaries in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while over Rs 7.71 billion has been disbursed among 634,000 persons in Balochistan. In Azad Jammu and Kashmir over 2.51 billion have been distributed among 204,000 persons while Rs 1.10 billion have been distributed among more than 90,000 people in Gilgit Baltistan.

An amount of Rs 800 million has been disbursed among more than 66,000 beneficiaries in Islamabad. The people who registered through 8171 or Prime

Minister Labour Portal can find their eligibility by entering their Computerized National Identity Card number through the web portal. The link to the portal is as follows: <https://ehsaas.nadra.gov.pk/ehsaasTracking/>.

Those persons whose parents or spouses are eligible but died can file an appeal through sending application with mentioning name and CNIC of the deceased and name of proposed deserving member of family and his or her CNIC number to the address: Dr. Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, F Block, Pak Secretariat, Islamabad. — APP



RAWALPINDI: A traffic police warden lifting a wrongly parked Carry car at Raja Bazaar. — APP

Worker's remittances grow by 50.73 pc in June

ISLAMABAD: Despite the economic slowdown across the globe due to COVID-19 pandemic, the inflow of worker's remittances into the country increased by whopping 50.73 percent to 2.466 billion in June 2020 compared to the inflows of \$16.36 billion in same month a year ago. On average during the year 2019-20, the workers' remittances also rose by 6.36 percent to \$23.12 billion compared to remittances of \$21.74 billion in the preceding year. On month on month basis, the inflow of remittances also witnessed an increase of 32 percent as it rose to \$2.466 billion in June 2020 from \$1.866 billion in May 2020. According to data issued by State Bank of Pakistan on Monday, the countries from where a major portion of inflow came include, USA from where cash inflow worth of \$4.16 billion was recorded. Similarly from UK the Pakistani diaspora

dispatched \$3.4 billion, from Saudi Arabia \$5.4 billion and from United Arab Emirates (UAE), an amount of \$4.66 billion was sent by the Pakistanis during the corresponding year. Pakistanis living in Germany sent \$131.34 million, while from France an amount of \$79.56 million was transferred, from Netherlands \$7.2 million, Spain \$137.6 million, Italy \$142.9 million, Greece \$78 million, Sweden \$15.94 million, Denmark \$16.6 million, Ireland \$17.37 million and from Belgium, \$59.4 million were sent. Likewise, from Malaysia, an amount of \$1.4 billion was transferred to Pakistan during the year 2019-20, and from Norway \$35 million were sent, whereas from Canada \$211 million, from Japan \$1.2 million, from Australia \$228 million and from Switzerland an amount of \$19 million was transferred. — APP

Gold price increases Rs350

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs350 on Monday and was traded at Rs109,250 as against its trading at Rs108,900 the previous day, Karachi Sarafa Association reported.

Likewise the price of 10 gram gold also witnessed increase of Rs300 and was traded at Rs93,664 against its sale at Rs93,364.

The price of per tola silver remained stable and was traded at Rs1060 where as that of 10 gram silver also witnessed no change in prices and was traded at Rs908.78.

In international market, the price of per ounce gold increased by \$1 and was traded at \$ 1809, against \$1808, Karachi Sarafa association reported. — APP

Dacoits gang busted; four arrested

RAWALPINDI: Bani police have busted a dacoits gang identified as Fadi gang and arrested its four members besides recovering cash, motorcycles and weapons. According to a police spokesman, a police team was constituted under the supervision of Station House Officer, Bani Police Station which after hectic efforts managed to net four criminals namely Fazal, Ahsan, Zeeshan and Huzaifa who were gang's members and allegedly involved in number of dacoities and street crimes in Bani, Waris Khan, Sadiqabad, New Town and adjoining areas.

The gang members confessed to have committed dacoities, cash, mobile snatching and other crimes in different areas. — APP

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
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Vol: 01 Issue: 96

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Karachi's power crisis

THE CEO of K-Electric has squarely blamed the federal government for prolonged power outages in Karachi. According to him, the federal government has failed to provide KE with the required quantity of oil and gas. He has also accused the federal government of not allowing KE to install the projects that were approved in 2016. These revelations came on the floor of a public hearing conducted by the power regulator – the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) in Karachi. Moreover, the CEO also excused himself by saying that it was not possible for KE to end loadshedding. Now it has become clear that in addition to K-Electric's incompetence to handle the power crisis in Karachi, a major reason is inadequate and interrupted fuel supply for power generation. Nepra has realized the severity of this issue and how it is affecting businesses, industries, and domestic users who contribute the largest chunk of taxes to the national exchequer. Now, CNG stations across Sindh will remain closed for 48 hours as the Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC) is going to increase its gas supply to K-Electric. Pakistan's largest city has been in the throes of a complete breakdown in its electricity management. Apart from testing people's patience, the power crisis is hampering industrial production, and increasing the cost of running businesses as they are forced to switch to their own power generation with generators mostly run on fossil fuels. After this public hearing, one may expect some improvement in this matter. The SSGC will now be supplying an additional 40mmcf to K-Electric. With this increased supply of gas, KE will not have any excuse for repeated power outages that it has been inflicting on the denizens of Karachi. KE has been complaining about fuel adjustment for the increased hours of loadshedding throughout Karachi. Though the Sindh Association of Trade and Industry and All Pakistan CNG Association are not happy at this decision, at least for the time being the agony of the people in Karachi will slightly be mitigated. The two associations are suggesting that power plants be run on furnace oil instead of gas. All three major industrial areas – in Korangi, North Karachi, and Sindh Industrial and Trading Estate (SITE) – have been badly affected by power shortages. The Kanupur power plant has also suspended its supply to Karachi since the beginning of July and IPPs are also supplying less power to the city. The power crisis in Karachi is not an isolated problem of a city, rather it is a reflection of how we have been managing our country and society for decades. It was over 30 years ago when the first Benazir government could foresee the power crisis coming. Her government signed multiple MoUs with international companies for power generation in the country. Those MoUs were revoked by the Nawaz Sharif government on charges of 'expensive electricity'. Then a zigzag went on for ten years before General Musharraf mounted a coup and from 2000 to 2010 there was no major addition to power generation capacity of the country. During that period the decision to grant countless licences to open and run CNG stations across the country was disastrous as we burned in our vehicles the natural gas that should have been preserved for domestic and industrial uses. This is a long story, but even now if we don't do some forward planning the power crisis is going to haunt us for long.



More misery

YEMEN has hovered on the brink of famine since 2016, a year after the catastrophic war between Houthi rebels and a Saudi Arabian-led force devastated the country with its people facing regular bombardment of rebel positions and a severe shortage of food and medical supplies. Now, the UN has warned that Yemen is once again on the brink of famine. Its donor funds that had averted the catastrophe in early 2019 dwindle. The coronavirus pandemic which rages through the country unchecked adds to the problem, leaving people increasingly vulnerable. While 1,380 cases and 364 deaths have officially been reported, it is believed by humanitarian workers that the number could be far higher. At the same time, families hit by the crisis will quickly move into a situation where they are unable to sustain themselves. So who is responsible? According to the UN, it has been able to raise only around half of the \$2.41 billion in aid pledged for Yemen at a donor conference co-hosted by Saudi Arabia in June. The Riyadh Police and Military Coalition is backing the government ousted by the Houthis in 2015 against militant outfits. There is a sectarian element to the warfare. Yemen's humanitarian crisis is the worst in the world according to the UN, with tens of thousands killed, millions displaced and eighty percent of the country's population of 29 million people dependent on aid for their survival. The problem is that this aid is not coming in. Much of it has been diverted to tackle the global Covid crisis; in other cases, countries have simply not come through. It seems the international community has lost interest in Yemen and the suffering of its people. Millions of children are at risk of famine and many families face the daily possibility of death. The Covid-19 situation has complicated matters. It is however essential that a safe passage be created to bring in funds, food and essential medical aid to Yemenis. But beyond the horror of the immediate crisis, it is also necessary to find a long-term solution. Saudi Arabia, the UK and the US have pledged large amounts in aid for the country. But what Yemen truly needs is an end to the fighting. This can only happen through a truce worked out between the Yemeni government, the Houthis separatist elements and their primary foreign backers – mainly the Saudis, the Iranians and the Emiratis. Until the peace agreement can be made, Yemen cannot rebuild itself and till this process begins more people will continue to die every day as hunger threatens to overtake the country and add further to the misery which it already faces.

Walled City of Baku: World Cultural Heritage

DNA News Agency

Icherisheher is home to numerous historical buildings of universal, national and local value. Since inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List, the City Administration has successfully completed the conservation and restoration of several historical monuments such as the Maiden Tower, Palace of the Shirvanshahs, Mohammed Mosque, Beyler Mosque and others and brought them to life. The Administration managed to restore not only the architecture but also the social values associated with the historical buildings

THE Walled City of Baku, also known as Icherisheher (Inner City or Old Town) is the core of ancient Baku, the capital city of the medieval Azerbaijani state of Shirvanshahs. As the historical and architectural pearl of ancient Baku, it is an open sky museum, also called the Acropolis of Baku, Old City or Icherisheher. With the development of the oil industry in Azerbaijan in late 19th century, the city expanded beyond the fortress walls and many buildings were constructed outside the fortress walls, and Baku grew rapidly in size. The Walled City of Baku remained as a traditional residential and historical centre coexisting with the surrounding city.

Icherisheher as the world heritage

The splendour of Icherisheher (Walled City of Baku) is that it reflects a mixture of unique architectural monuments and the spatial urban planning with original street views. The historical city is still a vibrant city with residential areas housed by local communities. The distinctiveness of Icherisheher within Baku is evident from a view of the plan of the city. The surrounding urban pattern is strikingly different from that of the fortress. The medieval street pattern creates a feeling of an endless maze that is perceived while walking within the city. Its quarters are much smaller than the blocks of the rest of the Historic Centre. Icherisheher has retained the relative homogeneity of its architecture and urban pattern because of its exclusion from Baku's dynamic urban development in the 19th and 20th centuries. This phenomenon is rare among historic cores in modern cities. The low and dense urban structure ascending in steps onto the hill has been accentuated only by minarets, the Palace and the Maiden Tower. Icherisheher has preserved much of its defensive walls, which define the character of the property. The most ancient monument of Icherisheher is the Maiden Tower – symbol of the city of Baku. Another monument of universal value, one of the pearls of Azerbaijan's architecture, is the 12th to 15th-century Shirvanshahs' Palace, located at the highest point of Icherisheher. Earlier monuments of Icherisheher include the Mohammed Mosque, together with the adjacent minaret built in 1078, and remains of the 9th to 10th-century mosque near the Maiden Tower. Considering that this medieval city represents an outstanding and rare example of a historic urban ensemble and architecture, UNESCO inscribed it on the World Heritage List in 2000, and it is being preserved under the auspices of UNESCO as a historical-architectural reserve.

Monuments of Icherisheher

There are hundreds of historical-architectural structures in Icherisheher, a site no bigger than 22 ha, surrounded by the fortress walls. Four of these structures are of international and 28 of national significance. The remaining monuments (about 500) are of local value. The Maiden Tower, located in the heart of the Walled City of Baku, has a unique cylindrical form and distinctive interior. The tower was built on a giant rock sloping down to the shore of the Caspian Sea. The heights of the northern and the southern parts of the Maiden Tower of Baku are 31m and 28 m respectively. There are several theories about the history and purpose of the tower's construction. According to some historians, people used the beacon tower for the purpose of sending alarm signals to other towers, with fire during the night and smoke during the day. There are also researchers who relate the history of the monument to ancient times, referring primarily to the tower's structure. They believe the Maiden Tower goes back to the Zoroastrian period and was a Zoroaster cell, a fire-worshipper's temple. Thus the Maiden Tower is believed to have been built for fire-worshipping, and only later in the Middle Ages used as a defence tower. Another landmark in the Walled City of Baku is the Palace of Shirvanshahs' Palace, the residence of the Shirvan governors. With its unique historic and archi-

tectural characteristics, it is one of the prime examples of the Walled City's medieval architecture. The Shirvanshahs' Palace complex is composed of nine buildings: the Palace, the Divankhane (Courtroom), the Dervish's Mausoleum, the Eastern Gate (Portal), the Palace Mosque, the Key-Qubad Mosque, the Palace Burial Vault, the Hammam (bathhouse) and the Ovdan (cistern). The palace is built on the highest point of one of the hills within Icherisheher. Extending over three superimposed terraces, it is clearly visible from the sea and from the heights surrounding the city. Mohammed Mosque, another historical monument is one of Baku's most significant examples of the architecture of the Islamic period. It was built in 471. The variously-decorated one-room prayer hall is connected to a small vestibule on the north side of the mosque. The cylindrical minaret attached to the mosque ends on the top with a tracery muzezzin balcony set on a stalactite cornice. Spiral stone staircases built within the minaret start from the floor of the prayer hall. A Quran ayas inscribed in Arabic with Cufic writing along the stalactite belt on the upper part of the minaret. During Peter the Great's marine expedition to Baku, by order of the Russian Fleet's Admiral Matyushkin, artillery bombardment of the Palace from the sea caused serious damage to the monument. The top of the minaret was shattered, which is why the mosque is also called Siniqqala, broken tower.

Management of the Walled City of Baku

Icherisheher and its buffer zone, as designated by Presidential Decree No. 725 of 13 June 1998, are protected by the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Preservation of Historical and Cultural Monuments, which among other clauses, forbids the destruction or alteration of registered monuments, regardless of whether they are in public or private ownership, without permission from a designated authority. In 2007, the Administration of State Historical-Architectural Reserve 'Icherisheher' was established as an institution responsible for the management and conservation for future generations of the monuments within Icherisheher and the entire architectural and urban complex. The Administration of Icherisheher is independent and funded by the Government. An Integrated Area Management Action Plan (IAMAP) and Conservation Master Plan of Icherisheher was developed in 2007. The Conservation Master Plan has been reviewed and formally approved by all stakeholders, and integrated with the IAMAP and adopted in the urban planning system of the City of Baku. The Administration implemented the actions undertaken under the IAMAP: the state of conservation of the property has been documented and monitored; standards and procedures related to the regulation of rehabilitation of existing buildings are formulated; maintenance and improvement of public spaces are carried out; strategic interventions to improve the quality of life in Icherisheher are developed; and community outreach and scientific programmes are organized and successfully managed.

Restoration and repurposing historical buildings into cultural centers

Icherisheher is home to numerous historical buildings of

universal, national and local value. Since inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List, the City Administration has successfully completed the conservation and restoration of several historical monuments such as the Maiden Tower, Palace of the Shirvanshahs, Mohammed Mosque, Beyler Mosque and others and brought them to life. The Administration managed to restore not only the architecture but also the social values associated with the historical buildings.

The conservation of the Maiden Tower was launched in 2009 according to the 'Detailed Conservation Master Plan of the Historic Center of Baku'. It was carried out under the supervision of the Erich Pumper Atelier, an internationally renowned Austrian company specialized in restoration and conservation, with the involvement of local and foreign specialists. In addition, a new permanent exhibition was installed after the conservation works, presenting the Maiden Tower as a historic cultural monument of global value and addressing a very wide audience, encompassing local and international visitors and both adults and children. The most up-to-date technologies and media, indispensable for a modern museum, are widely used in the exhibition. Traditional and electronic media together create a rich and multidimensional experience of the monument. The new museum exhibition gives visitors the opportunity to discover a wide range of information on the history of the monument, its functions and the legends surrounding it. Conservation work was also undertaken on the Palace of Shirvanshahs. The most urgent conservation tasks pertained to the Shirvanshahs' mausoleum and Divankhane court square. Both feature particularly fine examples of stonemasonry on the portals and their stalactite arches. All preservation work was carried out based on the principles of authenticity and unaltered reproduction of historical information, and with respect for features caused by aging, and therefore in compliance with the 1964 international Venice Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites. Once conservation works were completed, a new museum exhibition was created at the Palace of the Shirvanshahs complex. Along with rich museum exhibits, the exhibition makes extensive use of video projection, multimedia animation and audio and video presentations. In addition, at the Palace of the Shirvanshahs complex, visitors can use the services of a multimedia guide for the first time. The depiction of the palace throne room, the exhibits and video presentations recreate the decor and atmosphere of the Shirvanshah era, and the 3D animated model of the history of the Shirvanshahs further enhances visitors' experience. The Icherisheher complex of historical and architectural monuments is the greatest cultural inheritance of the Azerbaijan nation. It represents a constant source of interest for both local inhabitants and visitors to Baku.

Another conservation work, which is currently underway in the Baku Khans' Palace. Upon the completion of the conservation works, "Baku History" Museum will be created in the Palace, which will display the medieval life via interactive panels.



Briefs

UK Labour party boycotts Facebook ad

DNA

LONDON: Britain's main opposition Labour party said Sunday it has joined a Facebook advertising boycott over allegations that the social network has failed to sufficiently curb hateful content. Hundreds of advertisers including big-name consumer brands have suspended advertising with the social media giant as part of the #StopHateForProfit campaign.

"All MPs in the Labour party use Facebook to get across our message. But what we're not doing at the moment is advertising on Facebook," senior lawmaker Rachel Reeves told BBC television.

"And that is in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter campaign but also in line with what many businesses are doing this month, which is to express our concerns about the failure of Facebook to take down some hateful material from their platform."

She said the company must "take more responsibility for the lies and propaganda that are sometimes put out there on Facebook... and take tougher action on hate crime and hate speech".

Two US bases on Okinawa locked down

TOKYO: Two US Marine bases in Japan's Okinawa have been put into lockdown after dozens of coronavirus infections, with local officials criticizing the American military's containment efforts. There are tens of thousands of US servicemen stationed on the southern Japanese island, which has recorded roughly 150 civilian COVID-19 infections.

Government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said Monday that 62 cases have been detected in recent days in US forces, most of them at US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and Camp Hansen. The spike in infections has created tensions with local officials, including Okinawa governor Denry Tamaki.

In response to the outbreak, almost all off-base travel was halted from Sunday, according to guidelines posted on the Marine Corps Installation Pacific Facebook page. Marine Corps service members, dependents, and civilians can move freely on the base but require permission to leave, including for medical appointments.

"Those orders are in place until further notice and limit base access and operations to essential personnel," the force said in a separate post. The post did not specify which bases were affected and US military officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Spain region orders lockdown again

MADRID: Hundreds of thousands of Catalonia residents were ordered back into lockdown on Sunday as coronavirus cases spiked in the Spanish region and new figures showed infections accelerating in many other parts of the world. Since the start of July, nearly 2.5 million new infections have been reported, a record level since the first outbreak of the disease in China last year, according to an AFP tally.

In just a month-and-a-half the number of cases worldwide has doubled, according to the count based on official figures.

The government of Catalonia region told residents in and around the north-eastern town of Lerida to go back into home confinement. "The people must stay at home," regional health official Alba Verges said.

The area, with a population of more than 200,000, had already been ordered isolated from the rest of the region last weekend.

It marks the first time that Spaniards have been kept in their homes since the hard-hit country exited confinement on June 21.



KANSAS: Minnesota United FC players celebrating a goal against Sporting KC in a Major League Soccer game. — DNA

US presses again for full school reopening despite risks

"We all want our children to go back to school. Teachers do, parents do, and children do. But they must go back safely"

DNA

WASHINGTON: The Trump administration on Sunday again pressed for full school reopenings in the fall, even as resurgent COVID-19 infections raised mounting criticism that a premature return to classes could pose a danger of greater spread of the disease.

With the virus setting new records by the day in many parts of the country, a top health official warned that "everything should be on the table" and even US President Donald Trump wore a mask in public for the first time.

But in two television interviews, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos insisted on the

need for schools to reopen, even as several states were registering record numbers of coronavirus cases and hospitals in many cities were struggling to cope.

"Kids need to get back to school, they need to get back in the classroom," DeVos said on CNN, while acknowledging that local conditions should be taken into account. "Families need for kids to get back in the classroom. And it can be done safely."

Yet, another administration spokesman cautioned Sunday that some areas might need to return to lockdowns. Admiral Brett Giroir, the assistant secretary of health, said that with COVID-19 deaths continuing to rise, "everything

should be on the table." "We're all very concerned," Giroir added on ABC's "This Week," as he called for the re-closing of bars, greater spacing in restaurants and the near-universal wearing of masks in the areas most afflicted, largely in southern states that reopened aggressively.

The pressure to reopen schools has come from the top, with Trump threatening to withhold federal funding from schools that refuse to reopen — a stance that DeVos reconfirmed.

Trump has criticized guidelines from the federal Centers for Disease Control for the safe reopening of schools, saying they were too rigid and too expensive. But many school systems

say the safety of millions of students, teachers and staff can be ensured only with some combination of remote and in-person schooling — or in some cases remote-only teaching — and that a fully in-person approach, to be safe, would impose extreme costs.

DeVos was pressed as to whether the government would actually withhold federal funds from schools, which generally account for around 10 percent of local school budgets — a substantial contribution at a time when reopening costs for larger school systems can run to the millions.

"There is no desire to take money away," she said on CNN. "In fact, we want to see schools open and have

been committed to ensuring the resources are there to do that. But in a Fox News interview, she was more direct, explicitly saying that if school don't reopen, they should not receive federal funds. That drew a sharp retort from a top Democrat, House speaker Nancy Pelosi, who called DeVos's remarks "malfeasance and dereliction of duty." "They are messing with the health of our children," she said on CNN.

"We all want our children to go back to school. Teachers do, parents do, and children do. But they must go back safely." The surge in coronavirus cases has pressed some governors in hard-hit southern states to retreat from their earlier efforts

to reopen their economies, with some now embracing the wearing of masks.

Governor John Bel Edwards of Louisiana, a Democrat, on Saturday imposed a mask-wearing requirement for most circumstances and ordered bars re-shuttered. President Trump on Saturday wore a mask in public for the first time during a visit to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, after downplaying the practice for months in defiance of his health advisors.

But Surgeon General Jerome Adams, in a reversal of tone, wore a protective mask during a television appearance Sunday, and Giroir separately emphasized the importance of masks.

No hurry to become ICC chairman: Ganguly

DNA

MUMBAI: Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President Sourav Ganguly has said that he is in "no hurry" to become the next chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Indian media reported.

Since former ICC chairman Shashank Manohar stepped down, speculation had been rife that Ganguly would assume the position, especially when former cricketers Graeme Smith and David Gower vouched for him.

However, Ganguly stated that the international governing body does not allow one to hold multiple positions despite the BCCI having more loose regulations in this regard.

"If you are an ICC independent chairman, you have to give up the position in your respective board. It's not the same as before where you could hold both the positions. The current BCCI constitution allows you to hold a post," he said. With the ICC regulation in mind, Ganguly hinted that he might pass up on the opportunity this time.

Manchester City's UCL ban lifted

DNA

MANCHESTER: Manchester City have successfully overturned their two-year ban from European club competitions. The Court of Arbitration for Sport (Cas) announced the club were cleared of "disguising equity funds as sponsorship contributions" on Monday.

Uefa's Club Financial Control Body (CFCB) issued the ban in February after ruling City had committed "serious breaches" of Financial Fair Play (FFP) regulations between 2012 and 2016.

City's fine has been cut to 10m euros. They were originally fined 30m euros (£26.9m). In delivering the ruling, Cas said City did "fail to cooperate with the Uefa authorities" but overturned the decision by the CFCB.

Remaining PSL 2020 matches to be played in Pakistan: PCB

DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has opted to put up the remaining Super League (PSL) 2020 matches, which were called off due to the coronavirus and rains, in Pakistan rather than the United Arab Emirates (UAE), media reported. According to the sources, the PSL governing council, in its last meeting, had rejected the proposition of staging the remaining four matches in

the Arab country. With the budget being approved, the PCB will now take the next steps to conclude the PSL 2020 in November.

However, in the event that the COVID-19 pandemic deems it impossible to stage the remainder of the matches, then the formula will be devised for trophy and prize money sharing.

Meanwhile, the PCB has begun its ticket refund process on Monday for matches that were abandoned due to rain, played behind closed doors, or rescheduled due to COVID-19.

Judgment reserved on Akmal's appeal

DNA

LAHORE: An independent adjudicator on Monday reserved the judgment on cricketer Umar Akmal's appeal against his three-year ban, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced.

The PCB, in a press release, said that the adjudicator, former Supreme Court judge Justice (ret'd) Faqir Muhammad Khokhar, after listening to the arguments of both sides, reserved the judgment.

The PCB did not mention when the reserved order will be made public.

Akmal's transgression had first come to hours before the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2020 kicked off on February 20. He was thrown out of the tournament for not reporting multiple approaches by corrupt elements — a violation of the PCB's explicitly stipulated rules.

PM Imran slams Indian occupation

From Page 01

today's Kashmiri resistance," PM Imran tweeted. "Their descendants have, generation after generation, laid down their lives for freedom and today they continue to valiantly fight and defy a Hindutva Supremacist regime bent on demographic engineering to wipe out the Kashmiri people and their identity," he added.

The prime minister added that Pakistan will continue to support the Kashmiris right to self-determination till it is liberated. "Pakistan has always stood steadfast for the Kashmiri right to self-determination and will continue to support this just struggle till IOJK is liberated from the clutches of Indian illegal occupation. That day is not far," the premier added.

NZ mosque shooter to represent himself at sentencing

The judge approved Tarrant's request in a pre-trial video call after he was satisfied that Tarrant understood his rights to have legal representation and that he wished to waive those rights

DNA

CHRISTCHURCH: Brenton Tarrant, who is accused of murdering 51 Muslim worshippers in the infamous New Zealand mosque shooting innocent, has decided to represent himself at the sentencing of the case.

Tarrant pleaded guilty earlier this year to 51 charges of murder, 40 charges of attempted murder and one charge of committing a terrorist act. His guilty plea made a six-week trial due to begin in June redundant.

His decision to represent himself would not affect the sentencing hearing set to begin on Aug. 24, Judge Cameron Mander said in minutes of a hearing released by the court.

The judge approved Tarrant's request in a pre-trial video call after he was satisfied that Tarrant understood his rights to have legal representation and that he wished to waive those rights. Tarrant's lawyers said there was no "conflict or relationship breakdown" between them and Tarrant, and that the request was consistent

with his rights. "Tarrant has instructed counsel that he wishes to act for himself at sentence," the lawyers, who have appeared for Tarrant since his second court appearance on April 5 last year, said in an emailed statement.

"We are not disappointed by Mr Tarrant's decision." The sentencing date was formally confirmed on Monday at the high court in Christchurch in the presence of shooting survivors and family liaison representatives, the New Zealand Herald said in a report.

Tottenham get better of Arsenal to offer Mourinho relief

DNA

LONDON: Jose Mourinho admitted Tottenham needed the boost of a 2-1 north London derby win over Arsenal to offer the club's fans a tonic after a troubled season. A year on from reaching the Champions League final, Spurs are hoping to salvage their season just by qualifying for the Europa League as victory took them above their local rivals into eighth with three games of the Premier League season remaining.

A dire 0-0 draw at relegation-threatened Bournemouth on Thursday, in which Tottenham failed to muster a single shot on tar-

get, raised more questions over their direction under Mourinho, who replaced the sacked Mauricio Pochettino in November.

On Sunday, Spurs came from behind for a much-needed win as Son Heung-min cancelled out Alexandre Lacazette's stunning strike before Toby Alderweireld powered home the winner nine minutes from time.

"It was not a great season for fans to enjoy so this is really important for that," said Mourinho. "On top of that now we can still fight until the end for a Europa League position."

Tottenham have grown accustomed to Champions League football over the past four seasons, but

Mourinho - who won the Europa League while in charge of Porto and Manchester United - is desperate for the consolation prize of a place in Europe's second-tier competition next season.

"It is not a competition I am in love with, that I like much to play, but when you can't play the Champions League, you play Europa League. I only twice in my career played in the Europa League and won it twice. It wouldn't be bad to play a third time and to win a third time."

Defeat was the first in six games for Arsenal, who drop to ninth, as old defensive frailties came back to haunt Mikel Arteta's men after an impressive spell.

Good for global cricket that Pak-India play: Ehsan Mani

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Ehsan Mani believes Pak-India cricket does not take place because of the policy of the Indian government, saying, it was good for the health of global cricket that both countries play. "Pakistan-India matches are the most watched cricket matches in the world. However, apart from the International Cricket Council (ICC) and Asian Cricket Council (ACC) events, we do not play against each other due to the policy of the Indian government. It is good for the health of global cricket that we play against each other, however, in our planning we do not take into account any bilateral series against India," cricketbuzz.com quoted Mani as saying.

To a question, Mani said PCB had no issues with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). "I do not have a fear that some countries will put their interests ahead of what is good for the game as a whole. We all owe a duty of care to the global game and the well-being of world cricket and not put our short term interests before it," he said. On how critical was the next person on the ICC chairperson, Mani said a good leader would bring countries together and act in the best interest of all the Full and Associate ICC Members. "Shashank Manohar was excellent and provided the leadership ICC needed at a difficult time. I hope that the next chairperson will do the same," he said. — APP

Premier League star Zaha racially abused

"We deplore the disgusting racist messages sent to @wilfriedzaha. We condemn all forms of racial discrimination and stand with @CPFC"

DNA

LONDON: A 12-year-old boy has been arrested in connection with racist threats made to Wilfried Zaha, a star player for the UK soccer team Crystal Palace. Ahead of a game in the English Premier League on Sunday, Zaha wrote on Twitter, "Woke up to this today," then showed what he had been sent by a user who appeared to be a fan of Palace's opponent in Sunday's match, Aston Villa.

"You better not score tomorrow you black c**t. Or I'll come to your house dressed as a ghost," the person wrote. There was an accompanying image of the Ku Klux Klan and a cereal box named, "c**n flakes."



Crystal Palace called the abuse "an absolute disgrace" on Twitter and said it "should not be happening." Aston Villa then retweeted the London club's statement, vowing to issue a lifetime ban to the individual who posted the abuse. "We deplore the disgusting racist messages sent to @wilfriedzaha. We condemn all forms of racial discrimination and stand with @CPFC," the club based in Birmingham, central England, wrote. "We are working with the police in investigating this extremely serious matter and when the culprit is identified AVFC will issue a lifetime ban."

Briefs

Saudi Arabia:
New fines
for violating
labor rights

DNA

RIYADH: New fines are to be imposed on companies that violate a royal order to support Saudi workers in the private sector enterprises affected by the repercussions of COVID-19.

The General Organization for Social Insurance (GOSI) has approved the penalties related to the provisions of the labor law and the unemployment insurance legislation via the unemployment insurance program (Saned). The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development and GOSI have been entrusted with imposing adequate penalties on violations of the terms of the order. Penalties of SR10,000-50,000 (\$2,600-13,000) will be imposed for violations. GOSI noted that penalties will vary in size according to the number of workers whose rights were violated by their employers. GOSI pointed out that the penalties will be implemented without affecting more severe penalties stipulated by other legislation.

Ten million
kids 'may
never return
to school'

LONDON: The coronavirus pandemic has caused an "unprecedented education emergency" with up to 9.7 million children affected by school closures at risk of never going back to class, Save the Children warned Monday. The British charity cited UNESCO data showing that in April, 1.6 billion young people were shut out of school and university due to measures to contain COVID-19 - about 90 percent of the world's entire student population.

"For the first time in human history, an entire generation of children globally have had their education disrupted," it said in a new report, Save our Education. It said the economic fallout of the crisis could force an extra 90 to 117 million children into poverty, with a knock-on effect on school admissions. At the same time, the charity warned the crisis could leave a shortfall of \$77 billion in education budgets in low and middle income countries by the end of 2021. "Around 10 million children may never return to school - this is an unprecedented education emergency and governments must urgently invest in learning," Save the Children chief executive Inger Ashing said. - APP

US: first
federal
execution
in 17 years

DNA

NEW YORK: The first federal execution in the United States in 17 years looks set to go ahead on Monday after an appeals court overturned a lower court injunction, saying a lawsuit by the victims' family - which had put the execution on hold - had no legal standing. White supremacist Daniel Lewis Lee was convicted in the killing of three members of an Arkansas family in 1996 although some relatives of his victims opposed him receiving the death sentence. He is due to be executed by lethal injection at the US Department of Justice's execution chamber in Terre Haute, Indiana. His execution had been blocked on Friday by a federal judge after some of the victims' relatives sued, saying they feared that attending could expose them to COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the novel coronavirus. As the number of coronavirus infections rises in about 40 US states, the Bureau of Prisons said on Sunday that a staff member involved in preparations for the resumption of federal executions had tested positive for COVID-19. The lawsuit filed against the Department of Justice (DOJ) in federal court in Indianapolis sought to block the execution until the pandemic had passed. US District Judge Jane Magnus-Stinson ordered the department to delay the execution until it could show it was upholding the plaintiffs' right to attend the execution without risking their health.



ISLAMABAD: Newly arrived Ambassador of Egypt called on Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rabeel on Monday. - DNA

Pakistani businessmen asked to learn
from China's live broadcast business

Live broadcast business enables the network platforms to find a new track, while providing a new stage for various enterprises.

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistani businessmen could learn from the Chinese practice and experience of live broadcast business to sell their products during the COVID-19 pandemic period, Cheng Xizhong, visiting professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law, senior fellow of the Charhar Institute said.

During the pandemic period, China's live broadcast business has developed rapidly and selling products through direct broadcast has become a new trend. Currently, with the spread of the pandemic, "I feel that China's practice and experience could be a reference to our Pakistani friends", he said in a statement published by China Economic Net (CEN) here. Live broadcast business enables the network plat-

forms to find a new track, while providing a new stage for various enterprises. With strong affinity, interaction and consumption promotion, live broadcast with commodities has even become the key to the recovery of some industries, so that clothing, food, housing, transportation, entertainment and other industries seriously affected by the pandemic have seen new opportunities. Some local governments

are promoting the integrated development of live broadcast with professional wholesale markets and traditional business enterprises, and actively developing a new mode of "online + offline consumption". Recently, relevant departments of the Chinese government introduced the situation of e-commerce in promoting consumption and economic recovery. An official from Ministry of Commerce said that the

government is looking for ways to invigorate the consumer market and guide all localities to carry out a series of online promotion activities according to local conditions. According to the data of the National Bureau of Statistics, the scale of online retail sales in the first quarter this year was basically the same as that of the same period last year, and the online retail sales of commodities increased

by 5.9%, indicating that the promotion effect on online retail for consumption has been further improved. Live broadcast with products refers to a new service mode that uses live broadcast technology to display products in close range, consult and reply, and guide shopping through internet platforms, or department stores opening their own live broadcast rooms, or professional anchors gathering to promote.

Promoting construction sector
will boost Pakistan economy

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Prime Minister Imran Khan's massive package for the construction industry is a ray of hope at the time when the country's industry bearing the brunt of coronavirus impact and it will provide a boost to the country's economy in addition to creation of ample new job opportunities. Hailing Prime Minister unprecedented package of incentives in a press statement here on Monday president SAARC Chamber Iftikhar Ali Malik said that construction

sector has great potential to boost economic activities but due to some restrictive measures of the government, the sector had contracted by 7.6 percent during 2019 as per last quarterly report of SBB, which caused great loss to the economy. Throwing light on the package, he said all salient features announced in this colossal incentive package would help boosting the economic activities besides giving confidence to investors and business community. He said another important point in this package was that the government

will not ask anyone about the source of the income which will be pumped into construction sector of the country. He said this entire people to bring their black money by participating in economic activities. Iftikhar Malik further said Prime Minister Imran Khan deserves appreciation for announcing a subsidy of Rs30 billion to be given for the Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme which would boost the construction industry. "There is a shortage of over two million homes in Pakistan right now, whereas the size of construction industry

is over Rs250 billions and now after the announcement, this would help the sector to fill the housing gap and create jobs. He said good thing is that the government also accorded the construction sector with the status of 'industry which would increase the facilities available to it. He further said that the growth of many allied industries was linked with the growth of construction sector and all these conducive policies would help flourishing all allied industries and would contribute significantly towards strengthening the economy.

Saudi air
defenses
foil Houthi
strikes

DNA

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Air Defense Forces intercepted and destroyed two ballistic missiles and six drones fired by the "terrorist Houthi militia" toward Saudi Arabia on Sunday night, the alliance said early Monday. Colonel Turki al-Maliki, spokesman of the Arab Coalition supporting Yemen's legitimate government, said the Iran-backed militia fired the missiles and booby-trapped unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) from the Yemeni capital Sanaa toward civilian targets in Saudi Arabia. It was fortunate that the weapons of war were destroyed before they could hit their targets, Al-Maliki said, without mentioning which places were targeted. The Houthis have for the past five years targeted various civilian areas and industrial sites in the Kingdom. Among these were the airport in Riyadh, an oil refinery in the Eastern Province, various targets in western regions of Najran, Jazan and Asir, as well as the holy city of Makkah. Al-Maliki accused the Houthi militia of escalating the hostilities to target civilians inside Yemen and neighboring countries and that such atrocities would not go unpunished.

Asian markets
witness rise

HONG KONG: Fueled by hopes for a coronavirus vaccine, Asian markets rose on Monday, recovering some of the losses at the end of last week, as investors followed a strong performance on Wall Street. Trillions of dollars in government support are keeping equities well supported but confidence is being strangled by the spread of the disease, with an explosion of cases forcing some countries to reimpose containment measures just weeks after easing lockdowns. Traders are also looking ahead to the corporate earnings season, which will reveal how companies fared during the second quarter, when economy-sapping lockdowns were imposed around the planet. Tokyo led the gains, adding 1.7 percent in the morning session, while Hong Kong added 0.6 percent and Shanghai put on 0.5 percent, with Seoul and Sydney also climbing more than one percent. Jakarta rose 0.8 percent, Taipei gained one percent and Wellington added 0.6 percent. Singapore and Manila were slightly lower. The advances came after the Dow and S&P 500 surged more than one percent in New York and the tech-heavy Nasdaq chalked up another record. Investors welcomed comments from the head of German biotech firm BioNTech who said a vaccine candidate would be ready for regulatory review by the end of the year, while Gilead Sciences said its drug remdesivir had been relatively effective in clinical trials. "Ongoing grim US COVID-19 infection news continues to be summarily ignored in favour of ongoing optimism regarding the timeline for the discovery and rapid roll-out of an effective vaccine... and/or more policy support for asset prices in the US economy," said Ray Attrill at National Australia Bank. - DNA

433 rivers exceed alerting
levels in flood-hit China

DNA

BEIJING: A total of 433 rivers in China have exceeded alerting levels since early June, with 33 of them rising to historical highs, said Ye Jianchun, Chinese vice minister of water resources at a press conference here on Monday. China is entering the key period of flood prevention, said Ye Jianchun, warning the situation in the Yangtze River and Taihu Lake are still severe. So far, floods have affected 37.89 million people in 27

provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities. 141 people are dead or missing, and 28,000 houses have collapsed, according to Zheng Guoguang, vice minister of emergency management. The Chinese water resources ministry has dispatched 47,000 people for flood prevention, rescue and relief work. 76,000 people have been rescued or evacuated, said Zheng. Since June, 141 people have died or are missing, 37.89 million have been affected and over 2,246,000 relocated due to floods in 27 provincial-level regions

in China, including eastern Anhui and Jiangxi provinces. According to the Water resources ministry, the water levels of 433 rivers in China have crossed the danger mark since early June, with 33 of them rising to historical highs. China's State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters upgraded the emergency response for flood control from level III to level II on Sunday, as incessant downpours continued to wreak havoc across vast stretches of the country. Meanwhile, China's national observatory renewed its yellow

low alert, its third-highest, for rainstorms. The downpour is forecast to continue in large parts of eastern and central regions in China. Emergency response for flood control was upgraded from Level III to Level II in Central Hubei province on Thursday. At least 14 people are dead and five others are missing due to flooding. Over nine million people have been affected by the heavy rains. Among the victims, eight have been confirmed dead in a landslide caused by heavy rainfall in Huangmei County.

Business climate indicator in Uzbekistan rises strongly

The survey was carried out in two directions: assessment of the businesses' current situation and expectations of entrepreneurs regarding the prospects of the business for the next 2-3 months

DNA

THE Center for Economic Research and Reforms (CERR) conducted the third round of survey among enterprises for the June 2020, which involved 998 enterprises. For reference: The assessment is based on the methodology of German "Business Climate Index" developed by IFO in Munich. The survey was carried out in two directions: assessment of the businesses' current situation and expectations of entrepreneurs regarding the prospects of the business for the next 2-3 months. Analysis of the business climate in Uzbekistan displayed following: The indicator of the businesses' current situation amounted 30 points (an increase of 15 points

compared to the previous month), which means that the business sentiments regarding the businesses' current state is moderately positive (Table 1). The indicator business expectations for the next 2-3 months amounted to 74 points (an increase of 44 points compared to previous month), that is the expectations of entrepreneurs regarding the prospects of their business development in the next 2-3 months are positive (Table 1). The business climate indicator amounted to 51 points (an increase of 29 points compared to the previous month), that is business climate in Uzbekistan is good. From the economic development point of view, the relationship between the values of the current situation and expectations implies that the country's economy in the next 2-3

months will experience an expansion (Figure 2). Phases of the economic cycle of the Republic of Uzbekistan. For reference: the assessment of similar indicator in Russia (-6) showed an increase of 3 points compared to the previous month. The business climate assessment includes three main indicators: Assessment of the current situation of the business. It is calculated as the difference between the answers "Good" and "Bad" as a percentage of the total sample. The value of the current situation varies from -100 points (all respondents rate the current situation as bad) to 100 points (all respondents rate the current situation as good); Business expectations for the next 2-3 months. It is calculated as the difference between the an-

swers "will improve" "will worsen" as a percentage of the total sample. The expectation value varies from -100 points (all respondents expect further deterioration of their business) to 100 points (all respondents expect further improvement of their businesses); The value of the business climate is based on the average balance values of the current situation and business expectations. The value of the business climate can fluctuate between -100 points (all respondents assess the current situation as bad and expect further deterioration of their business) and 100 points (all respondents assess current situation as good and expect further improvement in their business); Based on the relationship between indicators of the current situation and business expectations, it is

possible to determine the phases of the economic cycle in the country for the next 2-3 months, (Figure 2). If both values of the current situation and expectations are negative, then the economy in the next 2-3 months will be in a state of recession. If the value of current situation is negative, while the value of expectations is positive, then the economy in the 2-3 months will experience upturn. If both values of the current situation and expectations are positive, then the economy in the 2-3 months will experience expansion. If the value of the current situation is positive, while the expectation value is negative, then the economy in the next 2-3 months will demonstrate a downturn.

Muji files for
bankruptcy

DNA

TOKYO: Trendy home-goods chain Muji has filed for bankruptcy, making it the latest in a string of retailers to do so as the coronavirus crisis decimates the industry. Muji, which sells minimalist decor, stationery and clothing, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Thursday in Delaware. The company plans to use the process to emerge with a renewed focus on online sales. "Muji has felt the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on in-store retail, and as a result will take this opportunity to refocus our efforts in the United States on key regional markets and e-commerce," Muji CEO Satoshi Okazaki said in a separate statement Friday.

US records
another
60,000 new
virus cases

WASHINGTON: The United States, the country hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic, on Sunday recorded 59,747 new cases over the last 24-hour period, according to a tally from Johns Hopkins University. The number of cases in the US has rocketed in recent weeks, hitting a record of 66,528 in 24 hours on Saturday. The country has now registered a total of 3,301,820 infections, the Baltimore-based university said in its latest data as of 8:30 pm (0030 GMT Monday). The death toll stood at 135,171 with 442 additional deaths counted. The surge in cases has forced some state governors to retreat from earlier efforts to reopen their economies, with some now embracing the wearing of masks. President Donald Trump's administration on Sunday again pressed for full school reopenings in the fall despite resurgent COVID-19 infections. - APP

Poland's Duda
narrowly wins
in presidential
vote

DNA

WARSAW: Poland's incumbent President Andrzej Duda has narrowly beaten challenger Rafal Trzaskowski in Sunday's presidential vote. With 99.7% of constituencies returning results, the conservative Mr Duda had won 51.2% of ballots. The vote has been widely seen as a battle for the country's future as well as its strained relations with the European Union. Mr Duda's win is expected to lead to further controversial reforms. These include reforms to the judiciary and continued opposition to abortion and gay rights.

Briefs

Record single day corona cases: WHO

DNA

GENEVA: Some 230,370 new cases were recorded in 24 hours - a record daily increase, said the World Health Organization on Sunday. Most of the new cases were in the Americas, but here's a specific breakdown of where some of the other cases were from:

Americas.....	142,992
South East Asia.....	33,173
Europe.....	18,804
Africa.....	17,884
Eastern Mediterranean	15,361
Western Pacific.....	2,156

Around 5,285 new deaths were also reported - again, with the majority of them coming from the Americas.

Punjab reports 487 new virus cases, 7 deaths

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: 487 new cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) were reported in Punjab in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of cases in the province to 87,043. The province also reported 7 more virus-related deaths in last 24 hours, pushing the provincial death toll to 2,013. According to the portal, 58,023 people have recovered from the virus in the province so far. 69 more people died due to complications related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the country over the past 24 hours, taking the death toll from the disease to 5,266. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCO), the national tally of cases soared to 251,624 with the addition of 2,769 new cases detected during the previous 24 hours. As many as 22,532 COVID-19 tests were conducted.

PIA losses expected to reach Rs100 billion

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) expected to incur losses of Rs 100 billion due to suspension of international flights amid coronavirus pandemic. As per details, the PIA is expected to incur losses upto to Rs100 billion due to flight operations ban by the United Kingdom, EU and the USA. The target of revenue for the current year was set at Rs196 billion. Moreover, the national flag carrier would also suffer losses of upto Rs 12 billion in terms of Hajj operations this year after the Saudi authorities decided to hold the annual pilgrimage on a limited scale, while the airlines is also facing losses upto Rs9 billion due to closure of Umrah operations.

Houthi's back down over access to oil tanker

DNA

JEDDAH: Houthi militias in Yemen finally backed down on Sunday over access to a stricken oil storage vessel to prevent it from leaking more than a million barrels of crude into the Red Sea. Engineers from a UN inspection team are now expected to board the FSO Safer in the next few days to assess the vessel's condition and carry out emergency repairs. The 45-year-old Safer has been moored 7 km off the coast of Yemen since 1988. It is stationary, with no engine or means of propulsion. The vessel fell into the hands of the Iran-backed Houthis in March 2015, when they took control of the coast around the port city of Hodeidah. The militants have refused for more than 5 years to allow international engineers to board the Safer to carry out essential repairs, and as the vessel's condition deteriorates there are fears that the 1.4 million barrels of oil it contains will start to seep out.



KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi in a group photo with crew of PNS Yarmook after induction ceremony. - DNA

London: Protest encouraged by India against China fails

The protest organisers confirmed that they had support from the Indian High Commission officials for the protest

DNA

LONDON: A protest outside the Indian Embassy in London, encouraged by the Indian government following a clash between Indian and Chinese soldiers in Laddakh, failed on Sunday as only 20 supporters of Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) answered the call for a protest demanding a boycott of China. The turnout was disappointing for the organisers who had

spent thousands of pounds for the massive campaign to bring out the maximum number of diaspora communities outside the Chinese Embassy near Oxford Street but at its peak, only about two dozen protesters linked with the BJP's UK branch gathered. The organisers said that the protest was organised on the direct request of the Indian government through its High Commission in London to protest the deaths of Indian soldiers in Laddakh's Galwan Valley where

dozens of Indian soldiers died in clashes with Chinese soldiers in encounters last month. The Indian government has come under pressure for failing to respond to China's strong response after India violated the boundary of the Line of Actual Control. Retired Indian generals have called on the government to hit back at China for taking control of nearly 35 kilometres-long strategic area and for killing Indian soldiers but the Modi government has stayed quiet - relying

on protests at home and abroad. The protest organisers confirmed that they had support from the Indian High Commission officials for the protest. The protest was organised, according to the organisers, to condemn the "expansionist policy of China". The protesters held placards which read "China back off", "Boycott China", and "Boycott Chinese goods". The turnout was so low that the BJP supporters mingled with the dissident Iranian groups across

the road with anti-China banners to make the protest look bigger and as their own. The protestors relied on the sound system of Iranian protestors who were chanting slogans against the Iran government and demanding return of the Shah of Iran's family to power. The BJP protestors supported slogans of Iranians dissidents for an hour and then broke away to stand at the doorsteps of the Chinese embassy where the numbers count stood at 16.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Sania Nishtar in a meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan. - DNA

PIA airlifts Pakistani nationals from Tianjin

The returning community members and students continued staying in China after the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic

BEIJING: PIA's special flight PIA 6852 left Tianjin Binhai International airport on Sunday night to airlift 249 returning Pakistani nationals from Tianjin Municipality and adjoining areas to Pakistan. In view of the disruption of commercial flight operations, it was PIA's fourth special flight from China to transport Pakistani nationals back home. In pursuance of instructions of Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Embassy had shortlisted passengers with urgent travel re-

quirements for early return. The returning community members and students continued staying in China after the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. The Embassy remained in close contact with the Pakistani nationals in China and extended all possible assistance to them. Special arrangements were made by the Embassy of Pakistan for the flight operation due to the prevalent quarantine requirements. A task force of Embassy officers was constituted to liaise with the PIA,

relevant Chinese departments and Pakistani community members for finalising the arrangement of flight operations. Pakistan's Ambassador was overseeing the flight arrangements at Tianjin Binhai International Airport. The Embassy of Pakistan thanks the Chinese government and relevant authorities for their constant support to make this return successful. All passengers upon arriving in Pakistan would be subject to relevant procedures of Government of Pakistan for containing the spread of disease.

Gulf states to resume flights

Travelers will get the option to pay in advance via the 'BeAware Bahrain' mobile app to ease the payment process. Cash payments will also be accepted

DNA

DUBAI: Bahrain said all travelers arriving in its international airport will be required to pay the cost of their mandatory coronavirus testing at \$80 starting July 21, state news agency BNA reported. The health ministry said the country's citizens and residents will still be entitled to free coronavirus medical treatment in line with international standards. Travelers will get the option to pay in advance via the 'BeAware Bahrain' mobile app to ease the payment process. Cash payments will also be accepted. The decision excludes cabin crew, diplomatic or other official travelers and those arriving from medical travel from paying. Transit passengers, according to the

health ministry, will not be required to test for COVID-19 or quarantine. Meanwhile UAE's Wizz Air Abu Dhabi announced it will operate two new Airbus A321neo aircraft and offer six routes from Abu Dhabi starting Oct. 1 of 2020, state news agency reported. Tickets can be bought through the airline's website wizzair.com as well as its mobile app, with fares starting at \$35. The airline will also activate its Arabic website and mobile app to allow Arabs to book tickets online. Meanwhile, Kuwait prepares to resume its commercial flights in August, state news agency KUNA reported. Both ministries of service affairs and national assembly affairs said it is important to provide necessary high-quality services to travelers in all terminals.

Pakistan Navy Ship Yarmook induction ceremony

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: Induction ceremony of state of the art Corvette, Pakistan Navy Ship YARMOOK was held at Pakistan Navy Dockyard, Karachi. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Speaking at the occasion, the Chief Guest termed the induction event as important milestone for Pakistan Navy. He added that PNS YARMOOK in Pakistan Navy Fleet will significantly act as force multiplier to safeguard maritime interests of Pakistan. The Admiral further underscored that the ship will contribute towards achieving sustained maritime order through Pakistan Navy Regional Maritime Security Patrols (RMSP) initiatives. While highlighting the plight of Kashmiris in Indian Occupied Kashmir (Iok), the Chief Guest paid tribute to their exemplary struggle of self-determination against Indian oppression. He also paid rich tribute to the medical and paramedical staff of the country to fight COVID-19 pandemic. PNS YARMOOK is latest warship with an effective amalgam of weapons & sensors possessing cutting edge self-protection and terminal defence systems constructed at M/S DAMEN Shipyards, Romania. The ship is capable to perform variety of naval operations and transport helicopter & Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) simultaneously. The second Corvette PNS TABUK is expected to join Pakistan Navy Fleet towards end of this year. Later, the Chief Guest lauded professional competence of M/S DAMEN Shipyards (Romania) and cooperation for delivering high quality platforms to Pakistan Navy. The induction ceremony was attended by Senior Naval Officers.

Envoy Hashmi leaves for Pakistan

BEIJING: Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Ms Naghmana A Hashmi left for Pakistan on Sunday night from Tianjin Binhai International Airport after serving in China for one year. During her stay in China, she proactively promoted and further strengthened deep-rooted friendship with China, cemented economic and trade ties and took concrete steps to promote cultural and people to people exchanges. She personally supervised the measures to protect the lives of Pakistani nationals stranded in Wuhan and other parts of China during COVID-19 pandemic, according to a press statement issued by Pakistan Embassy, Beijing here on Monday. She is a distinguished diplomat of Pakistan who has served as Pakistan's Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium, Luxembourg and Ireland before arriving in China for her ambassadorial assignment. She had earlier served in Beijing from 2003-07 as Deputy Head of Mission.

Masood thanks UK, EU MPs for cross-party support to Kashmir cause

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Masood Khan has expressed his deep gratitude to the British and European Parliamentarians for their abiding and steadfast cross-party support to the Kashmiris' right to self-determination and protection of their human rights. "At this crucial hour, we need their voice and outreach to their respective governments, the United Nations and relevant multilateral institutions to build pressure on India to stop forthwith massive transfer of its population to the disputed Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in violation of the 4th Geneva Convention and customary international law. The President made these remarks while addressing a convention organized by and international Kashmir Lobby Group, TehreeKe Kashmir Europe through a video link. The event coincide with

Kashmir Martyrs Day was attended by representatives of TehreeKe-Kashmir from UK, Denmark, Scotland, Norway, Spain, Italy, Germany, Portugal and Switzerland. Addressing as Chief Guest of the event AJK President described New Domicile Rules, modeled on last century's Nuremberg Laws by the Nazi Party as a war crimes. He acknowledged the efforts of the UK's All Party Parliamentary Group on Kashmir and hundreds of European Parliamentarians, who had tabled half a dozen resolutions in March this year that had demanded a UN-led resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. "We would continue to rely on their goodwill, Parliamentary networking and diplomatic skills to seek justice for the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Khan said. He also cherished the role of Kashmiri diaspora communities settled in the United Kingdom and Europe for highlighting atrocities being committed by India in the disputed territory.

JULY 2020

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

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