



Islamabad Daily POST

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

A quantum leap in Italy-Pakistan ties my priority, says Envoy

Japanese envoy condemns terrorist attacks in Balochistan

Karachi people not to be left at mercy of Sindh govt



Briefs

Wedding halls to be opened after Eid

SHAHEEN QURESHI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Asad Umar has promised reopening of the wedding halls after Eidul Azha to a delegation of the wedding industry. A delegation of the wedding halls and restaurants owners met the Federal Minister for Planning and Development and requested for reopening of the marriage halls under SOPs, which were closed across the country due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Pak receives \$505 mn from WB

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has received 505 million US dollars aid from the World Bank, the central bank announced in a post on Tuesday. Last month, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) had received one billion dollars - 500 million dollars each from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. The ADB approved a \$500 million loan to help the country tackle the ongoing coronavirus and strengthen the health sector, while the World Bank approved a \$500 million loan to help improve the healthcare and education systems.

British Airways resumes flights

ISLAMABAD: The British Airways has planned to restore Pakistan flights from August after suspension due to coronavirus outbreak, citing sources. The airlines in a letter penned to the Islamabad airport manager, has sought details of the arrangements before resumption of the flight operation. - DNA

Peace within and peace without: COAS

Army Chief Gen Bajwa visits HIT; says if provoked we shall respond with full might

ABID RAZA

RAWALPINDI: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT). COAS was chief guest at the handing over ceremony of Tank Al Khalid-I to Armoured Corps Regiment. Tank Al Khalid-I is a joint venture with friendly countries China and Ukraine. During the ceremony Tank Al Khalid-I displayed some of its outstanding capabilities including mobility, speed, Bi-axis gun stabilization of the control system and use of smoke screen to

mask movement. Al Khalid-I will be handed over to formations, which have critical and decisive role during war. Major General Syed Aamer Raza, Chairman HIT highlighted the ongoing projects, achievements of HIT and its contribution in defence industry by pursuing self-reliance.



COAS expressed his confidence, satisfaction and appreciation for HIT's state of the art products and capabilities. COAS lauded the efforts of HIT towards attainment of self-reliance and manufacturing of world class indigenous defense products, direly needed in evolving security environment. Reiterating the need for bolstering defence and operational preparedness, COAS said that our defence preparation and operational readiness is to ensure peace within and peace without. However, if provoked we shall respond and respond with all our might.

Qureshi brushes aside Opp proposals on NAB

Qureshi went on to say that the opposition wanted the money laundering to be taken out of the jurisdiction of the NAB law

DNA / FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Tuesday said that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) would become meaningless if recommendations of the opposition are implemented. Speaking on the floor of the Lower House of the Parliament, he said that draft of the opposition hinted at eliminating money laundering from the jurisdiction of the NAB law, if that happens then the anti-graft watchdog will become meaningless. He said that the government wants to get Pakistan off the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), therefore urgent legislation on four bills is necessary, adding that FATF's three requirements are transparency, accountability and cooperation with international organizations. The foreign minister said that the opposition had been invited to sit together for legislation but the opposition suggested 35



amendments to the NAB law, which were presented to Prime Minister Imran Khan. Qureshi went on to say that the opposition wanted the money laundering to be taken out of the jurisdiction of the NAB law and the national institution should take action against corruption above just Rs1 billion. By implementing the opposition's amendments, the anti-graft agency will become meaningless, adding that the opposition has been told that their proposals were not acceptable.



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

PM assures petrol crisis probe

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday announced to take those responsible for the petrol crisis to logical end. A meeting of the federal cabinet presided over by Prime Minister Imran Khan approved formation of a commission for petrol crisis. The meeting discussed the 13-point agenda and overall political and economic situation in the country. During the meeting, PM Khan vowed to hold those accountable responsible for petrol crisis in the country. He said that provision of wheat and sugar supply should be ensured at all cost, adding that the provincial governments should launch crackdown against the mafia. The members were also briefed on dues of media houses as well as economic indicators of the country. A discussion was also held on institutional reforms report during the meeting.

A draft of rules and regulations for the appointment of Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) chairman and members was also presented for suggestions. Furthermore, the federal cabinet also approved the decision taken by the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) on July 22 while a progress report on institutional reforms was also presented during the meeting.

Taliban ask world to take Doha accord seriously

Taliban chief added that the ten-day prisoner exchange process timeline was extended to four months and objected to the continuing existence of blacklists and the carrying out of drone strikes, raids and artillery attacks on unjustifiable grounds

DNA / STAFF REPORT

KABUL: The Taliban leader Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada said on Tuesday that the group is on the threshold of establishing a pure Islamic government and warned the United States and the international community to take the Doha-agreement seriously and stop creating further problems. In his Eid ul-Adha message, Hibatullah said that our Jihad was and continues to be for ending the occu-

padding and establishing a pure Islamic government, therefore, we reassure our Mujahid and persecuted nation that their aspirations will not be betrayed. Akhundzada said the Taliban had fulfilled its obligations regarding signing an agreement with the United States in Doha and efforts towards launching intra-Afghan negotiations but that it was now up to other parties to determine how they utilize this opportunity at hand. He pointed out that the prisoner release issue was key to building trust and shortening the path towards peace. He stated that although progress had been made with the US and its allies in terms of them have started to implement the Doha agreement by initiating the withdrawal of troops and handing over of five military bases, the US government must also not create obstacles for ending of the longest war in American history with unwarranted remarks and propaganda. He warned the US that it needs to properly execute its obligations.

Japanese envoy condemns terrorist attacks in Balochistan

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, has expressed grief over the loss of precious lives in the two separate incidents of terrorism in Kech and Turbat districts, Balochistan last week and offered condolences to the families of the victims. "Any act of terrorism cannot be justified for whatever reason or purpose. I express my deepest condolences to the martyrs' families, and I pray for the speedy recovery of those injured in the attacks," said the Ambassador in his

message on Monday. Paying tributes to the colossal sacrifices by the Pakistani forces towards peace and stability, he assured that Japan, together with the international community, is continuing to support the Government of Pakistan and its valiant security forces to combat terrorism. "To this effect, the Government of Japan is concerned about the situation in Balochistan, and has been supporting various projects of counter-terrorism in Pakistan such as the improvement of facilities and equipment of Pakistani law enforcement agencies dealing with terrorism" said Ambassador MATSUDA.

'A quantum leap in Italy-Pakistan ties my priority'

Ambassador of Italy Andreas Ferrarese talks to Daily Islamabad Post; says he wants to enhance Italian cultural presence; appreciates Pakistan's role in regional as well as Afghan peace

EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese has said Italy is a country whose extremely open economy is based on international trade, on extraordinary circulation of foreign passengers and merchandizes, on international tourism. That is the reason why it was one of the first countries to be affected. Italians had to hinder such a great challenge without the point of reference of previous experiences in the last 100 years. The Italian ambassador made these remarks in an exclusive interview with daily Islamabad Post. His detailed interview shall be published in CENTRELINE magazine.

To a question about Italian govt steps to reduce impact of virus, the ambassador said, the Government acted from the beginning by adopting difficult and resolute decisions in full transparency. The main one was a general lockdown and unprecedented limitation of movements. The population has shown a great sense of responsibility and resilience. Many Italians live in small apartments. Life was very hard for them during months. There was an extraordinary effort by scientist, researchers, and a commitment by physicians and hospital staff which I would not hesitate to define heroic. We constantly shared our experience with all international partners. We received from Pakistan great solidarity and concrete support in the hardest moment.

Regarding bilateral ties the ambassador said, it is a matter of satisfaction that both our countries enjoy great unanimity of views on several issues of global importance. I would want

to further deepen this understanding and cooperation at political level. We have, historically, an excellent collaboration within the United Nations. Even in this period of COVID we could have important political contacts, through a phone call between Prime Minister Imran Khan and his Italian counterpart, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, and a phone call between Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio.

Over the past few years, trade between the two countries has seen a constant rise, thanks to the efforts of business communities on both sides, reaching a total amount of 1,5 Billion Euro in 2019. However, there is still a lot of room for improvement. One of my goals during my posting in Islamabad is to enhance Italian cultural presence in Pakistan through various mediums. I have to improve the consular services for more than 1 Million Pakistani citizens who have - nowadays - a relative living in Italy, since my Country, after Brexit, is currently hosting the biggest community of Pakistanis in the European Union.

Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese said Pakistan is a relevant player globally and not only in this Region, with whom we fruitfully collaborate in the main international fora, especially in United Nations. We praise and support the role of Pakistan and its action of facilitation in order to contribute to bring peace and normalization in Afghanistan, which would greatly contribute to a stabilization and prosperity of this geo-political area.

He said being one of his first interviews; he would take some longer to introduce himself. Pakistan he said was his sixth diplomatic assignment abroad and the second as Ambassador of Italy. "My father is a Professor of



Editor Daily Islamabad Post with Italian Ambassador



History with a passion for archeology and my mother a Professor of Finan-

cial Economy. I took something from both of them, but at the end prevailed

to the seductions of an academic life the desire to serve my Country in public Administration. I graduated in Arabic language and literature, then had a first quality training in political sciences, economy and law at the University of Padua, and through a stage in Ecole Nationale d'Administration - ENA, thus in Paris".

He said once he passed the selection for the diplomatic service, age 26, one of the hardest in Italy, in the Ministry I opted for starting my work in economic affairs, being assigned in Office for economic relations with Asia. In that occasion he worked a lot with Pakistani counterparts, with excellent results. "I remember that Pakistani Ambassador in Rome at that time, a great gentleman, often invited me for great lunches and dinners despite being a young Diplomat. He made me love your country".

"My first posting abroad was, age 28, as n.2 in the Italian Embassy in the Philippines. I faced relevant problems connected to migration and security (kidnapping of Italians), but had great satisfactions promoting Italian business and great increasing of political collaboration. I reinforced a lot the role of Italy in Asian Development Bank. First posting, for a Diplomat, is like first love". I then moved, age 33, to Tel Aviv as press Counsellor and coordinator for consular affairs. A difficult period but very useful for my professional formation, in a very challenging media and security environment.

When I finished my service there the Crisis Unit was considered one of the most efficient in the world. I was invited by Department of State in US to share our experience, the ambassador added.

Further dilating on his career he said, "I was then, age 39, Deputy Ambassador to Lebanon, in a period in which Italy played a major role for stabilization of that Country, since UNIFIL II Mission was thus led by an Italian Commander who still enjoys a great reputation in the Middle East Region". "I then served, age 43, as Deputy Ambassador in Brazil where I coordinated the Embassy and one of the widest consular networks in the world: 6 major Consulates and about 100 Honorary Consuls. We had 400.000 persons in line to obtain Italian citizenship. Italian investments amounted 18 billion Euros, regarding - to mention some samples - 25% of Brazilian cars, and 68 millions of cellphone lines".

I was then appointed, age 45, Ambassador to Kosovo, in a very important moment of the dialogue with Serbia, crucial for the stability of the Balkans a strategic region for Europe and Italy. At the age of 48, I was assigned in the office of the Prime Minister, in charge of strategic analysis and some international reports.

After a period of direct collaboration with the Foreign Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I was appointed on 4 October 2019, age 51, Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, where I arrived of February 10 2020, and presented Letter of Credence on June 11th 2020.

- Full text of the interview shall be published in the CENTRELINE magazine. The interview is also available at www.dailyisbpost.com.pk / www.dnaneews.com.pk and www.centrelines.com.pk

Briefs

Minister visits mass grave of plane crash victims

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Aviation Ghulam Sarwar Khan on Tuesday has paid a visit to the mass grave of Airblue plane crash victims to mark 10th anniversary of the mishap. According to details, the minister laid floral wreath at the Yaadgar-e-Shuhada and offered fateha for the eternal peace of the departed souls. On the occasion, Ghulam Sarwar said that an independent board will be formed to unveil reasons behind such incidents. On July 28 in the year 2010, 152 people including the crew members and two U.S. citizens were killed as Airblue plane crashed into the Margalla hills in Islamabad.

'Sindh govt failed to provide good governance'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communication and Postal Services Murad Saeed on Monday said although the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was enjoying power in Sindh from last 12 years but it was totally failed to provide good governance to the people of the province. Talking to a private TV channel, he said rain in Karachi had exposed the performance and credibility of PPP government. The minister said the Sindh government had taken huge amount through the National Finance Commission (NFC) but no one knew that where it was spent in the province. Murad Saeed said it was very unfortunate that people of Karachi were drowning but the provincial government was busy in celebrating the birthday of Asif Ali Zardari. Replying to a question, he said opposition wanted to disband the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) because they wanted to escape from accountability but the present government would not make any compromise over it at any cost, adding opposition dream to close the NAB institution would never come true. — APP

Monsoon likely to strengthen

ISLAMABAD: The Flood Forecasting Division (FFD) has said that monsoon activity is likely to strengthen over North & Northeastern Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, besides, over upper catchments of all the major rivers of Indus River System during the next 48 hours. A fresh wet spell of Moderate intensity with few heavy falls is likely to start from Wednesday. Currently, there is no riverine flood situation in the country. Present storage of Tarbela reservoir is 1.633 MAF which is 178.56 % lesser than the last year's storage on the same date with 33,000 cusecs water is discharging downstream Kotri. Water level at Mangla reservoir is same as of yesterday's i.e 1228.80 feet (13.20 feet below MCL of 1242.00 feet). As per FFD, Lahore, moist currents from Arabian Sea are penetrating into upper parts of Pakistan upto 5000 feet with Seasonal Low presently over Northern Balochistan. Yesterday's trough over Western part of Afghanistan lies over Northeastern Afghanistan. Under the influence of prevailing Met conditions, for the next 24 hours, FFD's, Lahore, forecast predicts scattered thunderstorm/rain of Moderate Intensity with few Heavy Falls over Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Sargodha, Lahore, Faisalabad & Sahiwal Divisions of Punjab, Malakand, Hazara & Peshawar Divisions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including upper catchments of all the major rivers of Indus River System. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant to Prime Minister presenting report on Ehsaas Emergency Cash to President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. — DNA

Ehsaas introduces 'Know Your Status web-portal' to facilitate applicants

The web portal will also allow beneficiaries, who are facing problems in their biometric verification, to receive payments through designated banks without prior verification from NADRA

ISLAMABAD: Ehsaas has introduced 'Ehsaas Emergency Cash-Know Your Status Portal' to facilitate applicants as well as volunteers of its Emergency Cash program, enabling them to check online status of their applications. Speaking about this pro-poor initiative for Ehsaas applicants, Dr. Sania Nishtar, Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation stated, "In the interest of transparency, the final eligibility results of Ehsaas Emergency Cash applications have been announced on the portal after determining eligibility through data analytics and rule-based procedures. All applicants who have registered themselves through 8171 can now easily check their eligibility status by entering Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) on the portal. If eligible, they can collect their cash from the nearest Ehsaas payment centres."

The portal has been designed in collaboration with NADRA. The link to the portal is as follows: <https://ehsaas.nadra.gov.pk/ehsaasTracking/>.

Once the eligibility is confirmed through the portal, Ehsaas Emergency Cash applicants can collect cash hand out of Rs. 12,000 from their nearest Ehsaas payment site. For the ease of recipients, the complete list and addresses of Ehsaas payments sites is available on Ehsaas website at this link: https://www.pass.gov.pk/Document/Downloads/Consolidated_list_of_Campsites_July15.pdf. The web portal will also allow beneficiaries, who are facing problems in their biometric verification, to receive payments through design-

nated banks without prior verification from NADRA. Habib Bank in Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan Bank Alfalah across KP, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir provides these services to such beneficiaries. Prior to payment collection, all beneficiaries with biometric issues are renotified by Ehsaas through 8171 SMS to receive their due payments directly from banks mentioning bank name, branch address and date. Further, to expedite Ehsaas Emergency Cash payments to families of deceased beneficiaries who are

eligible, Ehsaas Emergency Cash has come up with a new application mechanism, said a news release issued here. As part of the new mechanism, families of dead beneficiaries are required to send out an application for payment facilitation in the name of Dr. Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation with CNIC details of their dead family member along with those of eligible family member straight to Ehsaas offices at, F-Block, Pak Secretariat, Islamabad. — APP

5 policemen martyred during raid in Chilas

DNA

CHILAS: Five policemen belonging to the Gilgit Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) were martyred in an exchange of fire during a midnight raid in Diamer's Chilas district on Tuesday. According to officials, five policemen including an inspector were martyred during the raid while an equal number of CTD officials were wounded in the exchange of fire. Two others were also killed in the exchange of fire between the police and suspects. Police said they were conducting a raid when the suspects opened fire killing five members of the CTD. SSP Diamer told Geo News an investigation was underway to determine who was responsible for the crime. Caretaker GB chief minister Mir Afzal Khan has directed IG Gilgit Baltistan to submit a report of the incident. "The suspects were involved in trading weapons, apart from terrorist activities," he said. Protestors later blocked the Karakoram Highway after two others were killed in the exchange of fire. Protestors said the police raided the area based on false information and killed a student.

'Can't forgive men for murdering spouse'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A man who has been convicted of murdering his wife filed an application for compromise in the Supreme Court on Tuesday. He has asked for the forgiveness of his wife's family in the case. Hearing the case, a Supreme Court judge remarked that men can't be forgiven for murdering their wives. More cases of domestic violence and honour killing are being reported now, he remarked. Justice Qazi Amin asked why should any relief be given to the man who has murdered his wife? The court is not here to stamp the suspect's compromise deal, he said. The person who appeared on behalf of the petitioner said that the suspect's lawyer has been diagnosed with the novel coronavirus. He said that he got the case in an emergency because of which he couldn't prepare for it.

Quetta to get more sports complexes

ISLAMABAD: Quetta is bracing to get six more sports complexes and stadium to provide world class playing facilities to the masses. Talking to APP, an official of the Balochistan government Tuesday said that six new sports complexes with huge gymnasium, all indoor sports, squash, cricket nets, dedicated walking track and others facilities would be established in the city to encourage youth to actively take part in sports. He said the government was encouraging girls to actively participate in sports activities to exhibit their abilities to the world, adding that they were supporting the youth of Balochistan. — APP

Pak US Business Council lauds PM's Bangladesh initiative

DNA

LAHORE: Founder Chairman Pak US Business Council Iftikhar Ali Malik Tuesday lauded the bold initiative of Prime Minister Imran Khan for closer relations with his Bangladesh counterpart Ms Hasina Wajid on the basis of mutual trust, respect and sovereign equality which speaks of better foreign policy of PTI government in the prevailing global scenario. Appreciating telephonic contacts between two premiers, Iftikhar Ali Malik said that it will help normalise the strained relations and promote bilateral trade besides restoring the confidence of traders of either countries. He said that its good omen on the part of Imran Khan who expressed the "firm commitment of Paki-

stan for deepening fraternal relations, underscoring the importance of ties with Bangladesh on the basis of mutual respect, trust and sovereign equality besides highlighting the significance of regular bilateral contacts and people to people exchanges". Iftikhar Ali Malik who remained associated with SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry for last three decades observed that Imran Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) and underlined the importance of both countries working for enhanced regional cooperation for sustainable peace and prosperity. He said its another feather in the cap that a week ago Imran Khan after acceding to the request of Afghan government, allowed Af-

ghan export transit trade through waga boarder to India that reflects Pakistan goodwill gestures shown to Afghanistan. He said that first time Afghan exports were shipped from Gawader port will further strength the bilateral trade between two brotherly muslim states. Iftikhar Ali Malik who is also Chairman United Business Group in the federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry hoped PTI government will continue to pursue the friendly relations with all neighbouring countries for strengthening the economic conditions of the region mainly aimed at the welfare of the poor strata of the society in addition to progress, development and prosperity besides to do away with ever rising unemployment in the wake of covid -19 which paralysed the business.

ECP to hear Vawda's dual citizenship case

DNA

KARACHI: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will hear a case pertaining to the dual citizenship of Federal Minister for Water Resources Faisal Vawda on August 4. The election commission had previously summoned the federal minister on July 16 for allegedly concealing his dual nationality while filing nomination papers for General Elections 2018. The commission in its orders today said if the parties to the case did not show up then a decision would be given on the information provided. "The parties should either show up in person or send their counsel on August 4," the ECP said. The petitioners, Advocate Qadir Khan Mandokhel and others had filed a disqualification petition against Vawda for concealing his dual citizenship.

NAB chairman approves filing 3 corruption references

ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Chairman Justice Javed Iqbal has approved filing three corruption references in different Accountability Courts. According to the NAB spokesman on Tuesday, the first reference has been approved against Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Muhammad Hamza Shehbaz, Salman Shehbaz and others in accumulation of assets disproportionate to their known sources of income to the tune of Rs7,328 million. The proceedings of investigation have revealed that accused Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and his co-accused family members, benamidars, frontmen, accumulated assets disproportionate to their known sources of income to the tune of Rs7,328 million. The second reference has been approved against officers/officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and others regarding corruption and corrupt practices in sale of Embassy of Pakistan at Jakarta, Indonesia. During the period from 2001 to 2002, Major General (Retd) Syed Mustafa Anwar Hussain while posted as ambassador of Pakistan to Jakarta, Indonesia sold out building of Pakistan embassy at Jakarta at throw away price through non transparent procedure and without lawful authority. The accused thereby caused loss of US\$ 1.32 million. Likewise, a supplementary reference has been approved against Shahid Khaqan Abbasi ex-prime minister, his son Abdullah Khaqan Abbasi, Miftah Ismail, ex-chairman of SSGC Board, Sheikh Imran ul Haq, ex-CEO of EETPL and MD of PSO, Agha Jan Akhtar, ex-chairman of PQA, Saeed Ahmed Khan, ex-chairman of OGRA, Aamir Naseem, ex-member Oil of OGRA, Uzma Adil Khan, ex-chairperson of OGRA, Shahid M Islam, ex-MD of PSO, Husain Dawood, chairman of Engro Corporation Limited, Abdul Samad Dawood, director of Engro Corporation Limited and others. — APP

Punjab Police arrests traders attempting to reopen shops

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Police on Tuesday arrested several traders in different cities of Punjab who rejected government's move to impose smart lockdown till August 5 to check the spread of novel coronavirus and attempted to open shops. According to details, traders in major cities of Punjab including Lahore, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi and Jhang protested against the smart lockdown and vowed to open their shops. Faisalabad traders opened shops in surrounding areas of Clock Tower, Rail Bazar, Makki Market and Gol Bazar. On the other hand, police arrested several traders for violating government orders. Traders in Lahore's Azam Market also protested against the lockdown which resulted in heated exchange of words between businessmen and police officials. However, local administration urged traders to immediately close their shops.

Meanwhile Rawalpindi's Central Traders Association and Chamber of Commerce while announcing to open businesses, argued that out of all four provinces only government of Punjab has imposed lockdown ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. Earlier, Punjab government has imposed smart lockdown in the province, including Lahore to limit the spread of coronavirus during Eidul Azha holidays. According to a notification issued in this regard, all markets, shopping malls, business and commercial centres will remain closed till August 5. However, essential food items shops, medical stores, general stores, tandoors, petrol pumps, bakeries, vegetable shops and emergency service shops will remain open across the province. The notification further stated that all educational and training institutes, marriage halls, business centres, (except halls, restaurants (except takeaway and home delivery), theme parks, public parks, beauty parlors, cinemas and theatres will remain shut.

JULY 2020

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:
www.centrelines.com.pk
www.dnanews.com.pk
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@ Postislamabad / @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markaz, ISLAMABAD-PAKISAN
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165



Briefs

'Opposition knows govt will complete term'

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan has said that divided opposition knows that incumbent government will complete its constitutional term. He said that opposition's political contacts, long march, and no-confidence motions have embarrassed Pakistan in-front of the world. Reacting to a meeting between Opposition Leader of National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif and JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman, Fayyaz-ul-Hassan said that the meeting was in fact a meeting between political orphans. The opposition is using the lollipop of APC only to fool its voters, he said.

Fayyaz-ul-Hassan further said that malice, hatred and enmity against Prime Minister Imran Khan and PTI does not allow Maulana to sleep peacefully at night. He said "Two years ago, I advised Maulana to apologize for his political and economic sins and he still has time to repent and seek forgiveness."

Health department to remain alert during holidays

RAWALPINDI: The District Health Authority has put field teams on high alert on possible breeding and spread of dengue, directing officials to continue in/outdoor dengue surveillance during Eid holidays, said Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr Sohail Chaudhary here Tuesday. The CEO said the staff has been advised to remain alert so that such cases could be dealt promptly. "Pools of rainwater have exacerbated the risk of dengue in the city as water puddles are breeding ground for mosquito larvae," he informed. He said dengue was under control in Rawalpindi and health department was on high alert to cope with any situation. - APP

Dr Asghar lauds govt efforts

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Medical University Child Specialist Professor Dr Rai Muhammad Asghar Tuesday said that number of coronavirus cases have considerably decreased due to the government and medical teams efforts. In a statement issued here, the Professor lauded the role of Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmeen Rashid including doctors, nurses and para-medical staff for providing best healthcare facilities to the coronavirus patients. He expressed hope that more reduction would be witnessed in the next two months as government was doing its utmost efforts to control the virus. Rai Asghar said that number of people recovering from the virus rapidly while there was no shortage of medicines and related equipments. - APP

DISCOs to ensure power supply on Eid

ISLAMABAD: The Power Division has directed all power distribution companies to ensure uninterrupted power supply for three days on Eid ul Azha. "Directives have been issued to DISCOs for ensuring smooth supply for three days from Friday evening," said the Spokesperson on his twitter handle here Tuesday. The DISCOs were also asked to set up special emergency teams, activate their control rooms besides deploying essential staff.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor displaying and arranging decorative stuff for sacrificial animals to attract the customers at G-7 area. - DNA

Extension of trade bodies terms is not under consideration: Dawood

Dawood mentioned that office bearers of FPCCI and some other trade bodies have brought the idea to extend the term of their office for one more year in the backdrop of Coronavirus pandemic situation

DNA

KARACHI: Prime Minister's Advisor on Commerce Abdul Razzak Dawood has categorically said that there is no consideration of extending tenure of trade bodies office bearers and even the law doesn't allow such proposal. He was talking to a delegation led by Patron in Chief of United Business Group (UBG) and former Chief Executive of Trade Development of Pakistan (TDAB) SM Muneer. Secretary Commerce Salih Faroo-

qui, Former Presidents of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) Zubair Tufail, Abdul Rauf Alam, Khalid Tawab, Sohail Altaf, Zafar Bakhtayari and Malik Sohail Hussain were also present at the occasion. Dawood mentioned that office bearers of FPCCI and some other trade bodies have brought the idea to extend the term of their office for one more year in the backdrop of Coronavirus pandemic situation but it was rejected because there is no any provision in the related laws. While answering a question asked



from the delegation he clearly said that elections of trade bodies would be held on the time as the Trade Bodies Ordinance provides one year tenure for the office bearers.

In the meeting SM Muneer applauded the measure to curb coronavirus taken by PM Imran Khan and his team. He said that with the grace of Almighty now the spread of infection is under control, however another high spread is feared during "Eid-ul-Adha" people should follow the SOPs and precautions to avoid any break out" he said. SM Muneer said that gradually the virus spread is lowering down globally and more exports orders were expected. He said that this time to activate related TDAP official and

commercial attachés globally to avail the opportunity. SM Muneer mentioned that as Chief Executive of TDAP he offered his services to the nation voluntarily and didn't receive a penny in term of the salary or other benefits titled to the office "Without any office, and I no need it either, I am ready to play my role for the expansion of country's exports" he said. He offered to give lectures to TDAP official to explore the post-corona opportunities of trade and exports. The advisor appreciated the idea.

Emirates resumes service to Nairobi, Baghdad and Basra

Customers do not need to register or fill in any forms before they travel

DNA

KARACHI: Emirates has announced it will resume flights to Nairobi (from 2 August), Baghdad and Basra (from 10 August), expanding its growing network, and offering customers around the world more convenient connections to Dubai, and via Dubai. This will take the airline's passenger network to 67 destinations in August, including seven points in Africa and five points in the Middle East. Flights between Nairobi and Dubai and Basra and Dubai will operate three times a week while flights between Baghdad and Dubai will operate four times a week. The flights will be operated with the Emirates Boeing 777-300ER and can

be booked on emirates.com or via travel agents. Customers do not need to register or fill in any forms before they travel, and they are not obligated to utilise this cover provided by Emirates. Any impacted customer who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 during their travel simply has to contact a dedicated hotline to avail of assistance and cover. The hotline number, and details of what COVID-19 related expenses are covered, is available on www.emirates.com/COVID19assistance. Health and safety first: Emirates has implemented a comprehensive set of measures at every step of the customer journey to ensure the safety of its customers and employees on the ground and in the air, including the distribution of complimentary hygiene kits containing masks, gloves, hand sanitiser and antibacterial wipes to all customers. For more information on these measures and the services available on each flight, visit: www.emirates.com/yoursafety.

Telenor offers internet to DigiSkill trainees

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Enabling the youth by connecting them to what matters most, Telenor Pakistan has joined hands with Ministry of Information & Technology (MoIT) and Virtual University (VU) to introduce subsidized internet packages for students of DigiSkills Program. DigiSkills

is an online training program that seeks to empower the youth with skills that are in-demand. The collaboration will enable the students to 'learn and earn' in the freelance market. With the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown in the country, Telenor Pakistan feels strongly about creating ease of access for e-education and enabling students to capitalize

on the opportunities to continue their learning journey. Telenor Pakistan's collaboration with the program means that students can have easy access to internet to continue their learning journey. "With increased focus on online mediums of learning and digital education, Telenor Pakistan has stepped forward to provide subsidized access to DigiSkills online resources

to ensure that the students' learning curve keeps growing," said Kamal Ahmed, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Telenor Pakistan. "Online learning opens up a world of opportunities from the comfort and safety of home. By ensuring affordable access to the DigiSkills platform, we are enabling the country's youth to get on with the new norm and help establish a digital economy."



ISLAMABAD: Mayor Islamabad Sheikh Ansar Aziz, along with Deputy Mayor Zeeshan Naqvi and Dr Tahira Shahid during Free Hepatitis Tests initiative at Mayor Office Islamabad. - DNA

First COMSTECH exhibition of Artificial Intelligence Starts on August 4

The Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary on behalf of the organizing committee, invited the general public to visit this mega event

DNA / STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The purpose of the "1st COMSTECH Showcasing of Artificial Intelligence and IoT Products and Services: AI and IoT for Pakistan, is to foster interest in Science, Technology, and Innovation and to popularize the field of artificial intelligence among the youth of Pakistan, stimulating their interest in the sphere of innovation, and in high-tech areas of technology. This national exhibition will be a unique platform for innovators, technology developers, and service providers, who are eager and ready to share experience and professional skills with end users to appreciate the importance of this field and foster link-

ages for development in national economic growth, informed Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, while addressing a press briefing on the "1st COMSTECH Showcasing of Artificial Intelligence and IoT Products and Services: AI and IoT for Pakistan, to be held on 04 - 05 August 2020 at COMSTECH Secretariat Islamabad, is being organized by COMSTECH, CARE (Pvt) Ltd., MoST and MoITT. The national showcasing is designed to promote projects and innovations in the realm of AI and allied technologies. It is a showcasing of next generation technologies, solutions and strategies from all over Pakistan, to provide an opportunity to explore and discover the practical and successful implementation of AI and allied technologies in Pakistan.

The event will provide the opportunity to network with relevant ministries, industry R&D organizations, academia, strategic organizations and peers. This two-day event will be open for the general public and potential customers to visit, Coordinator General, COMSTECH informed. Artificial Intelligence is the most promising field in the next generation Information Technology and has the potential to boost the national economy in several areas, and enhance exports to many folds. Countries around the globe are strategizing to take maximum benefit from AI, Dr. Iqbal mentioned. Under the patronage of the President of Pakistan, Pakistan is emerging as a major global player in this technology by aligning with

the global future demands, training its human resource with valuable skills in IT, providing enabling environment to boost digital economy, increasing IT exports, and assisting in the creation of knowledge based jobs, noted by Coordinator General, COMSTECH. The Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary on behalf of the organizing committee, invited the general public to visit this mega event. Thirty organizations from public and private sectors will display their products in diverse sectors including agriculture, health, and automation, informed Mr. M. Aamir, Project Director, CARE, while addressing the briefing. There is a great potential in Pakistan to excel, we have talent, we have hardworking human resource,

we just need to synergize our efforts, start joint initiatives and showcase results, stressed Dr. Tariq Masood, Advisor MoST. He appreciated COMSTECH's efforts in this regard. Representative of MoITT Mr. Yawar Jaleel appreciated the efforts of COMSTECH for providing the platform to the public and private industry and academia to exhibit their AI products and services. This is a first of its kind exhibition being held in Pakistan and the next event of same kind would be organized at OIC level, informed Coordinator General, COMSTECH. The briefing was addressed by the representatives of CEO, CARE Pvt. Ltd., Dr. Shoab A. Khan, MoST and MoITT, and Murtaza Noor along with Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary.

FBISE to announce HSSC result today

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) will announce Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) annual results 2020 on Thursday.

The HSSC results will be uploaded on the FBISE website while the same would be conveyed through SMS to all the candidates, who had provided their cell phone number in their admission forms, said a press release issued by FBISE.

Parliamentary Secretary for Federal Education and Professional Training Wajih Akram grace the results announcement ceremony as chief guest.

The ceremony will be held in the Federal Board Auditorium at 02:15 pm under mandatory safety measure in wake of COVID-19.

The private candidate had been asked to contact federal board within 30 days of the results announcement if any student did not receive his/her result till 13-08-2020. They may contact to Controller Exam Secrecy to get their result card without any fee by giving an application. - APP

NCHD to monitor all field activities

ISLAMABAD: National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) will monitor all field activities through smart digital devices and centralized control panels using software Apps.

An official told APP on Tuesday that NCHD projects were underway in all provinces including Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu Kashmir and Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) operating through field offices and satellite offices.

"NCHD is managing 5,861 community feeder schools with enrollment of 314,472," he said. He said that a pilot project is being executed in 17 districts to combat COVID-19 Pandemic. "Under the project awareness campaigns about the pandemic and sanitizer preparation are being held, corona safety kits and ration bags are distributed as well among the needy. - APP

Chontra incident: accused sent for remand

RAWALPINDI: The Anti-Terrorism Court has given 13-day physical remand of four arrested accused involved in Chontra firing incident. The police on Tuesday presented the accused Danish, Ikram, Malik Mohammad Ashraf, Aqib before Anti-terrorism court judge, Qamar-ul-Zaman Raja.

The investigation officer told the court that the accused were apprehended in Chontra firing incident in which 9 persons including women and children were killed last Friday.

After hearing the arguments, the court awarded 13-day physical remand and ordered the Police to produce them again on August 9. Earlier, the police produced the suspects before the court amid strict security arrangements. An FIR has already been registered against the accused under the provisions of murder, attempted murder and terrorism act. - APP

IDB praises CAEPE for pursuing goal

ISLAMABAD: The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) on Tuesday lauded International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) Centre for Advanced Electronics and Photovoltaic Engineering (CAEPE) for pursuing the goal of convergence of energy and nano-scale electronics avenues for economic growth in the country.

It originated as an implementation and outcome of Bank's funded two back to back international grants, said a statement. CAEPE was a university wide centre and a user-access facility with Pakistan's first ISO-5 clean room for device fabrication and over 300 scientific projects from within and outside the university utilizing its unique facilities. - APP

Briefs

Rwp Police register case for harassing transgenders

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police on Tuesday took notice of the harassment of transgenders and registered a case against armed men who can be seen torturing and mistreating a group of transgenders in a viral social media video.

According to Superintendent of Police (SP) Rawalpindi, the accused in the video have been identified and will be arrested soon. The Central Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younis took notice of the issue and said that the teams have been constituted to probe further into the matter.

The victims had approached the protection centre to seek justice, said the police, adding that the protection of transgender rights will be ensured and the ones who abuse the marginalised sections of society will not be spared legal action at any cost.

Empowering women key to development: Usman Dar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs Usman Dar has said that empowering young women is the key to Pakistan's sustainable social and economic development. He was addressing at the virtual launch of Young Women in Pakistan Status Report 2020 in Islamabad.

The Special Assistant said the report is a great initiative for all of us to understand the challenges young women face and seek advice for informed policies and actions to address those challenges.

Illegal cattle markets raided in RCB areas

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) has confiscated over 126 animals and shifted them away to a warehouse as it raided illegal cattle markets set up in the different areas including Range Road, Dhoke Syedan, Barafkhana Chowk, Bakra Mandi, Chungi Number 22 and Bhatta Chowk area out of designated cattle market. The operation was conducted under the supervision of Cantonment Executive Officer, Rawalpindi Cantt, Faisal Munir Watto, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Cantt and AC City.

The administration also removed tents raised for temporary animal markets and lodged FIRs against the violators. The RCB spokesman informed APP that the board authorities had allowed to set up a temporary animal market in Bhatta Chowk area and imposed ban on sale and purchase of sacrificial animals in all other cantt areas.

He warned the vendors not to violate the orders else strict action would be taken besides heavy fines and animals would also be confiscated. He said that the Cantonment Executive Officer Rawalpindi Cantt had directed the authorities concerned to strictly implement corona Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued to prevent spread of coronavirus. — APP

Rs160.513bn disbursed

ISLAMABAD: Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme has so far disbursed an amount of Rs160.513 billion among 13,268,562 lockdown affected persons. The programme was initiated to disburse an amount of Rs12,000 among the daily wagers and labourers whose livelihoods were affected due to coronavirus lockdown. The payment to deserving persons was continued through Ehsaas centres across the country. According to the cash update received on July 28, over Rs72.160 billion has been disbursed among 5,964,206 deserving families in Punjab so far while over Rs48.636 billion has been disbursed among 4,034,156 families in Sindh. — APP



ISLAMABAD: People busy in purchasing choppers and knives to be used for slaughtering sacrificial animals on Eid ul Azha. — DNA

'PPP should concentrate on good governance in Sindh': Kanwal

Kanwal said Karachi is the heart of Pakistan, which is home to people of all the ethnicity. "But this city has been shattered"

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNA Kanwal Shauzab Tuesday while acknowledging good performance of the federal government said that the Pakistan People Party's leadership did nothing constructive in the betterment of Sindh.

Talking to a private news channel, she said PPP should instead concentrate on good governance and development of Karachi instead

of following politics of agitation in state matters.

She said Karachi citizens were being ignored and Sindh government needs better political system that can be beneficial for the people.

She suggested that the Sindh government and its Chief minister should take practical steps to cope with the crisis instead of making statements on media just for political point-scoring, adding that the



PTI would raise voice for Karachi's residents till their demands are not fulfilling. She said that instead of resolving the residents' issues, the PPP leaders had been busy criticising the federal government.

Kanwal said Karachi is the heart of Pakistan, which is home to people of all the ethnicity. "But this city has been shattered". "People in Karachi are being denied of

basic facilities, we have to bring lights back to the city," she added. MNA said that the corrupt PPP's effort to deflect attention from the problems of Sindh would not be successful as their corruption was exposed.

She added that the nation was united under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, calling him the last hope of the people of Pakistan. — APP

Distillery raided, huge cache of liquor recovered



Police team also nabbed Rauaid Gul resident of sector G-7/2 Islamabad during the raid

ISLAMABAD: A distillery was raided in Khanna area which led to the recovery of a huge quantity of liquor and alcohol, police said on Tuesday.

Following directions and guidance of IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar khan police spokesperson said that renewed efforts are underway to curb bootlegging and drug peddling activities in the city. DIG (Operations) Waqar Ud din Syed has conducted special meetings with heads of police stations and directed them to accelerate efforts against anti-social elements.

On a tip off, SP (Rural) Malik Naem Iqbal constituted a team to raid at a distillery in the area. This team under the supervision of ASP Muhammad Usman Tipu including SHO Khanna police station Mirza Muhammad Gulfaraz, ASI Muhammad Naseer, constables Nazam, Abid Ali, Abdul Basit along with others conducted a raid and recovered huge quantity of liquor, alcohol and other materials.

Police team also nabbed Rauaid Gul resident of sector G-7/2 Islamabad during the raid. Case has been registered against those running this distillery and further investigation is underway. DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed has appreciated this performance and directed for further effective measures against those involved in bootlegging or anti-social activities. — DNA

PNCA to celebrate Eid online

ISLAMABAD: While adopting the social distancing for Eid-ul-Adha gatherings, PNCA will invite children of veteran film stars of Pakistani industry for online meet up through video calls for its programme titled 'Eid Gup Shup'. This initiative was taken by Director General Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) Dr Fozia Saeed. The live sessions of these discussions will be held daily from first day of Eid where star kids will share the memories associated with their celebrity parents and how it influenced their lives.

Govt striving to provide clean drinking water, says Malik Amin

DNA

ATTOCK: Provision of clean drinking water is the basic right of every citizen and PTI govt under the leadership of Premier Imran Khan is committed to deliver this right to masses. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam said this while inaugurating the first of Water Filtration Plants in village Jasian and F Block in Attock. Malik Amin said that As many as 45 water filtration plants will be installed in

different areas of Attock, Hazro and Hasanabdal to ensure provision of hygienically clean drinking water to the people at the cost of more than 60 million rupees which will certainly control water born diseases.

He said that these water filtration plants will be installed in Attock, Hasanabdal and different villages of tehsil Hazro which include Waisa, Chechian, Khaqwani, Boliwal, Golra, Haji Shah, Haroon, Malik Mala, Yas-een, Kalu Kalan, Formali, Jalalia, Hameed, Kamalpur Musa, Nartopa, Mararia and

Ghorghushti. Malik Amin said that Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme has been inaugurated in Hazro which will provide a chance to hundred of low paid people to have their own houses. He said that directives have been issued to the concerned authorities to provide job opportunities to the locals in Ghazi Barotha Hydro Power Project. He said, this govt believes in taking practical steps for the development of the area and prosperity of the people and never believed in lip service and hollow slogans.



ISLAMABAD: A nomad family waiting for customers to sell camel milk at Aabpara Market. — DNA

Pakistan industry to face new technology challenge in new norm: experts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Experts have opined that industry would have to reemerge with new parameters and practices based on the knowledge economy than the previous human resource centric practices. Pakistan needs to develop a comprehensive framework for the new industrial look incorporating new technologies.

Poverty struck and resource deficient Pakistan needs to develop more IT driven startups to engage youth for productivity.

They mentioned that preemptive measures would be crucial to avoid Covid-19 spread in the clusters. The UN organizations all together are engaged with the federal government and the Planning Commission of Pakistan to develop and finalize the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for different types of industries including Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

The webinar on the "Industrial Outlook in the New Normal-Risks and Challenges for Pakistan" was organized by the Development Communications Network (Devcon-Pakistan) and DTNTV on Tuesday.

Talking about the post-covid19 impact on the industry, Masroor Khan said unemployment and poverty would go high in the first phase where national GDP and exports would also suffer severely. Food processing and packaging, consumer goods, provision of logistic services, e-commerce, health technology, and promotion of digital world and tourism would have immense opportunities for all tech savvy people. He said: As we navigate the current threats to human wellness, to economies and to the planet, the timely adoption of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns is key to building back stronger and more resilient societies. In the wake of COVID-19, choosing more efficient production

methods and implementing better use of natural resources is one of the most effective ways to reduce our impact on the environment while simultaneously advancing human wellbeing.

Dr Nadeem Khan said: Human reliance on machines and robots will be enhanced in the New Normal. Since there would be least human interference preferred it would result in lesser number of Jobs. Systems will be automated, and will be made functional with lesser human interference. World is already of the view that Robotic medicine may be the weapon the world needs to combat the coronavirus. Critical thinking, complex problem solving, creativity, interdisciplinary knowledge, automation systems design will be the requisite skills in the job market.

He said "Work from anywhere" concept will prevail, which will work by forming virtual teams to carry tasks using virtual platforms. This will boost creativity

and productivity. Artificial intelligence, Machine learning, Control Systems, Data science, Big data will be the most emerging fields of the future.

He mentioned as many as nine skills will be needed in the post-covid19 New Normal including adaptability and flexibility to the new environment, tech savviness, creativity and innovation, data literacy, critical thinking, digital and coding skills, leadership with new vision, emotional intelligence, and committing to a lifetime of learning of new ways and means to remain relevant in the market.

Devcom-Pakistan and DTNTV Director Munir Ahmed said Pakistan needs to urgently jump in revamping the industries at different tiers to mitigate the adverse impact of the covid-19. So far, we see no vigorous plans on the front. Slow pace would hamper economic activities and growth at all tiers. We need to learn from the Chinese Cottage Industry model

to uplift the poor from the poverty line. It would also improve the macroeconomic indicators too. Shaukat Ali Anjum said his organization is more interested in the SOPs implementation to ensure the health and safety of the workers as how the owners of the industries implement the SOPs and who is going to monitor in letter and spirit.

Jawed Ahmad said the ship-breaking industry is already implementing SOPs in the ship-breaking sector according to instructions laid down in different ISO certification. Whatever the new SOPs come from the provincial and federal government would be implemented accordingly.

Anwar ul Haq said the small industrial units are passing through hardships due to the pandemic. Government should come up with the support mechanism to such small units that cannot approach to the soft loans. Our workers have suffered a lot, even we are gone hand to mouth.

Palmolive introduces Syra Yousuf in its TVC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The dynamic actress and model Syra Yousuf has been roped in as the new face of Pakistan's well-known personal care brand - Palmolive Naturals. Featured in the new TVC for the Brand, the actress unveiled its new liquid hand wash range that is both 'Tough on Germs' and 'Soft on Hands'.

The TVC celebrates the indomitable spirit of being both tough mind and soft at heart with the Palmolive girl, Syra Yousuf. The campaign highlights the importance of staying safe and healthy by washing your hands with out compromising your skin, using the new Palmolive Liquid Hand Wash range that kills germs while keeping your hands soft and moisturized.

Speaking about the launch of the new product, Aziz Jindani, CCO Colgate Palmolive, said, "As a responsible brand, our role is to offer 'help' and 'hope' to our consumers in difficult times like these. The launch of the Palmolive Liquid Hand Wash range does exactly that, offering a quality hand hygiene product to help protect health at large, and inspire hope that we can all be 'tough and soft' at the same time, like Palmolive is - 'Tough on Germs and Soft on Hands'."

Syra Yousuf, upon joining Palmolive Naturals as the new Palmolive Girl, said, "It goes without saying that taking care of ourselves and those around us should be our first priority right now. With Palmolive Naturals, it was easy to make the decision and be part of this venture because the Brand's philosophy resonates with my own - we have to be both tough and strong to be able to exist!"

Rung School starts Rung Recording Studio

ISLAMABAD: Rung School Of Music and Arts has started Rung Recording Studio to provide audio production of instrumental or vocal musical performances, spoken words, and other sounds to their students under one roof. Rung Recording Studio fulfill recording needs from concept development, writing and pre-production to tracking, mixing, mastering, and post-production, in addition to graphic design and video production, all under one roof. According to an official, Rung Studio is a full service audio recording, graphic design and video production facility for the residents of twin cities. He said that "We are known for our commitment to excellence, state-of-the-art equipment, caring, competent staff and professional client services."

Our specialty is technical knowledge and expertise in a relaxed supportive atmosphere". RUNG School of Music & Arts is an independent studio for visual, performing and applied arts and it aims to help you to develop your artistic talents and polish them to a high caliber, he stated. — APP

Plastic exports decrease 7.09 %

ISLAMABAD: The exports of plastic materials from the country witnessed decrease of 7.09 percent during the fiscal year (2019-20) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

Pakistan exported plastic worth \$295.968 million during July-June (2019-20) compared to the exports of \$318.563 million during July-June (2018-19), showing a decline of 7.09 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the exports of plastic witnessed an increase of 13.04 percent as the country exported 285,851 metric ton of plastic during the period under review as compared to the exports of 252,879 metric ton during last fiscal year.

Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the plastic exports from the country during June 2020 witnessed decrease of 23.14 percent as compared to the exports of the same month of the last year. The plastic exports during the months under review were recorded at \$21.768 million against the exports of \$28.323 million during June 2019. On month-on-month basis, the plastic exports during June 2020 also dipped by 21.78 percent as compared to the exports of \$27.830 million in May 2020, the data revealed. — APP

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Vol: 01 Issue: 109

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.comWebsite: www.islamabadpost.com.pk

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

Stopping a new wave

ACCORDING to the government's health authorities, Pakistan's Covid-19 cases have fallen by around 80 percent or possibly even more. While the country had been seeing a daily virus death peak of about 150 cases in June, on Saturday only 24 new fatalities were reported. Pakistan has confirmed over 274,000 cases at the height of the pandemic. The decline is immensely positive news for Pakistan. But the real question is if it can be maintained. Much of this will depend on people's behaviour during Eidul Azha and in the day leading to the occasion.

During Eidul Fitr many people ignored guidelines which requested limited gatherings inside mosques and only small gatherings at other places. This time the government has said it is determined to ensure SOPs are followed. Dr Zafar Mirza, the prime minister's adviser on health has asked people to buy sacrificial animals online rather than through markets where they are being sold. He has also said that SOPs related to social distancing must be followed during Eid prayers. The question is if people are willing to cooperate.

This includes prayer leaders at mosques and other members of the ulema. In other Muslim nations they have advised people to avoid coming together for congregation prayers even on Eid.

The government, as has become the established practice seems to have once again left things to the last minute. Markets in major cities are to be closed down but perhaps if this decision had been taken earlier people would not have flocked to shops together in large numbers to buy the supplies they need for Eid and the days which follow it. This does not point to good planning.

We however hope that even though testing has remained far below the numbers originally stated by the government and many cases may never have been reported because people have been reluctant to get tested, this time the government will recognize how quickly Covid-19 can spread and will ensure SOPs are followed with the cooperation of security forces, ulema, health workers and people themselves. An awareness programme must be launched immediately. Only if ordinary citizens understand that the coronavirus has been deemed by scientists to be possibly the quickest spreading virus in the world will they be ready to take steps to prevent a new spike.

Such a spike in cases would be extremely dangerous for Pakistan and would put all of us at immense peril once again because of a failure to ensure everything possible is done to educate people about the need to keep themselves and others safe.



Drowning city

WE know that extreme weather can create havoc. Earthquakes have been known to wipe out entire cities, cyclones have caused floods which have destroyed communities and avalanches have pushed entire villages into non-existence.

But in general terms rain, which falls in most parts of the world in one form or the other, should not be creating so much peril. In some parts of the world, heavy showers are a daily fact of life. In areas affected by the monsoon – such as Pakistan – we experience heavy rainfall almost each year in late summer.

We struggle to find a way to cope with a phenomenon which occurs regularly and is a routine part of annual life. Karachi has been devastated by heavy rain over the last week with streets flooded with water, making them impassable for vehicles or pedestrians, five people dying as a result of electrocution, flights being cancelled and prolonged power shutdowns suffered by people with K-Electric stating either that it is trying to remedy the problem or that it has deliberately turned off power to prevent electrocution.

The decision by municipal committees to clean drains only in July has meant sewerage and waste from sewers have been left piled up along roads adding to the misery of people.

We cannot attribute this to a 'natural disaster'. It is the utter mismanagement of our larger cities over a prolonged period of time by successive governments which has led to this. In Karachi's case, the neglect has been unreal and tragic.

Worst of all, a blame game has been played each time this happened. We are seeing it again today.

But the fact is that all governments that have run Karachi over the last many decades are equally responsible. It is pointless to try and point the finger at each other.

Instead all the stakeholders including city planners and citizens who run groups working for civic welfare, alongside the mayor and government and the bodies which manage the daily affairs of Karachi need to sit down together and decide what is to be done. The situation has continued year after year. It has now reached a point where it will be impossible to solve it without building a consensus within which everyone works together.

There should be no need for Karachi to be reduced to a complete state of pandemonium with life suspended each time it experiences heavy rain. All authorities and all political parties need to work together despite their differences in order to solve this problem.

July: An iconic month of Kashmiris' struggle

Iqbal Khan

President Dr Arif Alvi said that India has belligerently occupied Kashmir and it is committing atrocities on the people of Kashmir. He also said that the time is not far away when the sacrifices of the people of the occupied Kashmir will come to fruition and Kashmir will become part of Pakistan. The President said voices are being raised at the international level on grave human rights violations in occupied valley.

Ever since, Jammu and Kashmir has been a key bone of contention between the two nuclear rivals that have fought three full-scale wars and a number of skirmishes of varying scales. Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir enjoyed "special status" under the Indian Constitution until August 05, 2019

INDIA has miserably failed to cut off Syed Ali Gilani from the Kashmiri masses by putting him in jail/ house arrest for long periods of time. The slogans frequently raised by the ailing leader like "We are Pakistani, Pakistan is ours" Keep Syed Ali Gilani and the flames of freedom alive in the hearts and minds of the Kashmiri people. Despite the use of all nefarious tactics by India including the so-called investigation by its infamous National Investigation Agency, the APHC Chairman continues to live in the hearts of the Kashmiri people as a tall and towering personality.

Though India has confined Syed Ali Gilani to his house for the past one decade despite his deteriorating health, India could not force Syed Ali Gilani into submission, nor could deter the people of Jammu and Kashmir from pursuing the path to freedom struggle even though New Delhi has deployed its troops in every nook and corner of the occupied territory.

Month of July has special significance in the history of struggle for the right of self-determination by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. July 19, denotes "Accession to Pakistan Day". This day is observed every year in renewal of the historical resolution of Kashmir's accession to Pakistan passed by the people of the state in 1947.

As per the Partition Plan of the British India, the Princely States were free to accede to either of the two newly established countries. Kashmiris' decision of 19th July 1947 was a testimony to the fact that the people of Kashmir had linked their future with Pakistan. And the Kashmir Martyrs' Day is observed on 13 July every year to pay homage to 22 Kashmiri people who were killed in 1931 during a popular revolt. The people rose against British rule and gathered for a peaceful protest against the prosecution of a sympathizer of Kashmir struggle, Abdul Qadeer Khan Ghazi. On that day 22 martyrs fell one after the other, while reciting the traditional Muslim Call for prayer—Azan.

Prime minister of Azad Kashmir, Raja Farooq Haider, said Pakistan is the centre of hope for the people of Kashmir, and "The day is not far when occupied Kashmir will be liberated from

Indian yoke, and the dream of entire state accession to Pakistan will be realized. Fascist Modi government is trying to impose an illegal annexation of IOJ&K and seeks to change the demography of the occupied territory against all international law, including Fourth Geneva Convention.

On Accession day, thousands of refugees from Indian-administered Kashmir took out a rally in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, pledging to continue their struggle for the right to self-determination in accordance with the UN resolutions.

The All Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference on July 19, 1947, in Srinagar, had demanded the then Dogra rulers to materialise the accession of the Jammu Kashmir state to Pakistan, honouring the decision and point of view of the majority population of the Muslim majority in the state. Genuine representatives of the Kashmiris unanimously passed the resolution of Kashmir's Accession to Pakistan during a meeting of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference under. The historic resolution called for the Accession of the State to Pakistan in view of its existing religious, geographical, cultural and economic proximity to Pakistan.

Now, over 800,000 troops have besieged eight million people of Kashmir—one soldier for every ten citizen. The most militarized conflict zone of the World—Kashmir—is an open prison.

President Dr Arif Alvi said that India has belligerently occupied Kashmir and it is committing atrocities on the people of Kashmir. He also said that the time is not far away when the sacrifices of the people of the occupied Kashmir will come to fruition and Kashmir will become part of Pakistan. The President said voices are being raised at the international level on grave human rights violations in occupied valley.

Ever since, Jammu and Kashmir has been a key bone of contention between the two nuclear rivals that have fought three full-scale wars and a number of skirmishes of varying scales. Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K) enjoyed "special status" under the Indian Constitution until August 05, 2019. Special status, allowed IOJ&K to enact its own laws. These provisions

of law, inter alia, protected the region's citizenship law, which barred outsiders from settling in and owning land in the territory.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has reiterated support to Kashmiris' just struggle for self-determination. "We will continue to fight for justice for Kashmiris as they struggle against the brutal & illegal actions of the Hindutva Supremacist Indian government in IOJK," he said. "We reaffirm our commitment to the Kashmiri people and stand with them in their struggle for self-determination."

In a tweet on Martyrs' Day, the premier referred to the 22 Kashmiris who were martyred 89 years ago during a protest against the autocratic rule of a Hindu Maharaja in the Muslim majority state as the "forefathers of today's Kashmiri resistance". "Their descendants have, generation after generation, laid down their lives for freedom and today they continue to valiantly fight & defy a Hindutva Supremacist regime bent on demographic engineering to wipe out the Kashmiri people & their identity," Khan tweeted. Martyrs' Day used to be one of the official holidays in the state till 2019; now this has been deleted from the list.

Support for the Kashmir cause has always been bipartisan PML-N chief and Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif said that the world "must know that no other people have suffered as much as Kashmiris have for demanding their UN-sanctioned right to self-determination".

In April, Indian government notified new domicile laws for occupied Kashmir, making an unspecified number of outsiders eligible for residency and jobs. As many as 25,000 non-locals have been granted domicile certificates. An APHC leader, Advocate Devinder Singh Behl, in a statement issued in Jammu expressed grave concern over the new construction policy approved by the Indian authorities for Jammu and Kashmir. He said the policy has paved the way for Indian forces to occupy Kashmiris' lands and carry out construction and other activities.

Writer is a freelance contributor, e-mail: Iqbal.khan9999@yahoo.com

US vs China: Will the world see another cold war?

Mohammed Almezel

General Patton, who is considered an architect of modern tank warfare, and shoot-from-the-hip speaker with innate disdain for Communism, was so hyped after defeating the Germans, he suggested going "all the way to take Moscow." Luckily, the allies, especially President Franklin D. Roosevelt, rebuffed his audacious proposal. The Soviet Union army was at its best at the time. After years of fighting, repelling and eventually defeating the German invaders on the eastern front, the Red Army was a war-hardened fighting machine and confronting it would have cost the world probably another decade of global conflict

WHEN US President Donald Trump nominated General James Mattis as his defence secretary in December 2016, he proudly noted to journalists that Mattis was "the closest thing we have to General George Patton." Patton is an American folk hero. He was a controversial army general during the Second World War. Patton, who died in 1945, shortly after the end of the war, commanded the US Seventh Army in the Mediterranean theatre of the Second World War, and the US Third Army in France and Germany after the Allied invasion of Normandy in June 1944. Hollywood honoured him with an acclaimed movie, Patton, starring the legendary George C. Scott, which won seven Oscars. President Trump must have watched it a dozen times.

General Patton, who is considered an architect of modern tank warfare, and shoot-from-the-hip speaker with innate disdain for Communism, was so hyped after defeating the Germans, he suggested going "all the way to take Moscow."

Luckily, the allies, especially President Franklin D. Roosevelt, rebuffed his audacious proposal. The Soviet Union army was at its best at the time. After years of fighting, repelling and eventually defeating the German invaders on the eastern front, the Red Army was a war-hardened fighting machine and confronting it would have cost the world probably another decade of global conflict.

Nevertheless, the West, led by the US, reluctant or most likely unable to engage in a physical war against the former battle ally, waged a Cold War that has also cost millions of lives and probably trillions of dollars in 70 years. The seven decades of that war was played on numerous arenas such as Asia (Vietnam and Afghanistan), South and Central America, and Europe. Several military coups took place in Soviet-friendly states in Latin America that led to the torture, killing and disappearance of millions of people in such countries as El Salvador, Chile, Argentina and Nicaragua among others,

under the auspices of the US intelligence agencies and the Pentagon.

To get a foothold in American-friendly territory, the Soviets invaded Afghanistan in 1979, which started a prolonged conflict that still is raging today. The US, meanwhile, in an attempt to stop the Communist advance in Asia, invaded Vietnam, where they committed documented despicable war crimes including the carpet-bombing that obliterated thousands of villages. The human cost is incalculable.

The Cold War was inundated with expensive spy games and arms race that cost the world massive amounts of money and decades of wasted years, that could have otherwise been invested in the progress and prosperity of humanity. It also saw several near-collisions between the two great powers – most notably the Cuban Missile Crisis – that would have had catastrophic consequences for the planet.

On October 14, 1962, an American spy plane flying over Cuba took footages of alleged nuclear missile sites under construction. The US intelligence concluded that those Soviet missiles could easily reach the US. President John Kennedy issued an ultimatum to Moscow to remove those missiles. The US otherwise would bomb the site, he threatened. In those two weeks of intense diplomacy and counter threats, a terrified world stood still, praying for a solution. Kennedy ordered a naval blockade of Cuba and all US military forces and the Warsaw Pact armies put on high alert. However, behind the scenes direct talks between Kennedy and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev succeeded in de-escalating the crisis when Moscow agreed to withdraw the missiles from Cuba.

Today, we sense an appetite in some people to repeat this tragic chapter of history with China – another communist-led power. I'm certain that Trump's fascination with good old patriot General Patton will not lead him to 'go all the way and take Beijing' but the escalating tension with China will surely descend into a war of intelligence, sabotage

and global tension that will waste more years and trillions of dollars. Global markets have already shed hundreds of billions in losses over the rising tension. On Wednesday, the US ordered the immediate closure of the Chinese consulate in Houston; China reacted by shutting down the US consulates in Wuhan and Chengdu. The tit-for-tat moves came after the US accused China of hacking and stealing secrets of American labs that are working on developing a coronavirus vaccine.

The tension has been brewing for months – Trump repeatedly accused China of taking advantage of the trade agreements and wanted to renegotiate a new deal. So far, the two sides fail to agree on a compromise. He also accused China of covering up the COVID-19 spread, calling it the China Virus. Then came Hong Kong. China, seeking for long to tighten its grip over the semi-autonomous island, imposed a new national security law that effectively weakens the independence of the courts there.

Western capitals saw it as a violation of the 1996 Anglo-Sino agreement which led to the handover of the former British colony to China.

I sometimes tend to think that Americans are not interested in learning from history, so much so that they would repeat their mistakes again and again. This annoyed one of America's most celebrated strategist: Henry Kissinger – the man credited with "bringing back China from the cold" during the presidency of Richard Nixon in the early 1970s in what was then called the Ping Pong Diplomacy. Kissinger made it clear during his delicate talks with the Chinese that he respected their pride in their 5,000 years history and civilisation. And it worked.

Unfortunately, there are no Kissingers in the current administration. But apparently there are plenty of shades of Patton in the White House, starting with the man in the Oval Office. Sadly for the world, China-US relationship is fast heading into the cold, again.

– Courtesy Gulf News

Briefs

'N Korea's nukes guarantee security'

WEB DESK

PYONGYANG: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has called his country's nuclear weapons a solid security guarantee and a "reliable, effective" deterrent that could prevent a second war on the Korean Peninsula. Kim made the remarks on Monday as he celebrated the 67th anniversary of the end of the 1950-1953 Korean War at a reception for war veterans in Pyongyang, according to a report by the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on Tuesday. The speech signalled once again that the North Korean leader has no intention of giving up his nuclear arsenal despite the United States's attempts to get him to do so. Kim said North Korea had developed nuclear weapons to win the "absolute strength" to prevent another war. "Now we are capable of defending ourselves in the face of any form of high-intensity pressure and military threats from imperialist and hostile forces," he said. "Thanks to our reliable and effective self-defensive nuclear deterrent, there won't be any war on this land again, and our country's safety and future will be firmly guaranteed forever."

New preventative measures adopted across Europe

WEB DESK

BRUSSELS: Spurred by fears of resurgent infections, several European countries are adopting fresh measures to combat transmissions. Belgium on Monday tightened restrictions on social gatherings - from Wednesday residents will be allowed to see a maximum of five people outside of their families. The number of people allowed to gather in public has also halved - to 100 indoors, and 200 outdoors. Belgium has one of Europe's highest infection rates and it is rising. In the past week an average of 279 people daily have caught coronavirus in the country, compared with 163 a day the week before. Meanwhile in Germany, Health Minister Jens Spahn has said coronavirus tests compulsory will be made compulsory for anyone travelling into the country from high-risk areas. Neighbouring France has also ordered night curfews for beaches in Quiberon after a cluster of cases emerged in the Brittany resort last week. Spain is rushing to save its tourism industry while cases of coronavirus rise in areas of Catalonia and Aragón. Spanish officials insist the virus is under control.

WTA PPO tennis scrapped over covid-19

TOKYO: The WTA Pan Pacific Open in Japan, one of Asia's top women's tennis tournaments, has been scrapped for the first time because of the coronavirus, organisers said Tuesday. The cancellation of the event, which was scheduled for November and was won by Japan's Naomi Osaka last year, follows last week's axing of all international tennis tournaments in China for 2020. The Pan Pacific's demise ends a continuous run for the tournament since 1984 and leaves Asia with only one Women's Tennis Association event, October's Korea Open, on this year's coronavirus-wrecked schedule. It is also another blow for sport in Japan after the Tokyo Olympics, originally due to start last week, were postponed for a year over COVID-19. "We were trying to find ways (to hold the Pan Pacific Open), such as having no audience or limiting the number of spectators," organisers said in a statement. - APP



CARDIFF: Cardiff City FC and Fulham FC players trying to keep the ball in their Championship Play-off semi final match. - DNA

Uzbekistan: Each new project to undergo an anti-corruption examination

A weak level of analysis of shadow economy by industry and sphere was noted. In this regard, it was noted that it is necessary to maintain shadow economy statistics for each area with involvement of international experts

DNA

BAKU: On July 27, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a meeting to discuss ongoing activities to reduce the shadow economy. Uzbekistan has a high level of shadow economy. Therefore, in recent years, measures have been taken to reduce the share of shadow economy by making it easier to do business. In particular, foreign exchange market was liberalized, a new tax system was introduced, and about 100 permitting and licensing procedures were reduced. As a result, the share of informal sector in the industry has fallen from 20 to 6 percent over the past 5 years. Activities carried out in this

direction were discussed and further tasks were identified. Instruction was given to develop a strategy to reduce the shadow economy with involvement of experts from international organizations. The Head of the state noted the importance of being careful while countering the shadow economy, so as not to harm economic activity and work in this direction together with business and public.

The task was set to consistently continue tax reforms and introduce a system that would exclude shadow activity. An instruction was given to develop a conscientious taxpayer system and test it in Tashkent. Special attention was paid to cleaning up corruption in public procurement and investment projects. In order to en-



sure transparency in these spheres, strengthen public control and competition, the Ministry of Finance has been instructed to launch an information portal for public procurement. It was determined that from now on each project will undergo an anti-corruption examination. The task was set to apply this procedure to

all projects implemented at the expense of centralized funds starting 2021. State bodies are also implementing compliance control system against the shadow economy and corruption. This work has started, in particular, in the Ministries of Construction, Health, Higher and Secondary Special Education, Uzbekneft-

egaz and Uzkiyosanoat JSCs. It was noted that by the end of the year, this system should be implemented in 14 more organizations and 10 banks with a state share. Instructions were given to develop roadmaps to combat corruption in the context of spheres and directions, to prevent corruption in public procurement and investment projects. The task was set to develop a methodology for calculating the rating of corruption and shadow economy for state bodies, enterprises and regions. Starting 2021, the results of this rating will be announced with an assessment of personal responsibility of all managers. Customs and tax system issues were also considered at the meeting. The need was noted for excluding

human factor in customs system, strengthening customs control over cases of smuggling and artificially lowering the customs value of goods. The State Customs Committee and the State Tax Committee have been tasked with creating a single database on import, customs clearance and sale of imported goods. The task was also set to introduce customs audit information system from January 1, 2021. The President noted that in order to reduce the shadow economy, it is necessary to help people work legally and get them interested in it. For example, as a result of simplification of self-employment system in July, 184 thousand citizens started working in the formal sector.

US, Australia open talks focused on China

WASHINGTON: The United States and Australia on Monday opened top-level talks in which they are expected to seek a common front amid soaring tensions between Washington and Beijing.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Mark Esper welcomed to Washington their Australian counterparts, Marise Payne and Linda Reynolds, for two days of talks that will include a news conference on Tuesday. The annual talks come as President Donald Trump's administration takes an increasingly hard line against China on issues from defense to human rights to trade.

The United States last week ordered the closure of the Chinese consulate in Houston, alleging espionage, and Pompeo declared that decades of Western engagement had built a "Frankenstein" Beijing. Australia has fought alongside the United States in every major conflict since World War I and its right-leaning government has largely backed the Trump administration's approach. Australia recently followed the United States in rejecting Beijing's sweeping claims in the South China Sea and has backed calls led by Pompeo for an international inquiry into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.



KUALA LUMPUR: Ambassador of Palestine to Malaysia Walid Abu Ali attending a conference Malaysia Unites for Palestine. - DNA

Klopp named LMA manager of the year

SPORTS DESK

MANCHESTER: Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp has been named the League Managers' Association manager of the year. Klopp's team won the Premier League - the Reds' first English top-flight title

for 30 years. In announcing Klopp as the winner on Sky Sports, former Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson said: "It was thoroughly deserved. The performance level of your team was outstanding. Your personality runs right through the whole club.

"I'll forgive you for ringing me at half past three in the morning to tell me you had won the league - thank you!" Klopp's side amassed 99 points as they won the Premier League title by 18 points from second-placed Manchester City. "I'm absolutely delighted to be named the winner of

the League Managers Association manager of the year award, for this wonderful Sir Alex Ferguson trophy, named after a man that I admire so much," said Klopp. "I know it's not 100% appropriate as a Liverpool manager - but I admire him. He was the first British manager I met and we had

breakfast together. It was long ago and I'm not sure if he remembers it still, but I remember it forever because it was for me in this moment like meeting the Pope if you want! He added: "It feels extra special to win this award because it is voted for by my fellow managers."

Lewis Hamilton clarifies anti-vaccine post

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton has clarified his views on a potential coronavirus vaccine after sharing an anti-vaccination post on social media. The 35-year-old Mercedes driver faced fierce criticism on Monday after uploading the video, which accuses Microsoft founder Bill Gates of lying about

coronavirus vaccine trials, to his Instagram story. In Hamilton's since-deleted post, originally posted by content creator King Bach, Gates is interviewed on CBSN about progress on a vaccine to combat Covid-19. During the conversation, the computer magnate-turned-philanthropist dismissed claims about side effects that have been reported during clinical trials and rub-

bished suggestions that he wants to embed tracking chips in the vaccines. Addressing the backlash, Hamilton said his post had been "misinterpreted," adding that he was not against vaccines. "I've noticed some comments on my earlier post around the coronavirus vaccine, and want to clarify my thoughts on it, as I understand why they might have been misinterpreted," he told his 18.3 million followers.

Mbappe to miss UCL quarter-final

PARIS: Injured Paris St-Germain forward Kylian Mbappe will miss the Champions League quarter-final with Atalanta in Lisbon on 12 August. Mbappe, 21, sustained an ankle injury during the French Cup final against Saint-Etienne on Friday, ruling him out for three weeks. He could return for the semi-final on 18 August, if PSG qualify. - DNA

Fulham take charge of play-off semi final

CARDIFF: Fulham thoroughly outplayed Cardiff City and scored two brilliant first-leg goals to take total control of their Championship play-off semi-final. An evenly contested first half saw the hosts twice go close to taking the lead before Fulham captain Tom Cairney clipped the post with a curling long-range effort. Josh Onomah then produced a moment of magic early in the second half, dancing his way past three statuesque Cardiff defenders before firing into the bottom corner. Fulham were utterly dominant from that point, controlling possession to such an extent that Cardiff barely got a whiff of the ball, before Neeskens Kebano added a second in injury time with a beautiful free-kick. That was the least Scott Parker's side deserved, and a place at Wembley is now within touching distance ahead of Thursday's second leg at Craven Cottage. - DNA

PHF condoles death of Olympian Asad Malik

ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) Brig (Retd.) Khalid Sajjad Khokhar and Secretary General PHF Muhammad Asif Bajwa have expressed deep grief on the sad demise of Olympian Asad Malik in a road accident on late Monday. In a condolence message on Tuesday, they prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the members of his bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude. He was an important member of a formidable Pakistan team that won the gold medal in Mexico Olympics in 1968. Besides, he claimed two silver medals in Tokyo Olympics 1964 and Munich Olympics 1972. He had also to his credit two Asian Games gold medals in 1962 and 1970 and a gold medal in the World Cup 1971. Malik scored the gold medal-winning goal against Australia in 1968 final, and also had the honour of his action photograph of that goal immortalised on a Pakistan postage stamp. - APP

Zimbabwe's ruling party threatens to expel US envoy

HARARE: Zimbabwe's ruling party, Zanu PF, has accused the US embassy of sponsoring Friday's planned anti-government protests and threatened to expel its ambassador. Party spokesperson Patrick Chinamasa said the protests, intended to condemn corruption in government, is an attempt to overthrow the government and suggested they could be met with force. Mr Chinamasa accused the US ambassador Brian Nichols of "acting as a thug". It is a sign of deteriorating relations between the two countries. The US maintains targeted economic sanctions against Zimbabwe over what it says is a poor human rights record. The US embassy has previously rejected claims that it is trying to destabilise the country. - APP

Lack of clarity delays Newcastle takeover

SPORTS DESK

NEWCASTLE: Newcastle United's proposed takeover by a Saudi Arabian-backed consortium has been delayed because of a lack of clarity over who would be in charge at the club, BBC Sport has learned. Sixteen weeks after documents relating to a £300m takeover were registered with the Premier League, the deal is still being scrutinised under its owners' and directors' test. But it is understood compliance requires greater certainty as to who would have ultimate responsibility at St James' Park. The bid has been led by British financier Amanda Staveley, but Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth Public Investment Fund (PIF) is set to take an 80% stake. PIF's chairman is Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and it appears the Premier League's lawyers are struggling to establish the precise links between the consortium and the Saudi government.

SL announces new cricket premier league

DNA

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on Monday said the country will resume top-level cricket from next month with a new premier league tournament. SLC said the proposed 23-match Lanka Premier League (LPL) involving five teams will start on August 28 and end on September 20. The matches will be played at four international venues on the island. "Over 70 international players and 10 top notch coaches have already confirmed their availability to take part in this tournament along with leading Sri Lankan national players," the board said in a statement.

Briefs

Armenia-Azerbaijan peace talks urged

YEREVAN: Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan in a phone call Monday called for peace talks to end clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Kremlin said. The phone call at Turkey's initiative took place after Armenia's military said one of its soldiers was killed by sniper fire from across the border with Azerbaijan in the latest bout of deadly violence. Border clashes erupted in mid-July between the ex-Soviet republics, which have for decades been locked in a conflict over Azerbaijan's breakaway region of Nagorno Karabakh. Nineteen people - including the Armenian soldier - have been killed on both sides in the recent border clashes so far. Putin and Erdogan discussed the conflict and the Russian strongman "underlined the importance of not allowing any actions that promote an escalation in tensions," the Kremlin said in a statement. - APP

Republicans introduce \$1tn recovery plan

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: US Senate Republicans have proposed spending an additional \$1tn (£776bn) to address the economic damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The plan includes \$100bn for schools and issuing stimulus payments of up to \$1,200 to most Americans. Under the plan, the payment would replace a \$600 boost to unemployment benefits during the pandemic. The proposal sets the stage for negotiations with Democrats who have called it "totally inadequate". The US has already spent more than \$2.4tn on virus relief measures, sending billions of dollars in aid to businesses and individual households. But economists have warned since the spring that more would be necessary. Senator Mitch McConnell said Republicans wanted to see how existing programmes were working, but had now produced a "tailored and targeted draft" to address the economic fallout of the pandemic.

LSM grows by 20.5% in May

ISLAMABAD: The business activities in Pakistan has started showing signs of recovery as Large Scale Manufacturing (LSM) grew by 20.5 percent on month on month basis over April 2020. According to monthly economic updates issued by finance division, year on year growth of LSM decreased by 24.8 percent in May 2020 as compared to same month a year ago. However the average growth of LSM during July-May FY 2020 plunged by 10.3 percent. During July-June FY 2020, total cement dispatches in the country edged up by 1.98 percent to 47.81Mt (46.88 Mt last year). Domestic dispatches decreased by 0.94 percent to 39.96 Mt in July-June FY 2020 (40.34 Mt last year).

The cement exports were up by 19.8 percent to 7.84 Mt (6.54 Mt last year). Similarly textile sector, being labor intensive, is highly exposed to COVID-19 thus severely affected by spread of pandemic. - APP

Chinese students in fake kidnapping scam

WEB DESK

NEW SOUTH WALES: Chinese students in Australia are being coerced by criminal gangs to fake their own kidnappings as part of an elaborate global extortion racket targeting vulnerable overseas communities, authorities said Monday. Eight students in the state of New South Wales (NSW) were targeted in "virtual kidnapping" scams this year, with overseas relatives paying a total of 3.2 million Australian dollars (\$2.3 million) in ransom, police said in a statement.

Hunger killing over 10,000 children a month owing to Covid-19 curbs: UN

"The food security effects of the COVID crisis are going to reflect many years from now," said Dr. Francesco Branca, the WHO head of nutrition. "There is going to be a societal effect"

DNA

NEW YORK: Coronavirus and its restrictions are pushing already-hungry communities over the edge, killing an estimated 10,000 more young children a month as meager farms are cut off from markets and as villages are isolated from food and medical aid, the United Nations warned Monday. In the call to action shared with The Associated Press ahead of publication, four U.N. agencies warned that growing malnutrition would have long-term consequences, transforming individual tragedies into a generational catastrophe.

Hunger is already stalking Habou Solange Boue, an infant from Burkina Faso who lost half her former body weight of 5.5 pounds in just a month. Coronavirus restrictions closed the markets, and her family sold fewer vegetables. Her mother was too malnourished to nurse. "My child," Danssanin Lanizou whispered, choking back tears as she unwrapped a blanket to reveal her baby's protruding ribs. More than 550,000 additional children each month are being struck by what is called wasting, according to the U.N. - malnutrition that manifests in spindly limbs and distended bellies. Over a year, that's up 6.7 million from last year's total

of 47 million. Wasting and stunting can permanently damage children physically and mentally. "The food security effects of the COVID crisis are going to reflect many years from now," said Dr. Francesco Branca, the WHO head of nutrition. "There is going to be a societal effect." From Latin America to South Asia to sub-Saharan Africa, more poor families than ever are staring down a future without enough food. In April, World Food Program head David Beasley warned that the coronavirus economy would cause global famines "of biblical proportions" this year. There are different stages of what is known as

food insecurity; famine is officially declared when, along with other measures, 30% of the population suffers from wasting. The World Food Program estimated in February that 1 in 3 Venezuelans was already going hungry as inflation rendered salaries nearly worthless and forced millions to flee abroad. Then the virus arrived. "Every day we receive a malnourished child," said Dr. Francisco Nieto, who works in a hospital in the border state of Tachira. The leaders of four international agencies - the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Food Program and the Food and

Agriculture Organization - have called for at least \$2.4 billion immediately to address global hunger. But even more than lack of money, restrictions on movement have prevented families from seeking treatment, said Victor Aguayo, the head of UNICEF's nutrition program. "By having schools closed, by having primary health care services disrupted, by having nutritional programs dysfunctional, we are also creating harm," Aguayo said. He cited as an example the near-global suspension of Vitamin A supplements, a crucial way to bolster developing immune systems.

UK quarantine unjust, says Spanish PM

DNA

MADRID: The UK government decision to impose a 14-day quarantine on everyone arriving from Spain was "unjust", the country's prime minister has said. Pedro Sánchez said tourists in most Spanish regions would be safer from coronavirus than in the UK, and he was hoping Britain would rethink its move. He said talks were ongoing after the UK also advised against all but essential travel to the whole of Spain. Labour said the government's handling of the restrictions had been "chaotic". But the UK government said it has no plans to change its decision to reintroduce the quarantine measures - with Boris Johnson's official spokesman warning that "no travel is risk-free during this pandemic".



KABUL: NATO civilian representative Ambassador Stefano Pontecorvo speaks to Afghan local govt Director General. - DNA



China suspends HK extradition treaties with three countries

DNA

BEIJING: China on Tuesday said it was suspending Hong Kong's extradition treaties with Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom after the three countries made a similar decision over Beijing's controversial new security law. Canada, Britain and Australia are part of the "Five Eyes" intelligence alliance. The other members are New Zealand, which suspended its extradition treaty with Hong Kong earlier on Tuesday, and the United States, which has signalled it is preparing to do the same. "The wrong action of Canada, Australia and the UK in politicising judicial cooperation

with Hong Kong has seriously hurt the basis of judicial cooperation," said foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin at a regular press briefing. "China has decided to suspend extradition treaties between Hong Kong and Canada, Australia and UK, as well as criminal justice cooperation agreements." Critics have said the Hong Kong security law is an erosion of civil liberties and human rights in the financial hub, which has been semi-autonomous from China since its handover from Britain in 1997. But Wang accused the countries of having used the national security law as "an excuse to unilaterally announce the suspension of extradition treaties" with Hong Kong.

Former Malaysian PM Najib Razak guilty in corruption trial

The case against Najib, in office from 2009 to 2018, was widely seen as a test of Malaysia's anti-corruption efforts

DNA

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Malaysian PM Najib Razak has been found guilty of all seven charges in the first of several multi-million dollar

corruption trials. He had pleaded not guilty to the charges of criminal breach of trust, money laundering, and abuse of power. The case against Najib, in office from 2009 to 2018, was widely seen as a test

of Malaysia's anti-corruption efforts. The scandal around Malaysia's 1MDB sovereign wealth fund has uncovered a global web of fraud and corruption. Najib could now face decades in prison - but he is

expected to remain out of prison until appeals are exhausted. "After considering all evidence in this trial, I find that the prosecution has successfully proven its case beyond a reasonable doubt,"

judge Mohamad Nazlan Mohamad Ghazali told the Kuala Lumpur High Court. Tuesday's verdicts centred on 42 million ringgit (\$10m, £7.7m) transferred from the fund to the then-prime minister's private accounts.

Azerbaijani president Ilham Aliyev greets people on Eid-ul-Adha

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has congratulated the people of Azerbaijan on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha. "Dear compatriots! I sincerely congratulate you and all our compatriots living in different parts of the world on the occasion of Eid al-Adha and wish you all the best," Azerbaijani president said. "Eid al-Adha, a symbol of solidarity and brotherhood, humanism and compassion amongst people, is one of the main holidays of Islam. On this auspicious day, Muslims experience the joy of closeness to God through sacrifices in the name of the Almighty and demonstrate their readiness to display heroism for the sake of benevolent deeds," the head of state said. "For hundreds of years, Islam has played an exceptional role in the formation of an exemplary environment of coexistence based on mutual respect,



trust and the preservation of ethnic and cultural diversity in Azerbaijan, where people of different nations and religions live as a loving family.

The religious holidays held in our country every year become a celebration of progressive national and spiritual values, social assistance

and display of kindness.

Although this year's Eid al-Adha occurs at a difficult time facing the world, our devout citizens are fulfilling their moral duties in the way of God and religion and strengthening the spirit of unity and equality in our society by their noble deeds," Azerbaijani president said. "Dear sisters and brothers! During these holidays, I remember with gratitude the immortal memory of our martyrs who died for the independence and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, and wish patience to their relatives and all our people. I do hope that your prayers and wishes for the prosperity and well-being of our people, the prosperity and progress of our Motherland will be materialized," the head of state said. "I once again convey my sincere holiday congratulations to each of you, wish your families good health, happiness and abundance to your homes. Happy Eid al-Adha!" Azerbaijani president said.

US sees manufacturing growth

WASHINGTON: The Federal Reserve is set to meet this week ahead of a key GDP estimate as new data shows recovery in US manufacturing, although surging coronavirus cases threaten the economy's gains. The jam-packed week of economic news comes as lawmakers in Washington debate provisions of another stimulus package to follow up on the \$2.2 tril-

lion CARES Act passed in March as COVID-19 hit. The business shutdowns caused by the pandemic are expected to see the US economy shrink an unprecedented 35 percent in the April-June quarter when the Commerce Department releases its advance GDP estimate on Thursday. However, some sectors have begun bouncing back, with retail and new home

sales recovering from the coronavirus hit and data from the Commerce Department released Monday showing durable goods orders rising 7.3 percent on demand for transportation equipment. But Oxford Economics warned that the prevalence of coronavirus in the United States, where more than 57,000 new cases were reported in the 24

hours to Monday, threatens the gains. "The sugar rush from re-openings has now faded and a resurgence of domestic coronavirus cases, alongside very weak demand, supply chain disruptions, historically low oil prices and high levels of uncertainty will weigh heavily on business investment," Oxford Economics said. - APP

Gold prices hit new record

HONG KONG: Gold chalked up another record Tuesday as the dollar extended losses and traders rushed into safe havens as fears about the coronavirus pandemic mounted, while equity markets rose on hopes for a fresh US stimulus package and more Federal Reserve largesse. With worrying new spikes in COVID-19 in Asia and Europe - on top of the already high new US cases - forcing governments to impose strict containment measures, the global economic outlook remains clouded, putting the brakes on a months-long stocks rally. The virus uncertainty descending on trading floors, combined with China-US tensions, has sent gold soaring nearly 30 percent on Tuesday it hit another record of \$1,981.27, smashing the previous day's all-time high. - APP

Lebanon to impose two-week lockdown

The infected person is now spreading the infection to 3 people

DNA

BEIRUT: Lebanon is imposing a two-week coronavirus lockdown starting July 30, the country's health minister said, as he slammed the "lack of community discipline and disregard" for all preventive measures and warned that

the outbreak was taking a "dangerous turn." The number of confirmed cases on Monday reached 135 and Saturday's cases were the highest since February at 175. "The number is very large and indicates the seriousness of this stage," said Health Minister Hamad Hassan, following a meet-

ing of a COVID-19 ministerial committee headed by Prime Minister Hassan Diab. He added that what was happening was another indication of the "rapid spread" of the virus within one week. "The infected person is now spreading the infection to 3 people." The total lockdown of the

country is from July 30 to August 3 and from August 6 until August 10, including the days of Eid Al-Adha. It is a measure intended to relieve pressure on hospitals that have started to get overcrowded. However, the final decision will be taken by the Council of Ministers that will meet Tuesday.

Fresh virus cluster spreads to five Chinese regions

DNA

BEIJING: A fresh coronavirus cluster in a port city in northeast China has spread to other provinces and prompted fresh restrictions, authorities said Monday, as Beijing scrambles to prevent a second wave of infections. China had largely brought the virus under control since it first emerged in the country late last year, through a series of strict lockdowns and travel restrictions. But in recent months a number of small outbreaks have given cause for concern, with China reporting 68 new infections on Tuesday

- the highest daily number since April. Of those, 57 were in the northwest region of Xinjiang, where an outbreak has seen millions of residents tested and strict lockdowns in the regional capital Urumqi. Six more cases were also reported in the industrial port city of Dalian, Liaoning province, where a new outbreak first emerged at a seafood processing plant last week. This brings the total number of new infections in Dalian to 44. Health authorities said the Dalian cluster had now spread to nine cities in five regions across the country, including as far away as the southeast coastal province of Fujian.

Uzbek delegation visits Turkey

DNA

ISTANBUL: On July 26, a delegation of Uzbekistan led by Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade Sardor Umurzakov arrived in Turkey. Delegation includes representatives of ministries and agencies, regional khokimiyats. In Ankara, it is planned to discuss issues of deepening bilateral ties in trade, economic, investment and other fields. The delegation will hold a meeting with Vice President of Turkey Fuat Oktay, after which negotiations will take

place with representatives of Turkish businesspeople and a number of members of the Turkish government. Sardor Umurzakov is expected to address an event on "Economic diplomacy during a pandemic: Experience of Uzbekistan and Turkey". According to the program of the visit, the delegation will hold meetings and negotiations with the heads of ministries and agencies, leading economic and financial structures of Turkey to substantively discuss the prospects for the implementation of investment projects in Uzbekistan.



TASHKENT: A humanitarian cargo from Germany has landed at Tashkent International Airport named after Islam Karimov. It consists of oxygen cylinders, medical masks, protective gowns and other personal protective equipment. The cargo has been unloaded. - DNA

Briefs

Global COVID-19 death toll surges past 650,000

DNA

PARIS: From beach closures to quarantine moves, the world introduce several new measures to stem the spread of COVID-19 on Monday, as the global death toll surged past 650,000. European countries trying to repair the economic damage caused by the earlier lockdowns struggled to balance keeping the lifeline of tourism open while guarding against new flare-ups of infection. In Washington, meanwhile, the White House announced that another senior administration figure, national security advisor Robert O'Brien, had contracted the virus. As of Monday evening, the US, the worst-hit nation in the world, had added another 57,000 cases of infection and its recorded death toll stood at 147,588, said Johns Hopkins University. But as the grim figures kept rolling in, the World Health Organisation argued against a wholesale closing of borders. This was "not necessarily a sustainable strategy for the world's economy, for the world's poor, or for anybody else," said WHO emergency director Michael Ryan. A "global one-size-fits-all policy" was impossible because outbreaks were developing differently in different countries, he added.

Punjab reports 206 new COVID-19 cases in 24 hours

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab health-care department has confirmed 206 new cases of COVID-19 in the province during last 24 hours. The tally of novel coronavirus cases in Punjab has reached to 92,279, a spokesperson of the provincial health department said in a statement. In Lahore 70 new cases of coronavirus reported, while in Multan 14 new cases diagnosed. The province has reported nine more deaths from the disease, which increased the death toll in Punjab to 2125, spokesperson said. Moreover, 81,265 patients have recovered from COVID-19 in the province. As many as 936 new coronavirus cases and 23 deaths were reported in the country over the past 24 hours, taking the national tally of cases to 275,225 and fatalities to 5,865. According to the National Command and Operation Centre, 936 new cases were detected after 19,610 tests were conducted in the previous 24 hours. Overall 26,924 COVID-19 patients are undergoing treatment while 242,436 patients have recuperated from the disease across the country. Pakistan has conducted overall 1,909,846 tests so far. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad.

Court extends Hamza Shehbaz's remand

DNA

LAHORE: An accountability court on Tuesday extended the judicial remand of PML-N leader Hamza Shehbaz Sharif till August 10 in assets beyond means case. The leader of the opposition in Punjab assembly was not presented in the court due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Justice Jawad-ul-Hassan presided over proceedings and awarded the accused an extension of 14 days in his judicial remand. The NAB prosecutor presented a report in the court regarding filing reference against PML-N stalwart. Justice Jawad-ul-Hassan in the previous hearing had ordered the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to file a reference against Sharif, sooner rather than later.

Karachi people not to be left at mercy of Sindh govt: Shibli

All this is proof of the negligence of the Sindh government," Faraz said, adding: "They did nothing. It seems as if there is no sewerage system in the city"

DNA

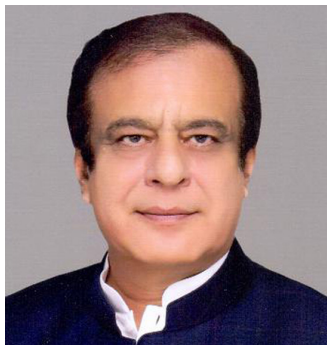
ISLAMABAD: Information minister Shibli Faraz on Tuesday made a solemn pledge to the citizens of Karachi that they will "not be left at the mercy of the Sindh government" as the city grapples with the aftermath of heavy rain showers which began on Sunday. The information minister, while addressing the media in Islamabad, said that Karachi's dilapidated drainage system came to the fore after the rains left roads and even homes severely inundated. "All this is proof of the negligence of the Sindh government," Faraz

said, adding: "They did nothing. It seems as if there is no sewerage system in the city."

He said that no attention had been paid to institutions in Karachi and the city's infrastructure.

"Where are the billions in funds given for Karachi's development?" he asked. The minister said that time and again the Sindh government has "given ample evidence of incompetence."

"Looking at the situation in Karachi, it seems that there is no government there at all," he remarked. Faraz vowed that the federal government will "do all it can for Karachi". "Members of the Assembly in Karachi have



been directed to stay in touch with the people of their constituency," he said. Demanding that the Sindh government act immediately for the

redressal of the city's problems, he said that the provincial government had always prioritised "things of surface value rather than the deep-rooted issues". Faraz said that it is time the PPP focuses its attention on sorting Sindh's problems rather than passing criticism on the Centre's doings.

Since Sunday, the heavy rain showers have caused severe damage to the infrastructure of the city, and at least 10 people have lost their lives in rain-related incidents. Moreover, residents in several areas braced prolonged power outages, besides their homes being inundated from the rainwater and

vehicles floating on heavily flooded streets.

Cautioning people against another spike in coronavirus cases across the country, the minister said that people should follow the safety protocols formulated to stem the spread of the disease.

He reminded people that the threat of the virus has not subsided and a lack of precautionary measures can undo all the progress made. "Due to Allah's mercy, coronavirus cases have declined in the country," said Faraz. He added that the curve is flattening in Pakistan "due to the government's successful lockdown strategy".

Spain 'safe' for tourists: govt

MADRID: Spain remains a "safe" destination for tourists despite a worrying rise in coronavirus infections in some parts of the country, the government insisted on Tuesday. "We want to send a clear message of confidence in our country... We are a secure destination that has made preparations and strengthened itself to deal with the virus and any outbreaks," said government spokeswoman Maria Jesus Montero after the weekly cabinet meeting. - APP

Nawaz Sharif's medical report submitted in LHC

DNA

LAHORE: Amjad Pervaiz, counsel of former Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday submitted a medical report of his client in registrar office of the Lahore High Court (LHC).

According to the medical report, doctors have advised PML-N's supreme to not leave his house due to coronavirus outbreak as he is already suffering from diabetes, high blood pressure and diseases of kidney and heart.

The report also states that Nawaz Sharif, being a heart patient, is very vulnerable as his blood supply to heart is not normalizing. Nawaz Sharif has been advised to continue his physical activities and remain in constant contact with his doctors.

Iran batters dummy US aircraft carrier

TEHRAN: Iran's Revolutionary Guards blasted a mock-up of a US aircraft carrier with missiles on Tuesday during military exercises in Gulf waters, state television reported. The exercises - dubbed "Prophet Muhammad 14th" - were held near the Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping lane for a fifth of global oil output.

The Iranian maritime manoeuvre was staged at a time of heightened tensions between Iran and its decades-old arch enemy the United States. Footage of the war games broadcast on state television showed the Guards' air and naval forces readying for an attack off the country's southwestern coast.

Speedboats skimmed across the water in formation before ground forces fired cannons and a missile was launched from a helicopter. The mock-up of a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier came into view with rows of dummy fighter jets on either side of its landing strip.

The television then cut to rockets being fired out to sea from the backs of trucks, before showing damage to the hull of the mock-up aircraft carrier.

Another missile fired from a helicopter left a trail of smoke before appearing to smash into the side of the fake warship. Armed forces were then seen rappelling onto the deck of the vessel, before around a dozen speedboats circled around it.

"What was shown today in these exercises, at the level of aerospace and naval forces, was all offensive," Guards commander Major General Hossein Salami told state television. New long-range missiles were fired during the exercises, a spokesman said. - APP

Repatriation of stranded citizens accomplished

ISLAMABAD: The government has accomplished almost 99 per cent of repatriation process by bringing over 300,000 citizens to the country under the world's largest evacuation operation, launched after the global travel came to a halt due to the coronavirus pandemic. Now a limited number of reportedly some 3,500 citizens remains to be brought back in nothing flat as normal flight operation has been resumed to the country.

Pakistan always believed in one China policy, says Mandviwalla

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate, Senator Saleem Mandviwalla held a meeting with Yao Jing, Ambassador of China, said that Pakistan has always believed in one China policy and Pakistan supports China in its position regarding Hong Kong and Taiwan. The Deputy Chairman said that China and Pakistan have mutual support and acceptance of each other's territorial positions and China's support to the Kashmir cause is a valued commitment. Both sides discussed the local, regional as well as global position including India's continuing atrocities in Kashmir, China's businesses being stopped in India and US among other issues. Deputy Chairman Senate called for making Parliamentary Friendship groups active and functional once travel restrictions are eased and both sides can meet. The Ambassador appreciated the business being conducted in Senate House proceedings with healthy debates and quality bills being carried out.



Opposition on same page against govt, says Bilawal

The PPP chairman also condemned politics on the health condition of Leader of Opposition in NA and PML-N president Shahbaz Sharif

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said that his party would stand by the joint opposition's decision including holding mid-term elections. Talking to media along with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, who called on him in Islamabad, he said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has put the general public in difficulties, adding that the people were on the same page against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government. The PPP chairman also condemned politics on the health condition of Leader of Opposition in National Assembly and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shahbaz Sharif. It is unfortunate to do politics on someone's



health, he said. Bilawal further said that the opposition is on the same page, adding that PM Imran Khan will have to go now. "Any unanimous decision of All Parties Conference (APC) including mid-term election will be implemented," he added. Speaking on the occasion, JUI-F chief Moulana Fazlur Rehman said that he will bring all the political parties on one page, adding that the opposition's Rehbar Committee will formulate proposals after Eidul Azha. "The proposals of the Rehbar Committee will be presented in the All Parties Conference (APC)," he said.

The JUI-F chief went on to say that the people in power have stolen the mandate. It is pertinent here to mention that Shehbaz Sharif, after holding a meeting with Fazal-ur-Rehman, had on Monday announced to convene an All Parties Conference (APC) of the opposition after Eid-ul-Azha. The PML-N president said that getting rid of the government is need of the hour as country is being ruled by illegitimate and incompetent people. He added that inflation has skyrocketed in last two years and massive increase in petrol prices is an example of incumbent government's bad governance. While lashing out at government over flour crisis, Shehbaz Sharif had said that flour provided by government is not edible and people are forced to buy expensive flour. Wheat shortages are everywhere, while sugar prices are also surging, he added.

Tiger Force Day on August 9

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has announced to celebrate Tiger Force Day on August 9 and said he himself will become a part of the Tiger Force and the tree planting campaigns. In an important message to the Tiger Force, Imran Khan on Tuesday said ten billion trees will be planted by 2023 in Pakistan and chief ministers as well as assembly members will take part in the campaign. "Health of people is being affected due to pollution and Pakistan is in the list of ten countries hit by global warming. Trees will be planted across the country on August 9 and the Tiger Force will lead the campaign. Tree plantation in Pakistan is necessary to counter global warming." Earlier, Special Assistant to the PM on Youth Affairs Usman Dar called on Imran Khan and exchanged views over preparations to celebrate Tiger Force Day. A letter on the Tiger Force from China was presented to the premier who expressed delight on international recognition of the force.

150,000 hepatitis cases each year in Pak: WHO

ISLAMABAD: World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday said that an estimated 8 million people are living with Hepatitis C - more than 10% of the world's total, and another 4 million are estimated infected with Hepatitis B in Pakistan. According to WHO, Pakistan is facing numerous challenges in hepatitis response as approximately 150,000 new cases are reported each year in the country. "On this important occasion of World Hepatitis Day, we need to reemphasize the principle of Health for All by All and our goal to

achieving universal health coverage (UHC). It is time to boost the action in the country and invest in our future generations." WHO Representative in Pakistan Dr Palitha Mahipala, reiterated WHO's full support and commitment for a Hepatitis free future and assured the government of Pakistan in implementing its plans to eliminate hepatitis B and C epidemics in the country. These conditions lead to mortality, which could be prevented by timely testing and treatment and, in the case of hepatitis B, vaccination, WHO added. - APP

Manshehra-Thakot Expressway opened, says Asim Bajwa

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting Lt Gen (ret'd) Asim Saleem Bajwa on Tuesday announced that the Manshehra-Thakot Expressway had been formally opened for traffic. "The 80 KM two way Manshehra-Thakot Expressway has been opened for traffic," he said in a tweet. Highway police and toll staff had also been deployed at the road, he added. Asim Bajwa, who is also Chairman of the CPEC Authority, said, "It is extension of 40 KM Havelian-Manshehra four lane motorway." An amount of Rs 136 billion was spent on the project. - APP

NAB okays graft references against Shehbaz, Shahid

The proceedings of investigation have revealed that accused Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and his co-accused family members, benamidars, frontmen, accumulated assets disproportionate to their known sources of income to the tune of Rs. 7328 million

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) here on Tuesday approved filing of corruption reference against Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz President and Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif in assets beyond means case. The decision was taken during the NAB's executive board meeting held in Islamabad today with its chairman Justice (ret'd) Javed Iqbal in the chair. The watchdog body has also approved to file reference against Shehbaz Sharif's sons - Hamza Shehbaz and Salman Shehbaz, pertaining to the accumulation of assets disproportionate to their

known sources of income to the tune of Rs7,328 million.

The proceedings of investigation have revealed that accused Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and his co-accused family members, benamidars, frontmen, accumulated assets disproportionate to their known sources of income to the tune of Rs. 7328 million.

For the said assets, accused persons laundered their disproportionate funds under the garb of foreign remittances, loans, which have been proved to be fake/fictitious. The accused persons were also operating benami companies held in the name of their employees / associates to place the proceeds of crimes for their own benefits. Second, a reference has been approved against officers/officials of

M/O Foreign Affairs and others regarding corruption and corrupt practices in sale of Embassy of Pakistan at Jakarta, Indonesia.

During the period from 2001-2002, Major General (Ret'd) Syed Mustafa Anwar Hussain while posted as Ambassador of Pakistan at Jakarta, Indonesia sold out building of Pakistan Embassy at Jakarta at throw away price through non transparent procedure and without lawful authority. The accused thereby caused loss of US\$ 1.32 million.

Third, a supplementary reference has been approved against Shahid Khaqan Abbasi ex-Prime Minister, his son Abdullah Khaqan Abbasi, Muftah Ismail, ex Chairman SSGC Board, Sheikh Imran ul Haq, Ex-CEO of EETPL & MD PSO, Agha

Jan Akhtar, Ex-Chairman PQA, Saeed Ahmed Khan, Ex-Chairman OGRA, Aamir Naseem, Ex-Member Oil OGRA, Uzma Adil Khan, Ex-Chairperson OGRA, Shahid M. Islam, Ex-MD PSO, Husain Dawood, Chairman, Engro Corporation Limited, Abdul Samad Dawood, Director Engro Corporation Limited and others. The allegation is that the accused through non transparent process awarded the LNG Terminal-1 contract. The accused public office holder misused their authorities in active connivance with each other to give wrongful gains of Rs 14.146 Billion to EETL/ETPL/ECL in connection with LNG Terminal-1 of EETL and also caused a wrongful loss of Rs. 7.438 Billion (Approx) for non-utilization of unused capacity of 2nd

LNG Terminal of PGPL from March, 2015 till September 2019. Hence, a total liability becomes Rs. 21.584 Billion (Approx) till September, 2019. In this respect, it is pertinent to mention here that further loss to be incurred for next 10 years will amount to Rs. 47 Billion (Approx) as the said contract will expire on March, 2029.

During the period unexplained deposits of Rs. 1.426 billion were received in the accounts of Abdullah Khaqan Abbasi and Rs. 1.294 Billion was received in the bank accounts of Shahid Khaqan Abbasi during the period from 2013 to 2017, during which the above said LNG Terminal deal was struck. By concealing the origin of above said deposits and layering, the accused also committed offence of money laundering.