



Islamabad POST

Saturday, August 22, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Pak-Saudi Arabia have relationship of hearts: Nawaf Bin Saeed

Maximum pressure, utmost resistance: Syed M. Ali Hosseini



Government aptly handled pandemic: Shahzad Waseem



Briefs

Naval Chief inaugurates JMICC

DNA

KARACHI: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi inaugurated a new state of the art Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre in Karachi on Friday.

The Naval Chief on the occasion said the new centre will further support Pakistan Navy's effort to promote maritime security in the region. He appreciated the indigenous efforts to develop such a state of the art system. Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre functions as a nerve centre to harmonise the efforts of all maritime related organizations.

It helps generating a coordinated response to maritime security challenges within Pakistan's Exclusive Economic Zone. The new set-up has been equipped with indigenously developed Joint Maritime Information Sharing software, a modern Operations Room and associated infrastructure.

Punjab govt issues SOPs for majalis

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab Primary and Secondary Health Department (P&SHD) said on Friday it has issued the Standard Operating Procedures aimed to curtail the spread of COVID-19 during the Muharram gatherings and processions.

Medical experts and authorities are skeptical of a second wave of the coronavirus, after the number of cases across the country declined drastically, allowing the government to reopen businesses and various sectors. Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman had announced a day earlier that Muharram will begin from August 21 and Yaum-e-Ashur will most likely fall on August 30. "Activities involving gathering of people during Muharram like Majalis, rallies, Zulfjinnah & Alam processions, etc., are prone to close contact, surface sharing and environmental contamination with COVID-19 infection. Thus, abiding by preventive measures and strict compliance of SOPs is very important during all events regarding Muharram Majalis & processions," the official notification read.

Corona kills ten Pakistanis in one day

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported ten deaths in last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 291,588. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 6,219. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 630 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Inside...

Revolutionary steps taken for education sector, says Shafiqat - Page 02

JMICC: A hub of maritime information - Page 03

Pakistan blessed with energetic youth: minister

China a best example for Pak to control urban flooding - Page 04

'Pak-Saudia relationship of hearts'

Shibli Faraz added that the people of Pakistan have great reverence for the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Senator Shibli Faraz, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting has said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia relations remain steadfast as ever and we are determined to further building up these historic fraternal ties. The Minister stated this in a meeting with H.E. Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki, Saudi Ambassador here Friday. The Ambassador on the occasion was accompanied by Dr. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Salmi, Information Attache, Saudi Embassy, Islamabad. The Minister went on to say that both countries enjoy common Islamic heritage and would like to further strengthen their ties in different areas which are mutually beneficial. Information Minister termed Pak-Saudi relationship as a relationship of hearts and reiterated that the people of Pakistan have great reverence for the Custodian

of the two Holy Mosques. He made a special mention of the visit of Saudi Crown Prince HRH Mohammad bin Salman to Pakistan and appreciated his vision 2030 which he said is forward looking and in tandem with the requirements of modern era. He also commended the arrangements made by the Saudi government for Hajj this year despite difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation and collaboration in the fields of media and culture. They also emphasised exchange and telecast of TV plays and screening of movies in each other's country as film is an important medium to promote and project cultural and societal values. Both dignitaries also agreed on production of programs highlighting the life and achievements of muslim heroes, depicting the true Islamic culture. H.E. Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki, Saudi Ambassador

said that Saudi Arabia was the first country visited by Prime Minister Imran Khan, adding that Saudi Arab was at the fore front extending him good wishes and support. The Saudi Ambassador informed about the latest situation of COVID-19 pandemic in Saudi Arabia and said that Corona cases are now minimal and situation is returning to normalcy. Minister Shibli Faraz stated that Pakistan has successfully tackled the COVID-19 pandemic through effective and prudent policies adopted by the government. He added that if a leader cares for the marginalized strata of the society then Allah Almighty showers His blessings to meet the most difficult of challenges. Information Minister also on the occasion presented the special publication regarding the two years performance of the government to Saudi Ambassador. The meeting was attended by senior officials of Ministry of I&B.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Shibli Faraz, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting in a meeting with H.E. Nawaf Bin Saeed Al-Malki, Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan. - DNA

Government aptly handled pandemic: Shahzad Waseem

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in the Senate Dr Shahzad Waseem on Friday said that controlling COVID-19 pandemic, reduction in current account deficit and increasing foreign remittances were some of the achievements which reflect the success of the government policies. In an informal interaction

with media, he said international community was acknowledging the government policies against coronavirus. He said world financial institutions were praising the prudent economic policies of the country and all economic indicators were giving positive signals for strengthening national economy, adding the government made hectic efforts in this regard. The Leader of the House said the government would

not get blackmailed from anyone and was fully committed to fulfil all promises which were made with the people during the general elections. He said although the government had handled coronavirus effectively but there was need to do lot of in health sector. Replying to a question, he said the President's joint session address was not an ordinary address but had a great importance.



HAINAN: Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi warmly receives Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi. - DNA

Pakistan determined to root-out terrorism: FM

Pak has suffered the most from terrorism as it lost more than seventy thousand lives and suffered economic losses of 120 bln dollars

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has expressed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to fighting the curse of terrorism.

In a statement on the occasion of International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, he said the resilient Pakistani nation has shown that the values of enlightenment, compassion and em-

pathy that bind us together are much stronger than the forces of intolerance, hatred and violence.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Pakistan has suffered the most from terrorism as it lost more than seventy thousand lives and suffered economic losses of 120 billion dollars. He said thousands of our valiant soldiers and law enforcement personnel have laid down their lives in defending the motherland. The Foreign Minister said as we commemorate this day,

we must remember and venerate the victims of worst form of state terrorism by India against innocent people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the Indian state terrorism has intensified since 5th August military siege of eight million Kashmiris in the valley with extra judicial killings and brutal use of force against peaceful protesters.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi called upon the international community to prosecute

the Indian civil and military personnel involved in the state terrorism and serious crimes against humanity.

He said the political leaders have been imprisoned whilst thirteen thousand Kashmiri youth have been subjected to abduction and torture. The Foreign Minister said on its part Pakistan is committed to show the victims of terrorism that they are not alone and the international community stands in solidarity with them, wherever they are.

Turkey turns Chora church into mosque

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan reconverted the historic Chora church, one of Istanbul's most celebrated Byzantine buildings, into a mosque on Friday, a month after opening the famed Hagia Sophia to Muslim worship.

The mediaeval Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora, contains 14th century Byzantine mosaics and frescoes showing scenes from biblical stories. They were plastered over after the city was conquered by the Muslim Ottomans in 1453, but brought to light again when - like Hagia Sophia - the building was converted to a museum by Turkey's secular republic more than 70 years ago. - DNA

IPU President to visit Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Gabriela Cuevas Barron along with a delegation comprising of two Mexican Members Parliament is scheduled to visit Pakistan on the invitation of Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani.

The visit aims to foster institutional linkages between Senate of Pakistan and the IPU to strengthen foundations of democracy and promote mutual collaboration at highest levels.

Pakistan Senate has consistently played an active and robust role on the forum as it considers parliamentary diplomacy pivotal in peace, development and social

and economic prosperity. The current visit is taking place at a high time when Pakistan like other nations is faced with challenge of Covid 19 and the world is calling for a joint effort to overcome not only the pandemic but also mitigate the social and economic impacts of the disease on the communities specially the ones having feeble health infrastructure.

The delegation, during its visit, will be having parleys with President, Prime Minister, Chairman Senate, Speaker of the National Assembly and other important highly political interactions. Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has always emphasised the need for enhancing institutional collaboration.

Lawmakers pay tribute to Hasil Bizenjo

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentarians paid tribute to National Party chairman Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo who passed away on Thursday night after a prolonged battle with lung cancer. The Senate unanimously passed a resolution, expressing deep grief and sorrow over the demise of Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo. The resolution moved by Leader of the Opposition Raja Zafar-ul-Haq paid a rich tribute to the political struggle of the late National Party leader.

PML-N MNA Khawaja Asif paid tribute to the principled politics of Mir Hasil Bizenjo, telling the Speaker to obtain the lower house's consent to postpone the session in light of the politician's passing. PML-N's Senator Mushahidullah Khan said that those people who do not stray from their principles never die but always remain alive in the hearts of the people.

Court summons Shehbaz on Aug 27

LAHORE: An accountability court in Lahore has summoned Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif in the money laundering reference on August 27. Dunya News reported on Friday. The AC has directed jail authorities to also produce Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly Hamza Shahbaz and other arrested suspects before the court during the next hearing. - DNA

Maximum pressure, utmost resistance

OPINION



Syed Mohammad Ali Hosseini

THE story of JCPOA (joint comprehensive plan of action) is a well known diplomatic experience that according to many analysts is also the most distinguished example of peaceful settlement of disputes via diplomacy. In the importance of this breakthrough, it suffices to say that 10 years of breathtaking negotiations was dedicated to reach such international agreement that came to its legal strength with UNSC Resolution 2231 in 2015. Against many peace loving nations that were content of this pact, some warmonger and rabble-rouser countries besides the other deceived ones in our neighborhood, found the JCPOA agreement something perilous. Political change in the US and shift of power between the internal rivals in this country also added an extra weight to the anxious sides. By getting closer to the presidential election of the US, Trump administration that considers itself on the

verge of failure is looking for turning points to grab the vote of yet undecided or bargaining sections. In search of such determining points, many try and errors has occurred. Ann exation of west bank, normalization of the Covid-like Zionist existence in the region and increasing pressures on Iran in UNSC and IAEA are some of these examples. Regarding the issue of I.R.Iran, US failures in its Iran-policy overlap its successes. The recent example of that is the last week story of UNSC that in a very humiliating effort, 90 percent of Security Council members didn't accept US proposal for extending arm embargo on Iran and just the US itself and one non permanent member of the council (Dominican; that perhaps couldn't resist) supported the resolution. This result had many lessons for the US administration to learn but they are still continuing their wrong path of imposing maximum pressure on Iran. In a new move, US who unilaterally

withdrawn JCPOA and expected the others to do so (but they didn't), is trying to force the other participants of JCPOA to terminate this agreement by activating Snapback mechanism that was predicted in JCPOA itself. It looks very ridiculous that a country that is not any more a mem-

ber of JCPOA insists on implication of Snapback provision predicted in it; something that we consider both illegal and illegitimate. Predicting a double defeat for Americans, they may resort to IAEA leverage to hit their expected pick, which may with Iran's possible reaction, sacrifice IAEA high safeguard mechanism for Trump's internal achievements. Regardless of what US current administration is going to do in the case of I.R.Iran, the vigilant eyes in our region should be so considerate of the consequences of such short-sighted and election oriented hasty games. They should be thoughtful of Iran's reaction to disruption of lengthy negotiated JCPOA. Anyhow, Iran will not remain passive if Snapback be activated or Iran peaceful atomic program (regardless of perfect cooperative background of Iran interaction with IAEA) be politicized again. Many options like withdrawal of NPT, withdrawal of Additional Protocol, conclusion of all commitments in JCPOA and etc can come on the

table if Iran finds further patience nugatory. Although Iran's reaction may change from patience to synchronized reciprocal actions, there is one permanent element that will never change in Iranian positions and it's the Iranian mindset of bully countering and unilateralism resisting. Regarding the fact that Haste makes waste, we didn't exit from JCPOA when US did it and showed too much patience to check the other partner's adherence. Regarding our sit-tight policy, even in the time of European weakness in implementing the agreement and even in the time that Iran was not benefited from the economic predicted provisions, we showed too much resistance and didn't change our fundamental stance of negotiation-first. If today US is determined to break this patience, we are economic resilient, self reliant and credible enough to answer them.

The Writer is Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan.

Briefs

Emirates revises Sialkot flight Schedule

FIJAZ CH

ISLAMABAD: Emirates has revised its flight timings to/from Sialkot to offer customers better connections via Dubai with seven weekly flights - providing greater access to its current network of 75 cities across six continents. Effective 22 August, Emirates flight EK 618 will depart Dubai at 20:55 hrs and arrive in Sialkot at 1:10 hrs. The return flight, EK 619 will depart Sialkot at 2:40 hrs and arrive in Dubai at 5:00 hrs. In addition to Sialkot, Emirates offers customers direct flights to four other cities in Pakistan including Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, and Peshawar. Ensuring the safety of travellers, visitors, and the community, COVID-19 PCR tests are mandatory for all inbound and transit passengers arriving to Dubai (and the UAE), including UAE citizens, residents and tourists, irrespective of the country they are coming from.

'PTI govt disappointed Business persons'

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Former President ICCI Shahid Rasheed Butt on Friday said the government disappointed masses and businesspersons during the last two years. Not a single promise was fulfilled, there was no move towards Naya Pakistan while runaway inflation continued to hit masses badly, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that political and economic instability has increased, confusion over critical national and international issues persists, and mafia remained uncontrolled despite tall claims. He said that the government has failed to deliver on promises and it is unable to carry the heavy burden of its expansive promises while the clarity of ideas and policies is still a far cry for it.

Islamabad Police conduct flag march

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police along with district administration on Friday conducted flag march with an objective to maintain peace and tranquility in the city during Muharram ul Haram. Following directions of IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan, the flag march was conducted under the supervision of SP (Industrial Area) Zubair Ahmed Shaikh and SP (Rural Zone) Farooq Amjad Butar which was participated by SDPOs, SHOs of all police stations, officials of district administration, Islamabad Traffic Police, Police Commandoes, Rescue 15 police officials and police patrolling officials.

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors-designate of Pakistan to various countries in a group photo during a dinner hosted by Mateen Haider and Ali Furqat at Back to Nature restaurant. - DNA

Revolutionary steps taken for education sector, says Shafqat

The Minister said efforts to introduce uniform curriculum in the country are bearing fruit as uniform curriculum from class one to five has been prepared and uploaded on the Ministry's website

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood has said several revolutionary steps have been taken in consultation with all stakeholders during the last two years to reform education sector in the country. Presenting his ministry's two year performance in a news conference in Islamabad on Friday, he said the inter-provincial education ministers forum was made functional to reach consensus decisions for development of the education sector.

The Minister said efforts to introduce uniform curriculum in the country are bearing fruit as uniform curriculum from class one to five has been prepared and uploaded on the Ministry's website. He said schools will teach one curriculum from April next year. He said the uniform curriculum will lead to developing national cohesion in the country. He said model text books are also being prepared. Shafqat Mahmood said the government engaged with Madaris and developed a mechanism to ensure that the religious seminary students also study national curriculum along with Dars-e-Nizami.



He said the students of Madaris will have employment opportunities like students of contemporary education in practical life. In order to promote skills of the youth, he said, Hunarmand Jawan programme was launched. He said

vocational training programmes have also been stated. He said National Accreditation Council has been established to have an oversight look at the vocational training institutes. As for the higher education, Shafqat Mahmood said under Ehsaas programme, fifty thousand university students will get scholarships annually. Similarly, he said, programmes have also been initiated for training of nurses. The Minister said Pakistan gave an outstanding response to the Covid-19 challenge in education sector. He said it was decided with consensus among all the provincial educa-

tion ministers to close educational institutions during the pandemic, and then decided to reopen them on September 15. He said a review meeting will be held on the seventh of the next month to decide about reopening of the institutes. He said four million students were promoted to the next class from Class nine to 12, which was widely accepted. He said a tele school was started on April 7 after closure of schools on March 13. He said for higher education, online education was started. He said a new department has been created at the Ministry of Education to continue distance education.

ISLAMABAD: Monsoon Plantation drive 2020 has commenced on Friday at Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad. Like previous years, Quaid-i-Azam University Alumni Association, in collaboration with Environmental Protection Agency, Government of Pakistan, Directorates of Estate Management and Student Affairs QAU Islamabad, under Green and Clean Pakistan campaign, would plant three thousand plants at QAU campus at its affiliated Colleges across federal capital.

NAB employee removed from service

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A NAB employee has been removed from service upon serious misconduct charges. Ms. Hina Zahoor joined NAB as Deputy Assistant Director (BS-16) from 06.03.2013 and was posted at NAB Rawalpindi. She was allowed 1x year (365xdays) ex-Pakistan Extra Ordinary Leave (without pay) with effect from 04.06.2018 to visit Sweden. The Lady Officer was required to join her duties on 04.06.2019 but she did not join her official duty and instead requested for extension in leave which was not approved. She was also directed to report for duty and informed her about disciplinary action in case of failure. However, she failed to join her duties as per law. Consequently, disciplinary proceedings were initiated against the Lady Officer and she was served with Show Cause Notice dated 13.09.2019 on charges of "Misconduct".

Monsoon plantation drive begins at QAU

DNA

Portugal keen in friendly ties with Pakistan

Mayor Islamabad Sheikh Ansar Aziz said at the occasion that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Portugal, both in the bilateral context as well as within the framework of European Union

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Paulo Neves Pocinho met with the Mayor Islamabad Sheikh Ansar Aziz here on Thursday. Matters of mutual interests discussed during the meeting. Speaking at the occasion, Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Paulo Neves Pocinho extended his good will gesture to Pakistan and expressed keen interest in continuing the friendly relations with Pakistan in future as well. He said that there is no eye blinking from the fact that Islamabad is a very beautiful city, but its beauty and greenery can be enhanced further. Portugal is all set to support MCI in its projects for the beautification of the city, he added. Mayor Islamabad Sheikh Ansar Aziz said at the occasion that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Portugal, both in the bilateral context as well as within the framework of European Union. Pakistan is emerging as one of the attractive destinations for tourists. Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) is committed to enhance the beauty of the capital city, he added. Mayor Islamabad Sheikh Ansar Aziz welcome the Ambassador and invited him to visit Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) next time. Sheikh Ansar Aziz also presented souvenir and gifts to the ambassador at the end of meeting. - DNA



Uzbekistan to sign direct cargo flight agreement: Razzaq

FIJAZ CHAUDHRY

RAWALPINDI: Trade Adviser Razzaq Dawood has reiterated the government's resolve to strengthen trade and investment relations among ECO member countries. Addressing the Virtual International Trade Forum (ECO chapter), organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) here on Thursday, the advisor informed that he would visit Afghanistan soon, probably next month to remove obstacles in bilateral trade and transit trade. He also informed the participants that the Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan is visiting Pakistan next month, September 7. During the visit Uzbekistan will sign an agreement for direct cargo flight from Sialkot Airport. We are also working on introducing transshipment policy for ECO countries, he added. The recommendations of the Chamber of Commerce will be given priority for shipment

policy. Our exports of fruits and vegetables have reached 750 million dollar which is a significant achievement. RCCI President in his welcome remarks said that the purpose of the trade forum was to make the business community aware of trade and export opportunities in ECO markets. Giving details, Chamber President Saboor Malik said that Economic Co-operation Organization (ECO) was formed in 1985, has a unique geo-strategic location, linking the East and the West. This region with its significant economic power, vast natural resources, and dynamic work force, has a huge development potential which need exploration in the better interest of all member nations, said Saboor Malik. He said that an increase in trade in food, textile and pharmaceutical sectors could be made possible. He said that in order to increase Pakistani exports to ECO member countries, new trade avenues would have to be explored.

Army to help maintain peace during Ashura

"As part of a contingency plan, about 29 points of the district, including Maluwali, Domail, Jahmat, Shebazzpur, Pindigheb, Fatehjang, Sheenbagh, Shakerdera and Kamra Kalah, have been declared sensitive"

DNA

ATTOCK: Army to assist district administration and police to maintain law and order situation in district Attock as authorities have rolled up their sleeves to ensure peace and security during the sensitive month of Muharram-ul-Haram. A contingent of army led by Brigadier Mohammad Yousaf hold a meeting with the district administration in his chair which was attended by deputy commissioner Ali Annan Qammar and district Police officer Syed Khalid Hamdani, all heads of local law enforcement agencies, assistant commissioners and sub di-

visional police officers. The participants have reviewed and finalized the Muharram security plan. The participants were informed that as many as 145 processions would be taken out while 754 majalis would be held across the Attock. It was revealed that during Muharram, 145 processions would be taken out from 87 Imambargahs located different areas of the district which include 28 A category (high sensitive), 25 B Category (sensitive) and 92 C category (less sensitive) processions and 754 majalis would be held. The participants were informed that these processions would be provided fool proof security for which 1742 police officials including 5

DSPs, 10 SHOs, 180 Sub Inspectors/ASIs, 119 head constables, 1100 constables, 20 lady constables, elite force and 623 volunteers have been deputed. It was informed that these volunteers have been deployed after imparting necessary training while walk through gates would be installed at the entry and exit points of the processions and majalis while metal detectors would also be utilized and close monitoring would be carried out through CCTV cameras. The army representatives informed that troops were in standby to cope any untoward incident while a joint flag march of police and army would also be carried out.

Deputy commissioner Ali Annan Qammar told newsmen that "The district administration has finalized a fool proof security plan to maintain law and order during Ashura processions". He said that all the processions would pass through their designated routes and no route violation would be allowed. "As part of a contingency plan, about 29 points of the district, including Maluwali, Domail, Jahmat, Shebazzpur, Pindigheb, Fatehjang, Sheenbagh, Shakerdera and Kamra Kalah, have been declared sensitive", he said. Police and Elite Force personnel would remain on high alert to ensure security during Azadari meetings and processions.

AUGUST 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



Repairing Karachi

AFTER a brewing disagreement on the issue, between the Sindh government and the centre as well as other political parties, the federal and Sindh governments have now agreed to set up a coordination committee for Karachi. The committee which is to include Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar as well as other political leaders will divide up projects in six areas for infrastructure development in Karachi. The areas Asad Umar identified as having been agreed on are: water, sewerage system, solid waste disposal, clearing nullahs, repairing roads and introducing a modern transportation system.

It is of course to a considerable extent ridiculous that the country's largest city – in fact, it's only mega city – lacks even these basic amenities. A solution clearly has to be found. Asad Umar has said that this will be done by achieving a consensus and then working towards it. Water is a critical requirement for the people of Karachi who are forced to depend on the tanker mafia which operates in the city. Transportation, and the problems related to solid waste and water disposal, too cannot be ignored. It is being proposed that two lists will be worked out and the federal and provincial governments will begin work on these. We hope the cooperation can continue in the true sense of working for the betterment of the people of the mega city and not to serve any political purpose.

Many problems that have arisen in the past have been linked to politics. Disagreements between municipalities and the provincial government, with the city for decades divided between the PPP and the MQM have played a part in this. The Green Line project for a bus service, begun when the PML-N government was in power in the centre, also seems to have come to a standstill. Lahore, Rawalpindi and now Peshawar all have such services. Karachi with its population nearing 20 million people badly needs one. Additional complications are created when work does not take place according to the aspirations of the people. The court has ordered the old Karachi Circular Railway be restored, a ruling which Sindh Minister Saeed Ghani says will hold back work on new, more effective projects. But all these issues have to be overcome. A way has to be found. The people of Karachi cannot be made to suffer any longer and we must hope the latest scheme between the centre and the province will succeed.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

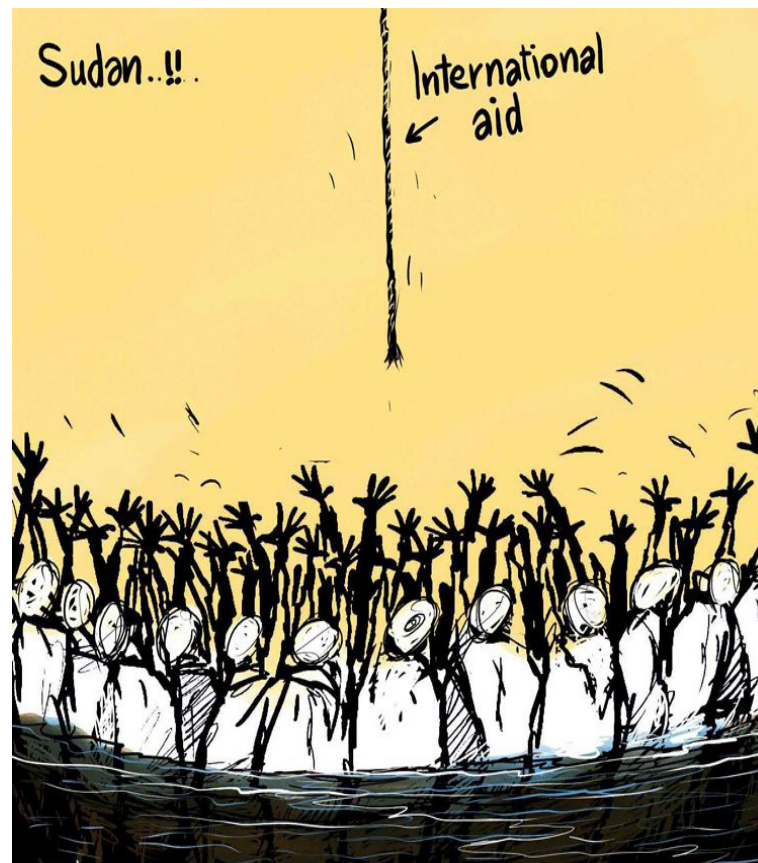
Vol: 01 Issue: 128

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Website: www.islamabadpost.com.pk

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



Differnet verdicts

TWO different high courts – Sindh and Islamabad – have concurrently given opposing judgements on similar petitions contesting the formation of the sugar inquiry commission. The latter was set up in March to investigate the sudden spike in the sweetener's price last winter. The petitioners – the sugar mill owners – had also challenged the validity of its findings, requesting the courts to stop any action against them on the basis of the impugned report. The Sindh High Court had on Monday struck down the constitution of the commission because the government didn't follow the procedure for its formation. It had also failed to issue a gazette notification about its constitution within the stipulated time period and the commission denied the petitioners the opportunity of being heard. The next day, the Islamabad High Court passed a different verdict, which contradicted the Sindh High Court decision although it had duly noted that the commission conducted only a fact-finding exercise with no mandate or power to impose any penalty.

This is not for the first time that two high courts have taken opposing views on the same issue and given conflicting judgements. It has happened before, requiring the Supreme Court to break the impasse. Until that happens, both judgements will continue to hold in the courts' respective territorial jurisdiction. The Sindh High Court ruling offers some relief to the sugar producers to the extent of suspension of actions announced by the government against them on the basis of the commission's report (unless the apex court reverses the decision). Nevertheless, the court has ordered the anti-corruption agencies and regulatory bodies to carry out fresh, independent and separate inquiries into the scam. That appears unlikely until the final decision by the apex court settles the matter one way or another. In order to delay action against them, a major producer, Jahangir Tareen, has in the meanwhile approached the Lahore High Court to prevent the FIA from taking action against his companies. In the coming days, we may witness more sugar firms seeking 'relief' from action against them. In the past, we have seen businessmen delay payment of taxes and fees, and 'adverse' government inquiries and actions against them for years. The GIDC case that lingered for nine years is just one example. The apex court should devise a mechanism to discourage multiple petitions on the same matter in different courts besides ensuring decisions on such issues are given within a stipulated time frame.

JMICC: A hub of maritime information

Emran Rashid

The increase in maritime threats and challenges that are trans-boundary in nature poses a new challenge to maritime security agencies, where no single entity has the necessary resources to deal unilaterally with the maritime threats/challenges by itself. The key to dealing with the full range of security matrix in the maritime domain lies in strong inter-agency cooperation and greater collaboration. Such efforts include accurate and timely information sharing among all stakeholders on a multilateral basis for implementing preventive measures or to cue necessary operational responses when required

PAKISTAN'S Maritime compulsions are countless; its geostrategic location, the hegemonic ambitions of its eastern neighbor, presence of international Naval Forces IMES vicinity and extent of piracy till Gulf of Oman (GOO) add to the current maritime security matrix. The country is blessed with over 1000 km long coastline and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) covering about 240,000 Sq. Km. In addition, extension of continental shelf (50,000 Sq. Km) was also approved by United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLOS) in 2015. Pakistan carries out 95 percent of its trade and 100 percent of its oil imports through the sea, making the maritime sector the bedrock of Pakistan's national economy. Pakistan's trade through sea routes, especially the POLs imports are growing thus the importance of maritime security in order to safeguard the maritime interests of Pakistan will continue to increase in future. The three commercial ports of Pakistan constitute the trading nucleus of Pakistan in which Gwadar port is gradually coming up to the desired operational state. Any act of terrorism or sabotage by the non-state actors on this infrastructure can result in severe economic and security repercussions like increased insurance premiums, risk surcharges besides tarnishing country's image in the International maritime community.

Maritime security is an integral part of comprehensive national security. Post 9/11, the concept of maritime security has come under unprecedented focus worldwide due to increase in probability of Maritime Terrorism; Piracy; Narco-Arms and Human Smuggling; IUU (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated) Fishing and Toxic Waste Dumping and sources of environmental degradation. These threats/challenges have the potential to create strategic effects due to heavy international reliance on maritime trade. With this context, Joint Maritime Information Coordination Center (JMICC) is a national platform to deal with all maritime related activities occurring in Pak Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), primarily for information sharing and inter department/agency coordination. JMICC is an integral part of Pakistan Navy and is located at Manora, Karachi. The center structures its work in six domains i.e. Maritime Terrorism, Piracy, Organized Maritime Crime, (in particular smuggling of people, narcotics and weapons), Illegal exploitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone (in particular fishery crimes), Marine Pollution

Search and Rescue. It hence covers the full breadth of maritime governance and law enforcement tasks, and is neither focused exclusively on security, nor limited to a particular issue. It maintains Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) through quick sharing of information amongst all concerned stakeholders and coordinate proactive response in order to counter illicit activities in the AOR. Since its establishment in 2013, JMICC has come a long way in maintaining requisite level of info-sharing as well as interactions with various national as well as regional stakeholders relevant to the maritime domain of Pakistan. Over a short span of 6 years, 48 national agencies have become the stakeholders connected with JMICC which significantly assists in achieving Maritime Domain Awareness.

It needs no further emphasis that Maritime security requires focused attention due ever-changing dynamics of threat as well as associated challenges. Accordingly, JMICC is not only making earnest efforts but so far had made significant strides to facilitate all National LEAs in maintenance of good order at sea. Besides creating a local tactical picture, JMICC also enhanced its coverage by partnering into strategic linkages with other information sharing portals including Information Fusion Centre of Singapore and Virtual Regional Maritime Traffic Centre of Italy. Due to its greater reach and mobility, the Pakistan

Navy endeavors to supplement the efforts of the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency in maintaining order at sea within the country's maritime zones. Many related initiatives in coordination with International Maritime Bureau and its Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, European Union Naval Forces (EU NAVFORs), Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa, UK's Marine Trade Operations (UKMTO) office in Dubai and the Maritime Trade Information Sharing Centre (MTISC) for the Gulf of Guinea have helped significantly in consolidating maritime security chain.

Besides, JMICC also runs an impressive community engagement programme, to work with the "grass root level". Staff members regularly visit coastal villages and engage with elders as well as the fishermen folk. Regular visits to listen concern of the coastal community and discuss the problem areas. Much of the information that JMICC draws on comes from such human resources. The local knowledge and experience is particularly useful as an early warning mechanism, but also allows for the quick transmission of information in particular in those areas where there are no other means of surveillance. Community engagement for JMICC also includes engagement with the seafarers. By adopting a forward looking approach JMICC staff also interact with Pakistan Seafarer association and thmarine training academy regularly. Recently, collaboration with JMICC, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency has launched Assistance, Anytime, Anywhere at sea (AAAS) android based mobile App to facilitate maritime communities in case of any emergency situation. The user can generate an SOS request or report a maritime incident with a single click on his mobile.

The increase in maritime threats and challenges that are trans-boundary in nature poses a new challenge to maritime security agencies, where no single entity has the necessary resources to deal unilaterally with the maritime threats/challenges by itself. The key to dealing with the full range of security matrix in the maritime domain lies in strong inter-agency cooperation and greater collaboration. Such efforts include accurate and timely information sharing among all stakeholders on a multilateral basis for implementing preventive measures or to cue necessary operational responses when required. JMICC with the support from all stakeholders will continue to play a key role in fostering collaboration to overcome the full spectrum of maritime threats and challenges.



The UAE-Israel agreement is for naught

Imad K Harb



The UAE is using Israel's decision to put its annexation plans on hold to justify its move and shield itself from accusations that it betrayed the Palestinians by establishing relations with Israel to please the US and strengthen its hand against its regional rivals. However, considering how Netanyahu has previously reneged on agreements with the Palestinians and Arab leaders

AFTER years of taking steps towards informal normalisation, but falling short of breaking from the long-standing Arab position and officially signing a peace deal with Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) finally announced its decision to establish full diplomatic relations with the country on Thursday. The move was long in the making. In the last few years, the Emiratis have hosted Israeli ministers and athletes, participated in maritime security conferences alongside Israeli officials, supported technological cooperation agreements between Emirati and Israeli companies, and even invited Israel to the Dubai Expo. These and other ventures made Abu Dhabi's intention to normalise its relations with Israel clear. What stood in the way of a deal was the Israeli government's intention to annex some 30 percent of the occupied West Bank, including the Jordan Valley, which would have made official rapprochement with Israel too politically costly for the Emirati leadership.

But on June 12, the UAE's ambassador to the United States, Yousef al-Otaiba, offered Israel a face-saving trade-off. In an op-ed published in Israel's largest Hebrew language daily Yedioth Ahronoth, al-Otaiba warned Israeli leaders against annexation, saying that such a move would "reverse all of the Israeli aspirations for improved security, economic and cultural ties with the Arab world and the United Arab Emirates". In essence, the Emirati ambassador announced to the world that the UAE was ready to sign a peace deal with Israel, if it drops its annexation plan, even for a short while. The Israeli government clearly got the message, as it announced on Thursday that it agreed to suspend "declaring sovereignty" over the occupied West Bank as part of its normalisation deal with the UAE.

The UAE is using Israel's decision to put its annexation plans on hold to justify its move and shield itself from accusations that it betrayed the Palestinians by establishing relations with Israel to please the US and strengthen its hand against its regional rivals. However, considering how Netanyahu has previously reneged on agreements with the Palestinians and Arab leaders, this so-called suspension is not worth the paper it is written on.

To be sure, there is a good possibility that once diplomatic relations are formally established between the two countries, Netanyahu will renege on the suspension promise. After all, he needs the support of Israeli settlers to remain in power, and they want the colonisation of the West Bank to continue unabated. Moreover, Netanyahu's American friends who brokered the deal - Trump's Middle East point man Jared Kushner, US ambassador to Israel David Friedman, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo among others - expect nothing less. After all, they are defenders of settlements and believers in a literal interpretation of scriptures giving Israel the right to control the area in perpetuity. In fact, the annexation Netanyahu agreed to "suspend" has already taken place. Some 600,000 Israeli settlers live in settlements, all illegal under international law, strewn across that same 30 percent of the occupied West Bank, and no agreement with the Palestinians, the UAE or any other Arab state can dislodge them.

Today, settlers are attacking Palestinians, burning their crops and undermining their livelihoods regularly, unimpeded by the Israeli army, even in areas supposedly reserved in the Oslo Accords for a rump Palestinian state. A promise to suspend an annexation that has already taken place in practice serves no purpose other than allowing the UAE to save face, and Netanyahu to secure a peace deal that can help save his political future.

Netanyahu is facing protests for failing to efficiently respond to the coronavirus pandemic and the downturn in the Israeli economy. A corruption investigation, slated to take place early next year, is also hanging over his head like the sword of Damocles. With this supposed diplomatic victory, he could very well announce a new round of parliamentary elections that could net him more support in the Knesset, which would give him significant leverage in his upcoming legal and political battles. Just like Netanyahu, Trump is also relying on the UAE-Israel normalisation deal to turn his political fortunes around. It was obvious from his enthusiastic Oval Office announcement about the agreement that he thinks the Emirati move will help him secure the support of pro-Israel sectors of the American electorate in

the upcoming presidential election. Indeed, declaring a foreign policy victory - especially one that pleases Israel - may help Trump at a time when he is trailing far behind the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden in almost every election poll.

But any extra support the deal provides for Trump will likely be inconsequential in determining the result of the election, given his significant failures on the domestic front. Foreign policy has never been a major concern for the American electorate, even in good times. Today, what most Americans care about is the coronavirus pandemic and its detrimental effects on the economy, high unemployment, and Trump's clear assault on American democracy and the integrity of elections. Scoring a goal for Israel in its relations with the Arab world is unlikely to be seen by voters as a deciding factor in their choice for president. In the coming days, following further negotiations led by the US, Thursday's announcement will undoubtedly result in the much-anticipated establishment of diplomatic relations between the UAE and Israel. As the UAE becomes the third Arab country - after Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994 - to officially make peace with Israel, it is not unreasonable to expect other Gulf countries to follow suit. But there should also be no doubt that in the end, it will all be for naught.

These normalisation efforts may provide some short-term political relief for Netanyahu, Trump and Gulf leaders who need the support of Israel and the US to subdue their regional rivals. Nevertheless, they will not provide any real normalisation for Israel. Egypt and Jordan's peace deals with Israel failed to garner popular support in many decades, despite relentless efforts by these governments to convince the masses they rule over to accept and normalise Israel's existence in the region. Full normalisation with Israel cannot be accomplished until it agrees to end its occupation of Palestine and oppression of the Palestinian people. Any deal between Arab leaders and Israel will not be accepted by the peoples of the region until Israel redresses the legitimate national and human rights of the Palestinians. What UAE leaders have just done is to simply betray these goals without gaining anything in return.

- Courtesy Al Jazeera

Briefs

Risk of coronavirus still exists: Asad Umar

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Friday said that coronavirus had not ended yet and the risk of the pandemic was still exists. In a tweet, he said the National Command and Operation Centre (NCO) was prepared for every occasion that could increase the cases. "At NCO, with provincial support we prepare for every occasion which can increase cases-Eid, Muharram, school opening etc," he added. He also quoted an American poet Robert Frost to show the government's commitment in uprooting the pandemic. "But I have promised to keep and miles to go before I sleep". - APP

Beijing: masks no longer mandatory

DNA
BEIJING: Health authorities in China's capital Beijing have removed a requirement for people to wear masks outdoors, further relaxing rules aimed at preventing the spread of the coronavirus after the city reported 13 consecutive days without new cases. Despite the relaxed guidelines, a large proportion of people continued to wear masks in Beijing on Friday. Some said the mask made them feel safe, while others said social pressures to wear the masks were also a factor. "I think I can take off my mask anytime, but I'll need to see if others accept it. Because I'm afraid that people would be scared if they see me not wearing a face mask," one 24-year old Beijing woman surnamed Cao told reporter. It's the second time Beijing's health authorities have relaxed guidelines on mask wearing in the capital, which has largely returned to normal after two rounds of lockdowns brought it to a standstill.

SCO Secretary General greets Ashraf Ghani

BEIJING: Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Vladimir Norov has sent a felicitation message to Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on occasion of the National Day of Afghanistan. In his message, the Secretary-General stated that the SCO Member States and Afghanistan share old and historic links of common history, culture, civilization, and people to people friendship, and the peace and security in the SCO space is directly linked with the peace and stability in Afghanistan. Vladimir Norov further added that now it is the time to translate road map for further action of SCO-Afghanistan contact group and road map on enhancing interaction with Observer and Dialogue Partners of SCO, which were adopted during the Heads of State Summit in Bishkek in 2019. "I am fully convinced that the Shanghai Spirit of SCO can act as a guiding light for approaching all problems of conflict including in Afghanistan and bringing lasting peace, which would further strengthen SCO-Afghanistan relations to promote peace, stability and development in Afghanistan," said the letter. - APP

SPI inflation goes up 0.96%

ISLAMABAD: The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) based weekly inflation for the week ended on August 10, for the combined consumption group, witnessed increase of 0.96 percent as compared to the previous week. The SPI for the week under review in the above mentioned group was recorded at 135.22 points against 133.94 points registered in the previous week, according to the latest data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 8.5 percent. - APP



RAWALPINDI: Major General Ibrahim Yali Muhammad (Osta Almadani), Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS). During the meeting matters of mutual interest including strengthening of bilateral security and defence cooperation between the two brotherly countries were discussed. Visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's continuous efforts for peace and stability in the region. - DNA

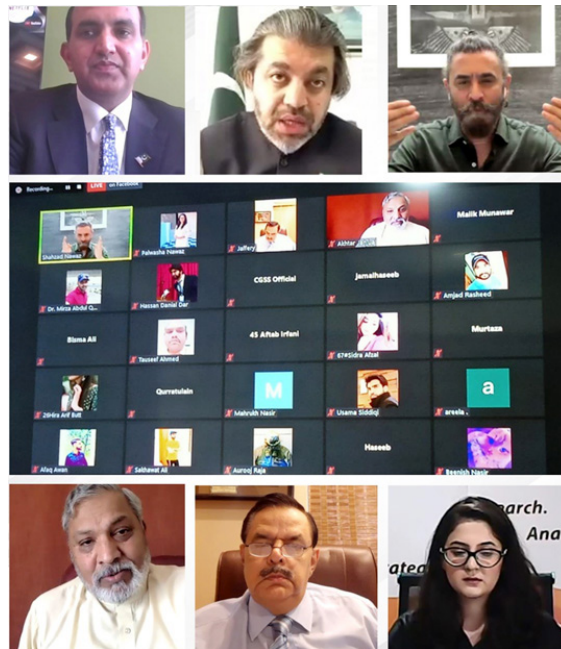
Pakistan blessed with energetic youth: minister

Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad organizes a webinar titled "Journey of the Leaders"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Platform for Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad organized a webinar titled "Journey of the Leaders". The session was commenced with the opening remarks by Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery HI(M), (Retd), President CGSS. He stated that to embark on the journey of being a leader one must be dedicated and determined to bring a change. He also mentioned that it is the need of time to have this discussion with the young minds of Pakistan because our future leaders will be from our youth. Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Pakistan

stated that a leader is someone who is observant and thinks about the circumstances around him that he wishes to change. He also highlighted the leadership qualities of Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal and urged students to follow them for inspiration. Furthermore, Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan stated that leaders can dream big and make other people dream as well, he stated that Pakistan is blessed with an energetic youth who have the ability to be leaders. Mr. Faisal Mushtaq, CEO & Founder, The Millennium Education System stated that leadership is an attribute, it is a quality that is inbuilt in every individual of a society whether they are head of a country or head of a family. He emphasized that leadership begins with



a vision and depends on the environment, ecosystem, and knowledge a person has, therefore our stu-

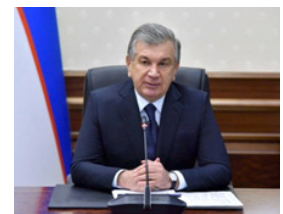
dents must-read books to surround themselves with knowledge and wisdom. He also highlighted the qualities and virtues of a successful leader and stated that every leader believes in equality, diversity, and inclusion of all members of the society. It must be remembered that every decision a leader makes affects the society as a whole, and that is why he must have a vision and a plan of action. Mr. Shehzad Nawaz, Film-maker, Writer & Media Specialist stated that leaders have the ability to change the mindset. Every leader must have three virtues that are the part and parcel of being a leader, those qualities are, Honesty, Courage, and the quality to be just and his words should have empathy and passion to touch everyone's hearts.

Mr. Shehzad mentioned the sayings of Allama Iqbal and emphasized that Leaders should be able to reflect internally and externally and this will help them in being selfless which is the prime attribute of being a leader. Brigadier Akhtar Nawaz Janjua (Retd), Senior Member Advisory Board, CGSS stated that leaders must have the capability and capacity to be wise and take decisions. He further stated that a true leader must be a man of his words, he should stand by what he said. He addressed the young generation of Pakistan and stressed the importance of loyalty, honesty, and dedication to embark on the journey of being a leader. The Conference was attended by 50 participants and was moderated by Ms. Palwasha Nawaz, Project Executive, THE PLATFORM by CGSS.

Uzbek president urges to restrict gatherings on Independence Day

DNA

TASHKENT: President Shavkat Mirziyoyev chairs a videoconference on development of entrepreneurship. Opening the event, the Head of the state focused on the ongoing work to counter the pandemic and gave instructions on celebration of Independence Day based on current realities. It was noted that to date, the total number of coronavirus cases in the country has exceeded 37.5 thousand and more than 33 thousand or 88 percent of patients have recovered. Measures are being taken to treat and return 4,000 patients to their families. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized that these results are an outstanding achievement of the country's medical workers. There is a positive development of the situation, especially in the city of Tashkent, doctors who were recently invited from Russia, Germany and China have been sent to the re-



gions, and more specialists from Germany are expected to arrive. Foreign experts are mainly involved in treatment of patients in serious condition, using the most modern methods, - noted the President. The Head of the state emphasized that these days are a trial period for Uzbekistan. Next week will show how effective the taken measures are. However, if the recommendations of doctors are ignored, such precautions as wearing masks, maintaining social distance, and compact family events, the state will restore the lockdown measures. It was again noted that each of us must learn to live and work in the conditions of the pandemic, and to steadily follow the epidemiolog-

US demands restoration of Iran sanctions

DNA

WASHINGTON: The administration of US President Donald Trump has formally notified the United Nations that it wants all UN sanctions on Iran restored, claiming significant Iranian violations of the 2015 nuclear deal, in a move that drew swift rejections from countries that remain part of the agreement. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo delivered the notification to the president of the UN Security Council on Thursday, and later told reporters the US had the right to reimpose sanctions under UN resolution 2231 that laid out the rules of the deal between Iran and six world powers. The US withdrew from the accord in 2018. "We think this is really straightforward we think this is very simple," Pompeo said.

Biden presents US election as fight for nation's soul

The former vice president promised to deliver the "honest, unvarnished truth" to Americans

DNA

WASHINGTON: Joe Biden has formally accepted the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, describing in a televised speech to a virtual convention his vision for a new United States that is facing multiple crises at once. "It is an America we can rebuild together," Biden said, pledging to make control of the coronavirus outbreak his first act if elected president. "We will never get our economy back on track. We will never get our kids safely back in schools. Never have our lives back until we deal with this virus," Biden said. In a week in which the US death toll from COVID-19 passed 170,000, the former vice president promised

to deliver the "honest, unvarnished truth" to Americans and spoke directly to people who have lost loved ones to the virus. "I know what it is to feel that dark hole open in the middle of your chest," he said. Biden delivered his speech without the cheers of nearly 4,000 delegates who would have packed the convention hall in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In that unusual setting, he achieved a conversational intimacy with viewers by speaking directly into the camera without interruptions. "Joe Biden gave the speech of his lifetime, and he accomplished what he needed to, presenting an optimistic, forward-thinking voice for voters," said Nichola Gutgold, a professor of communication arts and sciences at Penn State University.

PM will not tolerate any Mafia, says Sh. Rashid

ISLAMABAD: Railways Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed Friday said that Prime minister Imran Khan would not give any (National Reconciliation Ordinance) NRO-like concession to the organized mafia in the country and Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government would face all tough challenges coming its way. Talking to a private news channel, Sheikh Rashid said there is a corrupt mafia which wants to destabilize Prime Minister Imran Khan's government but government under vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan was heading in right direction. He said a stronger Pakistan needs decreased prices, a business-friendly system, employment opportunities, better healthcare and education, and safety of common people's life and the government is doing its best. He assured that Prime Minister Imran Khan is making all out efforts to stable the economy and taking effective measures to control high rate inflation, adding, hopefully soon Imran Khan will be able to overcome these current challenges. Minister further said that it is first time that government and Army are on one page and all national institutions are working together with government in a better coordination way. - APP

'Phase-III trial of coronavirus vaccine from September'

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination Dr Nousheen Hamid Friday announced that Pakistan's drug watchdog has approved Phase-III clinical trial of a COVID-19 vaccine developed in collaboration with a Chinese company and trial of the vaccine would begin from September. Talking to a private news channel, she said under the supervision of National Institute of Health (NIH) vaccine trial would be started where around 8000 volunteers were selected for the first-ever Phase-III clinical trial for any vaccine in Pakistan. She said the clinical trials on these vaccines were already in progress in the other countries. Clinical trials of these drugs in Pakistan will help identify those drugs which can be more helpful for treatment of COVID-19 patients. - APP

WHO to collaborate for new courses

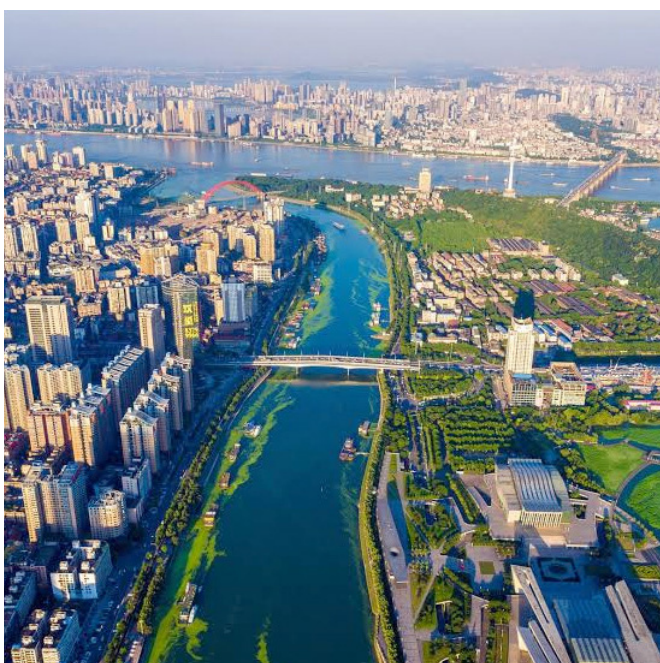
LAHORE: The World Health Organization (WHO) will collaborate for new courses for Medical Professionals in the field of Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs), Vector Borne Diseases (VBDs) and Mental Health (MH). This was announced in a meeting between Chairman Board of Management of Institute of Public Health (IPH) Lieutenant Gen (retired) Khalid Maqbool and Chief of WHO in Pakistan Dr Palitha Mahipala at the IPH here on Friday. The IPH BSL-III Lab (Corona Lab) for Influenza type diseases and all type of cooperation of the WHO will be extended to the IPH for this purpose. - APP

China a best example for Pak to control urban flooding

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Experts say that Pakistan may learn from the Chinese experience as how to control urban flooding, especially in Monsoon season. To manage and control the urban flooding, China is actively engaged in implementing the concept of sponge city. This aims to adopt low impact development concept, upgrade traditional drainage system with flood-resilient infrastructure and integrate natural water sources with artificial water bodies and green spaces, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday quoting Prof. Dr. Muhammad Farooq of Tsinghua University. China at least 30 cities were the part of sponge city concept including Shanghai and 600 more cities to implement this concept. It was noted that Pakista in re-

cent years had faced an immense increase in urban development. Therefore, the top three populated cities of Pakistan including Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi were facing urban flooding specially in rainy season, which results in property loss and sometimes loss of human lives. Lack of land use planning and population increase due to internal migration leads to the generation of over 12,000 tons of solid waste only in Karachi, whereas about 40% of which remains dumped in city streets and water channels. To control the urban flooding in major cities, Pakistan can learn from the Chinese model of sponge city. Solid waste management facilities including treatment plants are also needed to be established in major cities to avoid the chocking of waste water drainage system and water channels, which are major causes of urban flooding.



The CEN also quoted Dr. Adnan, a Pakistani businessman in the waste management sector, as having said that the major issue of Karachi was the mixing of sewerage and solid waste. When people throw the garbage randomly on the roads, it ends up in the nullahs or the drains and causes its choking. In order to avoid floods and blockage in monsoon, Karachi needs a long-term planning rather than one-time relief which is not only extremely expensive but also very short living. A few Chinese companies are working in Karachi in the field of solid waste management which has somehow provided relief to the people but their work is limited to a few areas. In other areas, the Pakistani authorities can set long-term goals with Chinese assistance. He further said that long term goals with the objective of revamping the whole sewerage system as per the requirements

of the population could ease the problem. All the new urban planning projects must have workable sewerage management system. "Chinese companies can help in planning, provision of equipment and machinery," he suggested. Pakistani authorities should focus on solid waste management so that it can be cleared before it goes to the sewerage system. While collection of water on the roads in monsoon would not be a problem, the problem is when it stays there for days. Pakistan's biggest city Karachi is regularly facing the problem of streets blocked due to congested sewerage lines, while due to rapidly growing population, these lines are too congested to bear the burden and are almost unmanageable. Therefore, it is direly needed to adapt to the latest sewerage systems such as Chinese sponge city model rather than following the traditional techniques, Adnan added.