



Islamabad POST

Monday, August 24, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

US Ambassador Paul Jones leaving Pakistan

People should shun anti-CPEC tirade, says Asim Bajwa

Belarus is being used as 'trampoline' to attack Russia

Briefs

'People should shun anti-CPEC tirade'

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Chairman CPEC Authority Lt. General (retired) Asim Saleem Bajwa has appealed the general public to ignore all fake news and stories regarding jobs, projects and individuals. In a tweet today [Sunday], he said it has recently been noticed the attempts to subvert China Pakistan Economic Corridor project by lies and propaganda stories about various aspects and individuals. The Chairman CPEC Authority said all the job ads will be posted on our website and official accounts.

'\$10 billion needed to revamp Karachi'

DNA

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has said at least \$10 billion are needed to revamp the city's infrastructure. "The city's issues are not new, they have been here for some time. In the last four years, we have worked a lot on cleaning the storm drains in the city," he told private channel. He added that the Sindh government has been giving money to KMC to clean the nullahs in the city.

"In the last four years we cleared many nullahs in the city. Despite the rain the water was cleared within three to four hours," he said. "The major problem is due to a major structure which has blocked all nullahs in Karachi which are the responsibility of the cantonments and DMCS."

Rs.3.6b project initiated for LoC people

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan (KA&GB) had initiated a project worth Rs 3.6 billion for rehabilitation and welfare of the people whose houses were destroyed in frequent incidents of shelling by Indian forces from across the Line of Control (LoC). The ministry had earmarked Rs 564 million for the fiscal Year 2020-21 in the project titled "Rehabilitation of Affected Population residing along Line of Control" that included the development of safety bunkers, emergency health units, access roads, and provision of electricity to localities along LoC.

NA, Senate sessions today

ISLAMABAD: Sessions of Senate and National Assembly will separately be held at Parliament House in Islamabad today. Besides legislative business, both Houses will take up matters of national and international importance. — DNA

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Virus cases continue to decline

Total number of active cases in Pak are 10,964 as of August 23, 2020. As many as 591 people tested positive on Aug 22

DNA / IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Coronavirus cases continued to decline in Pakistan, with data from the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) stating that only four people died over the past 24 hours and the country reported only 591 cases of the virus on Sunday. According to data from the government body, the total number of active cases in Pakistan are 10,964 as of August 23, 2020. As many as 591 people tested positive for coronavirus on August 22 out of a total number of 24,956 who were tested for it. The total number of people who have recovered from the virus and tested negative for it amounted to 275,836. The NCOC stated that there were no patients on ventilators in Balochistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Out of 1,920 ventilators in the country, 121 are occupied. Among the four who passed away from the virus on Saturday, three died in hospitals while one died out of hospital. The total death toll stands at 6,235. "A total of 292,765 cases detected so far (AJK 2245, Balochistan 12507, GB 2657, ICT 15493, KP 35720, Punjab 96178, Sindh 127965)," stated the NCOC. Planning minister Asad Umar, earlier this month, warned the nation not to fall back into old habits after COVID-19 restrictions were eased in almost all sectors a day earlier and keep in mind that the coronavirus is still very much a threat.

The federal minister had said that he heard people saying the COVID-19 pandemic had been eliminated. "Ever since this announcement [lifting lockdown restrictions] was made, I have been hearing from people that coronavirus has ended. I wish coronavirus would have been eliminated. "However, unfortunately, the situation is not like that at the moment. We can't say at this moment that coronavirus has been eliminated," the minister had said. Speaking of a decline in cases, Umar had credited the people of Pakistan, saying that they were the "real heroes" with whose cooperation the government had managed to bring about a drastic reduction in the infection. "Whatever steps were taken by the state and the government could not have been effective if the public had not cooperated with us," he said. "A large part of the society helped the government. I would like to thank the media as well for sending our message to the public on what to do [to ward off the coronavirus]," he added. The minister had said that the government and the people had taken the right decisions and actions when it came to tackling the pandemic. He praised the smart lockdown initiative, stating that developed countries could also not shut down the economy for a longer period of time.

US envoy Paul Jones leaving Pakistan

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Paul Jones Charge D Affaires of embassy of United States of America has completed his term and leaving Pakistan. Ambassador Paul Jones stayed in Pakistan for about two years. During his tenure he tried his best to put bilateral relations back on track. Ambassador Jones stepped into shoes of his predecessor Ambassador David Hale. USA did not appoint full fledged ambassador



after departure of Ambassador Hale. Analysts believe, Pakistan-USA ties have not been on a positive trajectory for quite some time. As per diplomatic norms

and principle of reciprocity, the USA was required to send a full ambassador to Pakistan however it preferred to run the mission with a Charge d Affaires. It was for the first time during past few decades that the US did not appoint an ambassador to Pakistan. Unlike, Pakistan always chose to run its US mission with a fully empowered ambassador. The US ostensibly is not happy with Pakistan for latter's close ties with China. Likewise, Afghanistan is yet another issue that seeks to divide bilateral opinion.

Pakistan rejects Indian propaganda against CPEC

Rather than resorting to false and misleading assertions, India should faithfully implement its international obligations

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday rejected Indian irresponsible comments regarding China Pakistan Strategic Dialogue's joint press releases.

In a press release, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that Pakistan strongly rejects the unwarranted and irresponsible comments made by Spokesperson of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on the Joint Press Release of the Second Round of China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue.

The MEA's contentions about Jammu and Kashmir being the so-called "integral and inalienable part" of India and an "internal affair" are a laughable fiction, totally contrary to historical and legal facts and in violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions. India's self-serving claims regarding Jammu and Kashmir, including the parts which are under illegal Indian occupation, have no basis whatsoever. Pakistan also categorically rejects India's malicious propaganda against the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is another manifestation of desperate Indian attempts to mislead the world community.

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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul in a meeting with Senator Shahzad Waseem lead of the house in Senate. — DNA

Shibli shares proposed NAB amendments

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Senator Shibli Faraz on Sunday shared proposed amendment by Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Ordinance, 1999. Shibli Faraz, in a tweet said that from some days PML-N was demanding government to reveal names of people who asked for NRO. He, while sharing the recommendations, said that these are the proposed changes through which PML-N has sought NRO from the government. He also added that leadership of PML-N has always fled country and rule of law.

Imran Khan named Man of the Year

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has been named Man of the Year in The Muslim 500: The World's 500 Most Influential Muslims. The Muslim 500 is a book that ranks influential Muslim leaders and scholars from across the globe. This is the 11th edition of the book. "If The Muslim 500 was in print back in 1992 and I was then Chief Editor I would have nominated Imran Khan as our Muslim Man of the Year because of his brilliant performance in cricket, which culminated in Pakistan winning the 1992 Cricket World Cup," wrote the editor of the book. "I also was touched when Khan launched a successful fund raising campaign to establish a hospital devoted to both the care of victims of cancer as well as research. He mentioned the establishment of the Shaikat Khan Memorial Hospital". The book particularly notes that when he took office in 2018, PM Khan prioritized lasting peace with India. "He wanted to normalize relations through trade, and settling the Kashmir dispute," it said.

Pak Navy handed first T-054 Frigate ship

The Type-054 Class, fitted with latest Surface, Subsurface, Anti-air weapons, Combat Management System and Sensors will be one of the technologically advanced surface platforms of Pakistan Navy Fleet

FIJAZ CHAUDHARY

ISLAMABAD: The launching ceremony of 1st ship of Type-054 Class Frigate constructed for Pakistan Navy, was held at Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard Shanghai, China. The ceremony was graced by Commodore Azfar Humayun (Chief Naval Overseer, China) as Chief Guest in presence of China Shipbuilding Trading Co, Ltd. (CSTC) Chairman, Mr. Li Hongtao.

The Launching event has been marked as major milestone in construction of state of the art Frigate for Pakistan Navy. The Type-054 Class, fitted with latest Surface, Subsurface, Anti-air weapons, Combat



Management System and Sensors will be one of the technologically advanced surface platforms of Pakistan Navy Fleet. This ships will significantly contribute in maintaining peace and security in our Area of Responsibility. Earlier, addressing the ceremony, the Chief Guest termed the event as new chapter in Pakistan-China

defense relationship. He also acknowledged the commitment & dedication of Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard, China and inexorable support provided by CSTC for continuity of programme despite Covid-19 pandemic. The ceremony was attended by officials of Pakistan Navy and CSTC/ Hudong Shipyard.

IPU President calls for joint COVID-19 strategy

Gabriela Cuevas Barron said it is prime responsibility of the parliament to defend human rights and democracy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Inter-Parliamentary Union, Gabriela Cuevas Barron, with her two-member delegation, has arrived in Islamabad on a five-day visit to Pakistan. A detailed briefing was given to the visiting dignitary at Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services Islamabad on Sunday. Gabriela Cuevas Barron is visiting Pakistan on the invitation of Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani. Speaking on the occasion, Sadiq Sanjrani appreciated the steps taken by IPU for the cause of democracy. He said eradication of inequal-



ity is part of IPU's agenda and joint efforts are needed for this purpose. Gabriela Cuevas Barron on the occasion said it is prime responsibility of the parliament to defend human rights and democracy. She urged governments and world parliaments to evolve a joint strategy to overcome COVID-19 pandemic.

MoRA directs to provide facilities to Yatrees

DNA

NAROWAL: Secretary Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sardar Ajaz Khan Jaffar has directed to provide optimum facilities to Sikh Yatrees in Kartarpur complex. Speaking during his visit to Kartarpur complex in Narowal Sunday, he said connecting roads leading to Kartarpur Gurdwara are being further improved for smooth travel of Yatrees.

He said all efforts should be made to facilitate both domestic and international pilgrims visiting Kartarpur. The Secretary said Kartarpur is the best example of harmony among different religions.

CJP forms five benches for next week

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Gulzar Ahmed has constituted two benches at the principal seat Islamabad, two benches at Karachi Registry and one bench at Lahore Registry to hear a number of important cases during the next week, starting from Monday. A two-member comprising Justice Mushir Alam and Justice Qazi Muhammad Amin Ahmed would hear cases including appeals against NAB seeking bails and suspension of sentences, appeals against death sentences, life imprisonment, admission matters of different educational institutions, petition regarding multi-stories buildings contrary to provisions of the building and Khawaja Anver Majid.

Belarus is being used as 'trampoline' to attack Russia

We're being pressured, hounded. Myself and Putin have agreed that they're hounding us here to jump on Russia later. It's a trampoline, and we must destroy it: Alexander Lukashenko

DNA

MOSCOW: Belarusian president Alexander Lukashenko has said he and Vladimir Putin "agree" that the forces allegedly directing the ongoing political crisis in Belarus are aiming to attack Russia next. "In Russia, I often see the media saying: 'Oh, in Belarus, in Belarus...'" But it's happening right here, on the western border [of Rus-

sia]," Lukashenko told RT in the city of Grodno, where he spoke at a supporters' rally on Saturday.

"We're being pressured, hounded. Myself and Putin have agreed that they're hounding us here to jump on Russia later. It's a trampoline, and we must destroy it. It's an opinion we share with President Putin," Lukashenko said. The Belarusian leader also said he had not attended pro-government rallies until



now because his opponents were allegedly "preparing"

would get hurt, so we took a pause. Maybe we hesitated for too long," he said. "I must thank my friend Putin, who also said: 'Listen, why are you being silent?' I told him: 'You'll hear me soon.' Well, now you've heard me." Belarus has been grappling with large-scale anti-government protests after the opposition accused Lukashenko of rigging the vote in order to secure a sixth term in office on August 9. During the first few days in the wake

of the election - which disputed official results say he won with 80 percent of vote - protesters were met with a tough police response and mass arrests. Supporters of the opposition candidate Svetlana Tikhonovskaya, who has fled to Lithuania after authorities uncovered an alleged attempt on her life, continue taking to the streets, while Lukashenko supporters have recently begun amassing at their own rallies.

to attack his supporters. "I was afraid that people

Briefs

WWF doubles marriage grants

ISLAMABAD: Workers Welfare Fund (WWF) has decided to double marriage grant for the industrial workers' daughters, raising it to Rs 200,000 from Rs 100,000. It has also enhanced death grant for the deceased workers to Rs 600,000 from Rs 500,000. The decision to this effect was taken during the governing body's meeting held recently, an official of the WWF told APP on Sunday. He said the rates of grants had not been changed since 2012. However, the present government, keeping hardships of industrial workers in the view, decided to raise the grants. The WWF is a subsidiary organization of the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OPHRD) and has been striving to serve the industrial workers by taking multiple initiatives such as education, housing and health. Commenting over the development, a senior officer of the OPHRD ministry said the present management is committed to transform all of its departments into vibrant and profitable entities. He said the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation had been turned into profit making department due to inclusive steps of the current management. - APP

PMNH exhibits 300,000 history objects

ISLAMABAD: Museum of Natural History (PMNH) has exhibited a collection of over 300,000 objects from ecology, geology, and paleontology of the country in its galleries. The Museum displays and provides information about wildlife of the country along with biological life of wild flora and fauna. There are different galleries which has imparted the essence of Natural history of Pakistan, an official said on Monday. He said that the museum also acts as a research center and works closely with the Lok Virsa Museum. In Biological gallery wild flora and fauna have been displayed magnificently with their respective habitats. One of the gallery is dedicated to ecological issues where ecological cycles, habitats and environmental problems are discussed through visuals and audios. There is also gemstones gallery which shows a variety of gems in-the-raw as well as cut and polished forms. In Paleontology gallery, fossils along with their studies have been exhibited and Anthropology is also discussed through paintings and writings, including a skull of Australopithecus. Wall paintings depict the pre-historic era. Tethys gallery provides information about oceanology, petrology, pedology and mineralogy of Pakistan. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Mayor Islamabad, Sheikh Ansar Aziz presiding over a special meeting to overview Muharram security arrangements. - DNA

Mayor reviews security arrangements

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Mayor Islamabad, Sheikh Ansar Aziz presided over a special meeting on the other day. The meeting reviewed the arrangements made by the Metropolitan Corporation (MCI) on the occasion of Muharram-ul-Haram. According to details, the Mayor of Islamabad, Sheikh Ansar Aziz has decided to review the arrangements made by the corporation for the 9th and 10th Muharram processions. The processions routes will be dotted with sabel stalls, to provide water and milk to participants and general public. The mayor will personally oversee the arrangements made by the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) for Muharram. The mayor will also visit Islamabad procession routes and central mourning procession. In this regard, the Mayor of Islamabad Sheikh Ansar Aziz has said that milk and water sabels will be set up by the corporation on the routes of Muharram processions and around the central procession, which he will personally supervise. The meeting was attended by Deputy Mayor; Syed Zeeshan Naqvi, Director General Water Management and Director Sanitation; Sardar Khan Zamri, Director Water Supply, Director City Sewerage, Director Emergency Disaster Management (E&DM) Iftikhar Haideri, Director Environment, Director Roads, Media Coordinator; Mohsin Sherazi, along with heads of other relevant departments.

Pakistan rich in cultural heritage: Chinese Cultural Counselor

The Chinese people are fond of the Gandhara Civilization and the 19 antiquities exhibited in China have attracted a large number of audiences: Nausheen Javaid

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is rich in cultural heritage, should be well reserved, excavated, restored and exhibited. Both countries should strengthen the exchange and cooperation in this area. These views were expressed by the Chinese Cultural Counselor, Zhang Heqing in a meeting with Nausheen Javaid Amjad,

Federal Secretary, National Heritage & Culture Division, at her office. Zhang Heqing said that both sides appreciated mutual support in the fight against COVID-19, fully show the brotherly friendship between Pakistan and China. Nausheen Javaid Amjad, Federal Secretary, National Heritage & Culture Division, said that Chinese people are fond of the Gandhara Civilization and



the 19 antiquities exhibited in China have attracted a large number of audiences. She said that Creative Cultural Industry plays a very important role in the social economy. China has done very well and is willing to cooperate with Pakistan to carry workshop and so on. She said that for the preservation of cultural relics in the construction site of Bhasha Dam, building an underground museum is a huge project, which is very

expensive. The Chinese side will try to provide the necessary assistance. Nausheen Javaid Amjad said that 2020 marks the 60th anniversary of the diplomatic relations of China and Pakistan, both sides agree to Join hands to organize some cultural events for the celebration. Similar actions should be taken to other Big Days like Pakistan Dependence Day and National Day, and Chinese New year and so on.

Applications open for Chevening SAJP Fellowship

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chevening South Asia Journalism Fellowship (SAJP) application window is now open to receive applications for 2020/21 cohort. The scheme is aimed at mid-career journalists from South Asian countries including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives who have reached a position of influence and want to increase their knowledge, networks, and potential through tailored short courses, research, or professional placements at UK institutions. The fully funded fellowship is a collaboration between the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the University of Westminster. Individuals will undertake a bespoke eight-week fellowship titled "Good Governance in a Changing World: the Media, Politics, and Society" hosted at the University of Westminster in London. Applications are being accepted between 19 August and 19 October 2020. Interested journalists can find all information about eligibility, timelines, and the online application system on our website: www.chevening.org/apply or www.chevening.org/fellowship/sajp. The course includes lectures, visits, and discussions and interaction with key UK academics, media, and political figures in the field.

PBM to provide artificial limbs to disabled persons

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) has decided to accomplish the responsibility of providing assistive devices/artificial limbs to the persons who are paralyzed by birth or have become disabled as a result of sad episodes of Improvised Explosive Device (IEDs) Blasts, terrorism, accidents or natural disasters. As a pilot project, the PBM has successfully completed the assessment & evaluation procedure to provide the artificial limbs and assistive devices to the deserving PWDs of province Balochistan. The Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) Aon Abbas Buppi has said that following the vision of present government as envisaged in the Ehsaas-Tahafaz Programme, the PBM is determined to serve the persons with disabilities (PWDs) in a better way so as to create convenience for them. During the past two years, various initiatives have been taken to rehabilitate the deserving PWDs like provision of customized wheel chairs, modern assistive devices, elbow crutches, hearing aids, artificial limbs and white canes. Prime Minister Imran Khan has reiterated many times that "right based approach" shall be adopted for the extreme poor, jobless, poor farmers, laborers, sick and undernourished as well as PWD's. In line with this vision, the PBM is taking concrete steps to ensure the mobility and independent life of PWDs. In a camp arranged in collaboration with PIPOS at Dera Bugti, technical team met with the beneficiaries and examined the disability so as to provide the appropriate solution of their problem. The ultimate aim of the project is to enhance rehabilitation for PWDs in Pakistan urban and rural areas. - DNA

Cafeteria, barrack inaugurated at PS Koral

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A new cafeteria and barrack opened at Police Station (PS) Koral to provide better accommodation and quality food to the police staff on affordable rates. The cafeteria was inaugurated by SP (Rural), Feroze Amjad Buttar along with DSPs, Qasim Niazi, Rukhsar Mehdi, SHO Koral Asjid Mehmood, SHO Lohi Bher Shahid Zaman, SHO Nilore Sattar Baig, members of conciliation committee and other citizens and police officials. Speaking at the occasion the SP ordered the cafeteria staff to ensure cleanliness and hygiene at the area and the health of the personnel should be taken care in best way. The federal capital police was taking measures for the welfare of policemen under the directors of and DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin following the vision of IGP Islamabad Amir Zulfar Khan, so the personnel can perform their duties efficiently.

Chinese technology yields promoting results

Under intercropping technology, the two crops utilize available rain water more efficiently in comparison with sole cropping system

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese technology has brought promising results of Maize and Soybean production in rain-fed conditions. According to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday Maize and soybean in the intercropping plot in rain-fed conditions were harvested and weighed at the Research Farm of PMAS-Arid Agriculture University in Koonot, Chakwal. As per the results, the yields of maize and soybean reach 7065 kg/ha and 1167 kg/ha respectively. In this rainfed field, farming completely relies on rainfall rather than irrigation while the total rainfall was not high during the crops' growth. Therefore, the results are especially promising and encouraging, said

Muhammad Ali Raza, the post-doctoral research fellow of Sichuan Agricultural University who is promoting this advanced Chinese agricultural technology in Pakistan. "Under intercropping technology, the two crops utilize available rain water more efficiently in comparison with sole cropping system because both crops cover the total area between the rows, which significantly reduced the water evaporation from soil surface," he added. In sole cropping system, the yields of maize and soybean are around 8174 kg/ha and 1488 kg/ha separately. While in the intercropping system, farmers can grow soybean without curbing the cultivation area of maize. The technique makes better use of available space, increasing the amount of

crops that can be harvested. Thus, intercropping technology substantially creates more profits than growing only one crop on the same area of land because soybean brings higher economic returns than maize. Having seen the satisfactory results, he suggests farmers plant maize and soybean in the coming autumn season. "Mostly people grow only one crop that is wheat in this area. In spring, we plant maize and soybean using strip intercropping technology and obtain very good results," he said. Up till now, the sowing of maize and soybean under strip intercropping system has completed at the demonstration plots in Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Shakar Garh, Vehari and Bahawalpur, and land preparation has started at other demonstrations.

Speakers highlight role of stake-holders in development projects

The seminar was the part of regular activities, arranged by the Center for the continuing professional development program (CPD) of the young engineers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Institution of Engineers, Pakistan (Rawalpindi-Islamabad Center) held a lecture for graduate engineers on 'Project stake-holders Management'. It was aimed at apprising the engineers about the guideline for projects' execution, as provided in the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PM-BOK). The seminar was the part of regular activities, arranged by the Center for the continuing profes-

sional development program (CPD) of the young engineers. It was also conducted through hybrid (zoom mode) for wider-access of the engineering community. Haroon Rashid who is a senior PMP certified engineer was the resource person spoke in detail about the role and importance of the stake-holders (both internal and external) in projects' planning and implementation. Those who also addressed the event included Engr. Ahmed Shamim, convenor of CPD and chairman IEPRIC, Engr. Hafiz M.

Ehsan ul Haq Qazi. Engr. Haroon Rashid briefed the participants about the tools and techniques of stake-holders' management. While planning and executing any project, social and legal rights of the stake-holders must be kept in view, as well as properly addressing their relevant concerns, he asserted. He also highlighted best practices and emerging trends relating to the role of stake-holders' and their interest as provided under Project Management Body of Knowledge (PM-BOK).

Engr. Hafiz M. Ehsan ul Haq Qazi urged the young engineers that they must do specialization in some specific field of engineering so as to do the best in practical life. Acquiring necessary expertise and know-how is imperative for executing important projects, like construction of high-rising buildings, he added. He assured them that the Center will continue to hold technical sessions and lectures for their professional development, enabling them to effectively take part in the country's socio-economic development.

AUGUST 2020

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Vol: 01 Issue: 129

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Iron brothers

THE second round of China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue in Hainan, China, between Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, seems to be a sound success so far. The two sides discussed a range of issues and have identified many mutual points of interest. The international climate is currently brimming with several events that need to be discussed between Pakistan and China, which have a consequential allyship that needs to be strengthened and extended. Most importantly on the agenda list was discussion on how to further Pakistan and China's "all-weather" friendship. As the countries advance with the One Belt One Road Initiative, there needs to be stronger camaraderie than ever before, since while the initiative can bear fruit to many benefits for both countries, the project has drawn hostile reactions from India and the US. Now that CPEC is entering its second stage, there is a need for better communication on every step of the way. In order for the project to be worked upon, it is important that the two sides continue to show commitment for enhancing mutual strategic trust and promoting a bilateral relationship. The countries can do so by backing each other up on issues sensitive to them on the international stage. For Pakistan, this cause has always been highlighting the plight of Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir, where India's tyranny has been neglected by the rest of the world. During the dialogue, after the Pakistani delegation briefed the Chinese side on the situation in IIOK, China reaffirmed its statement that the IIOK dispute should be resolved peacefully and properly through the UN Charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements. The Pakistani side, in turn, expressed its support to China on affairs concerning China's diplomatic interests "such as those related to Taiwan, Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong". Thus, it looks like the meetings have gone well. This friendship needs to be worked upon and improved constantly, if the projects both countries have embarked upon are to be completed successfully.



Tackling terrorism

THE federal government has issued a notification proscribing 88 individuals who belong to a wide range of organizations including the Taliban, Al-Qaeda, Jaish-e-Muhammad, Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Haqqani Network and other groups believed to be still active in terrorist activity of one kind or the other in the country. The action taken also freezes the assets and properties owned by these groups and individuals, including those of Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, Masood Azhar, several members of the Haqqani Network, and other individuals who have in the past been guilty of a variety of terrorist actions. It is believed the measure is connected to FATF demands and comes weeks before a further review of Pakistan's efforts to vanquish terrorism and tighten the loopholes which allow it to be used by organizations involved in illegal activities. Pakistan is obviously keen to be removed from the grey list as soon as possible. It is also true that, while we have heard very little about major terrorist organizations in the country for some time, most of them have not disappeared. The detailed notification following UN Security Council advice issued by the Pakistan government is a reminder that we need to be watchful of terrorism and ensure there is no resurgence in areas where these groups are based. While it is true the military operation directed against them has badly weakened or virtually wiped out some groups, some elements that formed a part of these outfits remained free. This means Pakistan remains vulnerable to another terrorist upsurge at some point. It is essential that the many assets and accounts owned by these groups be shut down once and for all so that the money trail which leads to them can be followed and more obscure elements which aid terrorism discovered. This FATF grey listing should lead to a reckoning. We either need to spare no effort in disrupting terror networks or face the censure of the international community even more. The best Pakistan can do is to present evidence showing how vigilant it is in its banking transactions and counterterror strategy. We were previously blacklisted by the FATF from 2008-10 and greylisted from 2012-15. Pakistan has been the biggest victim of terrorism on the FATF table. This means that the stakes for failing to curb terrorism are the highest for Pakistan itself.

Pakistan-Saudi relations: are they in crisis?

Waheed Hussain



The relations are not restricted to the government level only, however, people of Pakistan have emotional attachment with Makkah and Madina Sharif. This association is beyond any financial or economic benefit. In the last two years both Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief Of Army Staff General Qamar Javeed Bajwa had visited Saudi Arabia many times

PAKISTAN'S Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi annoyed the Saudi Royal family. Some diplomatic experts and political commentators believe that he should not have openly criticized the Saudi government and OIC on Kashmir issue. There are those who supported the Shah of Multan saying that Pakistani government and public are frustrated, the way Muslim World as a whole and Saudi Arabia in particular ignored the Kashmir situation where the innocent population is butchered by the Indian forces on the daily basis. We must realize and understand that we are living in the age of nation states. The countries have their demarcated territories enjoying sovereignty and pursuing national interests. The concept of Muslim Ummah is absolutely irrelevant to the present day challenges. Organizations like OIC and Arab League for that matter are completely ineffective, non-productive and useless forums, because these institutions failed to resolve Muslim states conflicts and issues. The entire world is watching that innocent Kashmiris are being killed, Palestinians are struggling against the Zionist expansionism, Syria, Yemen, Libya and Afghanistan are facing internal and external instability. Where are OIC and Arab League? Iran-Saudi proxy wars in the Middle East especially in Yemen have divided the Muslim countries including international forums such as OIC and Arab League. In the recent weeks there were news that UAE was establishing close contacts with the Israeli government. This development must have been materialized after successful diplomacy carried out by the United States and Saudi Arabia. Pakistan has already rejected any idea of accepting the Israel as an independent state until Palestinians get their sovereign state with pre 1967 position. With this background of the Muslim World what kind of relations we will have with Saudi Arabia. No doubt, both states had been enjoying good brotherly relations for many decades. Saudi Arabia had always extended economic and financial support to Pakistan in the difficult times. Millions of Pakistani workers serve in Saudi Ara-

bia sending billions of dollars as remittances to Pakistan, which adds up to our foreign reserves. When PTI formed government in 2018 the Saudis gave 3 billion dollars cash and 3.2 billion dollars oil facility on the deferred payments. In fact it was a big financial support to the present government as it was facing serious financial crisis. The relations are not restricted to the government level only, however, people of Pakistan have emotional attachment with Makkah and Madina Sharif. This association is beyond any financial or economic benefit. In the last two years both Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief Of Army Staff General Qamar Javeed Bajwa had visited Saudi Arabia many times. Recently, after Shah Mahmood Qureshi's statement the COAS along with ISI head went to Saudi Arabia to remove any misunderstanding developed after FM statement. Are the relations normal we can't say at this point of time? Last Year Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman visited Islamabad and signed many MOUs for cooperation and investment between the two friends. The Crown Prince promised to invest 10 billion dollars in different fields in Pakistan. Things were moving very smooth till August/September 2019. In August 2019 the Indian PM Modi amended the constitution and declared disputed Kashmir Valley as part of Indian Union by withdrawing the special status of Indian Occupied Kashmir. The Saudis did not openly criticize the Indian government action. It also did not honor Pakistani government requests for calling Foreign Ministers level summit of Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). In September 2019, the PM Imran Khan visited New York to attend UN General Assembly Annual Session. During his stay he held meetings with the Turkish, Malaysian and Iranian leadership regarding issues being faced by the Muslims World. It was decided that the leadership of Muslim countries would meet in Kuala Lumpur in December 2019 to discuss the challenges and launch a unanimous strategy. The Saudi government thought that the proposed gathering of various Muslim states might

be a threat to OIC and Saudi interests. As a consequence the Saudi leadership invited the Pakistani Prime Minister to Saudi Arabia and expressed their displeasure on this summit. Saudis told Imran Khan that if he or any Pakistani official attended the summit it would have a bad impact on the bilateral relations between the two countries. Naturally PM Imran had to withdraw from the meeting. After the summit Turkish President Tayyab Erdogan in one of his interviews disclosed that the Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan could not attend the Kuala Lumpur meeting as he was threatened by the Saudi leadership of serious consequences. Later on we witnessed that PM IK met with both Turkish and Malaysian leadership and promised to attend the next summit, which might be held this year. This statement of Imran Khan might have disturbed the Royal House. So there is discomfort in the Royal family in Riyadh regarding new initiatives being taken by the Turkish and Iranian leadership with reference to Muslim world. In this situation Pakistan becomes a sandwich between the two blocks one led by Iran-Turkey and other by Saudi Arabia. Pakistan policy towards Muslim countries is very clear that it wants to have friendly relations with all states; however, Saudis challenge our neutrality because they pay us dollars. As long as our economic and financial situation is bad we will not be able to follow an independent foreign policy. If we want to pursue independent foreign and domestic policies, we would require to get rid of foreign loans and financial support from friends and International Financial Institutions. As it is well said that there is no free lunch. We will be black mailed by the countries and institutions as long as we are spending their dollars. I am sure the leadership of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will find out solution to the present crisis if there are any? The interest of the two nations is well connected with each other. However, for Pakistan people of Jammu and Kashmir are very important and the Saudi leadership has to realize this fact beyond its financial benefits from India.

Canadian PM trying to save political career

Pablo Vivanco



And he wouldn't be the first Canadian leader to wield prorogation for such reasons. His predecessor, Stephen Harper first shut down parliament to stop a coalition of opposition parties, including the Liberals, from toppling his minority government with a non-confidence vote in 2008

FOR the first time in over a decade, Canada's prime minister has suspended the country's parliament. But prorogation is more about Trudeau's self-preservation than it is about a post-pandemic recovery plan. According to Justin Trudeau, this impromptu hiatus was necessary in order for his government to craft a "plan to rebuild a stronger, more resilient Canada" in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Liberal Party leader also spun this as a positive, saying that legislators will be able to hold a confidence vote after he outlines his vision in his Throne Speech to Parliament. There is doubt that the country requires a long-term outlook and response to recover from the pandemic, which has claimed over 9,000 lives and led to a 12% drop in GDP. Given this, a proroguing of parliament - which effectively stops all ongoing parliamentary work until the legislature is reconvened - seems reasonable enough. However, few believe that this is about a post-covid plan, as much as it is about self-preservation in the wake of a scandal that could cost Trudeau his political career. And he wouldn't be the first Canadian leader to wield prorogation for such reasons. His predecessor, Stephen Harper first shut down parliament to stop a coalition of opposition parties, including the Liberals, from toppling his minority government with a non-confidence vote in 2008. A year later, he once again suspended parliament, with opposition legislators charging that Harper was filibustering an investigation regarding Canada's involvement in Afghanistan, though the Conservative leader cited the XXI Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver as the reason. As a Member of Parliament at the time, Trudeau characterized Harper's use of prorogation as undemocratic, and his election platform in 2015 explicitly stated he would not use the legislative tool. "Stephen Harper has used prorogation to avoid

difficult political circumstances. We will not," read the platform. However it hasn't just been Conservatives who have used this mechanism. In 2002, Liberal Prime Minister Jean Chrétien moved to prorogue parliament in order to avoid tabling a report regarding the sponsorship scandal that eventually led to his resignation the following year. Prorogation is a tried and tested method of delaying, if not stopping the parliament from holding a government or its leaders to task. Trudeau's suspension of parliament means the halting of investigations into the CAN\$913 Million given to the WE Charity in order to run a student volunteer program. The charity organization had been approved by Trudeau's cabinet to oversee a program where students would be provided with volunteer opportunities while also allowing them to receive money towards their education (though at a rate below the minimum wage). But after an intrepid, independent media outlet broke the news that Trudeau's mother and brother had been paid in excess of \$300,000 for speaking gigs with the WE charity, the allegations of impropriety against the charity and government have mounted. Further investigations revealed that Trudeau's cabinet had approved the nearly billion-dollar program without any tendering, meaning the charity was cherry picked to lead the program. Government staff reviewing the program also flagged that they did not see any "evidence to suggest that WE Charities possess the capacity to undertake this work, especially under accelerated timelines," and also raised "integrity concerns." Trudeau's Finance Minister, Bill Morneau, was found to have accepted paid trips from the organization, and also had a daughter employed at WE. Neither he nor Trudeau declared when they voted in favor of the ill-fated program, which was unceremoniously cancelled in the backlash of the scandal. The prorogation might have helped slow the

parliamentary probe, but it has not stopped the bleeding, with some 5,000 pages of documents related to investigation being released regardless, and the country's federal police confirming that they are also looking into the affair. What's worse for Trudeau, the scandal has already claimed its first victim. Morneau, one of the most high ranking and longest standing members of Trudeau's government, resigned from his seat less than 24 hours before the prorogation was announced, setting off a flurry of speculation about divisions within the Liberal Party. The only saving grace for the Canadian leader at this juncture is the relative weakness of his opponents. The Conservatives are in the middle of a leadership race, while the social democrat NDP have empty coffers after the last election. Neither has been able to capitalize on the scandal, in spite of the poll numbers showing that nearly half of the country would welcome an election if the government broke the law. So even if Trudeau wins a confidence vote, his own numbers continue to plummet while his challengers - including those inside his party - close in. Chrystia Freeland has now been appointed to replace Morneau as finance minister, in addition to her role as Deputy Prime Minister. The former foreign minister has been left unscathed in the WE scandal, and her profile continues to rise at the same time as Trudeau's brand diminishes. Could she be one of the Liberals that Trudeau's former chief of staff signaled as being "more lethal to Liberals than are any competing partisans"? Whether there is a 'House of Cards' scenario playing out in Ottawa remains to be seen, but it is clear that Justin Trudeau's image is shakier than ever, and his political legacy will be defined by how this scandal plays out. All this said, he better make that a hell of a Throne Speech. - Courtesy Russia Today

Briefs

'Nawaz Sharif allowed treatment on humanitarian grounds'

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab health minister Dr Yasmin Rashid on Sunday has said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was allowed to travel abroad on humanitarian grounds. In a statement on Sunday, she slammed the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) saying the opposition party has made quite a fuss about the party leader's health.

"We diagnosed Nawaz Sharif's ailments and began his treatment but he had the intention of going abroad from the start." "Nawaz Sharif first said he will consult his personal physician and then demanded that he be allowed to have treatment abroad," Yasmin Rashid said, adding he declined an offer to get treatment at a private hospital in the country.

The minister said that the PML-N leadership submitted old medical reports of Nawaz Sharif in the court six weeks after he had arrived in London for treatment. Nawaz's personal doctor has not forwarded latest medical reports of the former premier so far, she added. Dr Yasmin further said that the cabinet had directed the PML-N supremo to fly back to Pakistan over presenting incomplete medical reports.

Samsung mulls setting up plant in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Industries and Production Hammad Azhar on Saturday said South Korean tech giant Samsung was considering setting up a "smartphone assembly plant in Pakistan". The minister said this in a tweet after meeting with Samsung Pakistan MD and CEO. He said that smartphone production in Pak is multiplying following DIRBS implementation and Mobile Policy launched recently.

"Met with the Samsung Pakistan MD and CEO. They appreciated both policies and are now actively considering setting up a smartphone assembly plant in Pakistan," he tweeted. Pakistan had approved its first-ever mobile device manufacturing policy in June 2020. According to the declaration of Ministry of Industries and Production, the mobile device manufacturing policy had been approved by the federal cabinet which was prepared with the consultations of concerned stakeholders and Engineering Development Board. The legislation will help the authorities to stop the mobile phone smuggling in the country besides creating opportunities for the local engineers and localisation of mobile phone parts.

Surjani received 186 mm rainfall in Karachi

DNA

KARACHI: Surjani area received maximum 186 millimetres of rainfall, in Karachi, Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said in its weather report.

The met office has released figures of the extent of rainfall in Karachi and other parts of Sindh during the sixth monsoon spell in the region. According to rain figures, North Karachi received 106.4 mm and North Nazimabad 106 millimetres of rainfall. Meanwhile, Gulshan-e-Hadeed 84 mm, Masroor Base 54 mm, Saadi Town 37mm, University Road 28mm, Landhi 25mm, Faisal Base 22, Jinnah Terminal 21mm, Saddar 20, Old Airport 14mm, Keamari 12mm. In other parts of Sindh, Thatta received 30mm, Badin 27mm, Mirpur Khas 25mm, Mithi 19mm, Hyderabad 18mm, Islam Kot 13mm, Diplo and Chhachhro 11mm each, Kalo 04mm and Padidan 03mm rainfall.



KARACHI: Army personnel helping stranded citizens move to a safer place. - APP

CPEC to start a new era of development in Xinjiang

The speakers rejected the propaganda of foreign media about prevalence of extremism in Xinjiang and endorsed the fact that the region had been witnessing economic development and prosperity

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Xinjiang is one of the fast growing areas of China contrary to western propaganda, speakers at a webinar here said, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday. The webinar - titled 'the success of Chinese policy against extremism in Xinjiang' - was organized by the Pak-China Center for Friendship and Cooperation to highlight the economic development in Xinjiang due to effective policy of Chinese government. The webinar was attended by foreign journalists, including Editor in Chief of the French monthly Nouvelle Solidarite Christine Bierre, National President of New Zealand

China Friendship Society Dave Bormwich, Washington Bureau Chief of the Weekly Magazine Executive Intelligence Review William Jones and Chief Journalist of Chinese Guang Ming Daily Professor Zhou Rong. The speakers hoped that the completion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would usher a new era of development and prosperity in Xinjiang. "Xinjiang is today one of the fast growing areas of China with the energy sector leading the way. Big industries are being set up in the region and the CPEC will meet its growing energy needs," said Columnist and Former Ambassador Javed Hafiz, highlighting success of the Chinese policy which spurred economic growth in the area. Contrary to the propaganda ped-

dled by foreign media about instability in Xinjiang, he said the Chinese government has been successful in poverty alleviation, controlling extremism and making this region a hub of development activities. Javed said the central government had invested RMB2.35 trillion in Xinjiang during the last several years. Between 2014 and 2018, about 10 per cent of the provincial population had been lifted out of poverty. He said last year, Xinjiang's rural GDP (gross domestic product) increased by 9.7 per cent. "Today, no child is out of school in Xinjiang." The former ambassador rejected the propaganda of motivated quarters about presence of concentrated camps in the area. "The region has camps which only impart voca-

tional trainings and language courses," he added. Sinologist Professor Engineer Zamir Ahmed Awan said the Chinese government, adopting unique model of development, had asked 19 other provinces to allocate certain amount of funds for Xinjiang development. Former Air Force Officer Sultan Mahmood Hali said the fake news being churned out were based on lies and negated the on ground situation of Xinjiang. He said China adopted 'Going West' policy in 1999 to reduce disequilibrium between western provinces of China through a dynamic investment policy, aimed at boosting industrial production infrastructure development. Hali said Chinese President Xi Jinping brought this policy a leap forward with the launching of the

Belt and Road Initiative which made Xinjiang the outpost to the Eurasian continent. The speakers also rejected the propaganda of foreign media about prevalence of extremism in Xinjiang and endorsed the fact that the region had been witnessing economic development and prosperity. They said the Belt and Road Initiative infused hope for a brighter future in Xinjiang as it connects China with eight countries including Afghanistan, India, Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russia and Tajikistan. Chairing the webinar, former information minister Nisar Memon said China had set new examples for the world. "We are lucky that we have a friend like China. They give a solution for everything," he added.

Ji chief terms PML-N, PPP friendly opposition

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Senator Sirajul Haq has said that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Part (PPP) are neither the real opposition and nor they can launch a movement to send the government packed. Instead, he said while addressing a convention of joining Jamaat-e-Islami by hundreds of people from different political parties here on Saturday, it was only the Ji which could launch a powerful and effective campaign against the rulers. "The incumbent and former rulers are the sides of the same coin and they are united in serving the cause of international powers." The Ji chief said the ruling elite, no matter which party they belonged to, did nothing for the people of Pakistan in past seven decades, adding they were the agents of the imperialistic forces in the



country. He said the rulers destroyed the country's economy, enslaving the masses to the IMF and the World Bank. He said the Ji would break these chains of slavery after coming into power. "The Ji will end interest based economy, bring reforms in every sector according to the principles of Islam and transform Pakistan into a real Islamic welfare state." Senator Siraj expressed regret over the deprivations of the people of Murree which despite being top tourist destination of the country was not provided the facility of gas and where the present and former rulers failed to establish a university despite tall claims.

Trump mulling 'complete decoupling' from China

DNA

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump has hinted at the possibility of "completely" decoupling the American economy from China as tensions between the economic giants continue. In a video excerpt for American media for an interview airing today, Trump initially told interviewer Steve Hilton "we don't have to" do business with China, and then later said about decoupling: "Well it's something that if they don't treat us right I would certainly, I would certainly do that." Trump entered into a high-stakes trade war with China before reaching a partial Phase 1 trade deal in January. Trump has since shut the door on Phase 2 negotiations, saying he was unhappy with Beijing's handling of the pandemic. - DNA

PIAF demands regionally competitive energy tariffs

DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial & Traders Association Front has called for regionally competitive power and gas tariff for domestic as well as export sectors to capture the global market. PIAF Chairman Mian Nauman Kabir, in a joint statement with senior vice chairman Nasir Hameed and vice chairman Javed Siddiqi, appreciated the commerce minister, who managed to get notified the special electricity and gas tariff for the export sector, demanding the same tariff should also be extended to the local industry, which cannot survive in present scenario. He welcomed the country's positive economic indicators, which have started showing recovery despite enormous challenges at external as well as inter-

nal fronts due to outbreak of coronavirus and subsequent lockdown. During July 2020, Pakistan's exports registered increase, whereas imports declined, which is very encouraging. Moreover, the renowned global institutions entities, monitoring the performance of different economic sectors across the world, have also started recognizing the growth of Pakistan economy through various reports. Mian Nauman Kabir said that both International and domestic confidence was increasing. In addition, the Moody's rating agency also provided stable rating for Pakistan economy and confirmed its B3 credit rating. It is fact that the COVID-19 outbreak and the subsequent lockdown drastically damaged the world economy and Pakistan was no exception which witnessed negative GDP growth.

However, due to the better policies adopted by the government, including relief in energy tariff and markup rates the economic losses were mitigated to some extent, which now need to continue for further benefit. PIAF senior vice chairman Nasir Hameed observed that country has not been able to achieve its full export potential and product diversification owing to limited access to raw material and to this effect the application procedures for temporary import schemes should be simplified, so that exporters could be able to achieve price competitiveness and product diversification. PIAF leadership expressed concern over excessively burdening the manufacturing sector that contributed around 22 percent to the economy, having a share of 72 percent in tax payments.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev becomes acquainted with modern building materials enterprise

"Large-scale construction activity continues in the country, much more is planned. If we provide young people with the opportunity to study and master modern construction technologies, their incomes will increase two to three times", the Head of the state said

DNA

BEKTEMIR: President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has visited the production complex of LLC Binokor in Bektemir district. During the previous visit of the Head of the state to the district, a presentation was held on the activities of this enterprise. The first phase of the project worth over \$50 million was launched in 2018. The second stage will start soon. The new complex has modern equipment and machinery from Germany's companies Vollert, "Würschum,

Italy's Maema, Schnell, AWM, Russia's Tochnaya Stroitel'naya Mehanika, Gruzopodyom, Poland's Airpol and Spain's Azcona Y Pantoja SL.

It should be noted that in the last twenty years the experience of building multi-storey buildings in Uzbekistan has been on the verge of extinction. There was a shortage of specialists and specialized truck cranes. In addition, over the past 3 years, 460 multi-storey buildings have been built in Sergeli district alone. Similar construction activity continues in other districts



of the capital, as well as across the country. Reinforced concrete panels produced at the enterprise are used in construction of multi-storey buildings and other structures. The company employs more than 1.2 thousand engineers and specialists. They produce 150 thousand square meters of products per year. When the plant reaches full capacity, an additional 180,000 square meters of building panels will be produced annually, creating an additional 670 jobs. Becoming acquainted with the activities of the enter-

prise, the President noted the need for organizing training and practical complex on the material and technical basis of the LLC. "Large-scale construction activity continues in the country, much more is planned. If we provide young people with the opportunity to study and master modern construction technologies, their incomes will increase two to three times", the Head of the state said. Information has been provided on the export and investment projects planned for 2020-2022 in Tashkent's Bektemir district.

Balochistan to get 40pc of gas revenue

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a major development, the federal government has agreed to give 40 per cent of gas revenue to Balochistan. According to the details, the province will get around Rs6 billion per annum as gas revenue after approving the proposal.

Officials of the power department said that Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) and Balochistan government will ink an accord in this regard soon. The provincial government will be given 40 per cent revenue of the gas produced from Sui gas field. PPL will also pay Rs20 billion arrears to Balochistan government after the agreement, said the officials.

Earlier on April 26, in a major development, the federal government had decided to revisit the National Finance Commission (NFC) award and 18th amendment.

According to sources, the federal government had contacted several political parties for the key changes in the NFC award and 18th amendment.

Govt to utilise all means to bring Nawaz back: Akbar

DNA

LAHORE: PM's aide on accountability Shahzad Akbar said on Saturday that the government would utilise all means to bring back Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo Nawaz Sharif. Akbar was addressing a press conference in Lahore. He said Nawaz was conditionally allowed by the Lahore High Court to go abroad for four weeks on medical grounds.

The LHC had directed the PML-N supremo to submit a written undertaking about his return, the PM's aide said. The Interior Ministry had directed him to return to Pakistan on February 27, he added.

In 2019, the PML-N supremo went to London after acquiring bail on medical grounds in a corruption reference filed by the National Accountability Bureau. He wanted to get treated abroad after being admitted to different medical facilities across Punjab.

Nawaz Sharif has not yet provided the government any proof of his treatment in the United Kingdom, according to Akbar. He said Opposition Leader Shehbaz Sharif should demonstrate responsibility and produce his brother before the law.

2 bureaucrats shortlisted for Karachi administrator

DNA

KARACHI: The Sindh government has finalised the names of two bureaucrats for the Karachi administrator post. They are; Najam Ahmed Shah and Syed Hassan Naqvi.

The selected candidate will take over after Karachi Mayor Wasim Akhtar steps down after completing his four years in power by August end. The administrator will stay in power until the local body elections are held in Karachi and a new mayor is sworn in. Both the bureaucrats are Grade 21 officers and currently working as secretaries for different departments of the Sindh government. Shah is posted as the secretary of the investment department. He has also served as the specialised healthcare and medical education secretary for Punjab from 2016 to 2018. Shah has also served as the finance secretary, and science and technology secretary for Sindh.

Naqvi, on the other hand, is currently working as Sindh's finance secretary. He has previously served as director of the export processing zone authority, the project director of the computerization n board of revenue, and worked at CM House, Governor House and CDGK too. The Sindh government sources told a private television channel that the two names are being considered and one will be selected by the Sindh chief minister.