



Islamabad POST

Saturday, September 12, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

China lauds Pakistan's efforts in the fight against terrorism

USA welcomes start of Afghan peace negotiations



Gwadar Expressway completed 80%, says Asim Bajwa



Briefs

NAB constitutes CIT for sugar subsidy scam

DNA

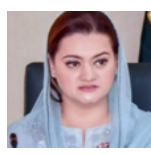


ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on Friday constituted a Combined Investigation Team (CIT) of hardworking and experts to investigate the sugar subsidy scam in which huge subsidy was doled out to mill owners and others on exports.

A NAB spokesman said in a statement that the CIT has been constituted in a meeting presided over by Chairman NAB Justice (Retd) Javed Iqbal after reviewing Sugar Commission report in detail. The CIT has been mandated to conduct the investigations in impartial, independent, transparent manner, he added. The CIT would obtain details about the subsidy from provinces, financial and audit reports of relevant companies and other institutions from Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and from others to probe the subsidy threadbare. The CIT was constituted of two investigation officers, financial experts, legal consultants, sugar industry investigation experts, additional director and relevant directors to probe the subsidy scam.

PML-N demands CCPO's removal

DNA



LAHORE: PML-N spokesperson Maryam Aurangzeb on Friday demanded the removal of Lahore Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Umer Sheikh for his remarks on the gang-rape of a woman on the outskirts of Lahore, which have raised a furore among members of the society.

According to the details available so far, the woman in early 30s, a resident of Lahore's Defence Housing Society, was stuck on the motorway with her two children at around 1am after her car ran out of petrol. As she tried to arrange for help, two men approached her and took her and her children (below eight) into the nearby fields at gunpoint. Once in the field, the attackers raped the woman in front of her children. By the time a police party and a relative the woman had called reached the scene, the attackers had fled, taking with them the cash and valuables the victim was carrying with her.

WHO SAYS

Pakistan successfully fought virus

Pakistan has used the infrastructure it developed in its fight against polio to tackle Covid-19," said the DG

DNA

GENEVA: The World Health Organisation (WHO) has listed Pakistan among seven countries that have tackled coronavirus pandemic in the best way. Pakistan has successfully flattened the coronavirus curve despite its dilapidated health infrastructure while the deadly contagion is spreading uncontrollably in many developed countries of the world. WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, while speaking at the media briefing, highlighted seven countries, amongst many, whose preparation and response offer lessons for the rest of the world in how to deal with a global pandemic. These countries include Pakistan, Italy, Thailand, Mongolia, Mauritius and Uruguay. "Pakistan has used the infrastructure it developed in its fight against polio to tackle Covid-19,"

said the director-general. "Community health workers, previously used to vaccinate children for polio, have been redeployed for contact tracing and monitoring." The WHO DG said that the Pakistani government is spending more on health and social welfare of its people and added that even critics of the government, are appreciating the efforts. "Pakistan under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan contained coronavirus spread successfully." Dr Tedros also issued a stark warning about the work needed to prepare the world for future pandemics. "This will not be the last pandemic," he told the media briefing. "History teaches us that outbreaks and pandemics are a fact of life. But when the next pandemic comes, the world must be ready - more ready than it was this time." Dr Tedros called on countries to invest in public health, as a "foundation of social, economic and political stability."



RAWALPINDI: General Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr, Commander US CENTCOM, called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa. Geo-strategic environment, regional security, Pak-US military cooperation including Afghanistan Peace Process and #Kashmir situation discussed. - DNA

US welcomes start of Afghan peace negotiations

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The United States welcomes the announcement that Afghanistan peace negotiations will begin on September 12th. The start of these talks marks a historic opportunity for Afghanistan to bring an end to four decades of war and bloodshed. The people of Afghanistan have carried the burden of war for too long. They yearn for peace. Only through an Afghan-owned, Afghan-led political process - one that respects the views of all Afghan communities, including women and ethnic and religious minorities - can the parties achieve a durable peace. This opportunity must not be squandered. Immense sacrifice and investment by the United States, our partners, and the people of Afghanistan

PM Imran welcomes Afghanistan talks

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has welcomed the announcement regarding commencement of Intra-Afghan Negotiations on 12 September 2020. Finally, our combined efforts have brought forth the day that the Afghan people have been yearning for. For more than 40 years, Afghans have suffered from continued conflict and bloodshed. Pakistan has endured the fall-out - reflected in incidence of terrorism, loss of precious lives, and huge economic cost. I have underlined for a long time that there is no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan and that the only way forward is a negotiated political settlement.

stan have made this moment of hope possible. I urge the negotiators to demonstrate the pragmatism, restraint, and flexibility this process will require to succeed. The people of Afghanistan and the international community

will be watching closely. The United States is prepared to support as requested. The United States recalls the commitment by the Afghan government and the Taliban that terrorists can never again use Afghan soil.



QUETTA: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs a high level briefing on COVID-19, flood situation and development projects of Balochistan. - DNA

PM lauds Balochistan government performance

DNA

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Jamal Kamal Khan Alyani on Friday met with Prime Minister Imran Khan who arrived in Quetta today on a daylong visit. During the meeting, the chief minister briefed the prime minister about the provincial government's ongoing developmental projects and security situation in the province. Expressing satisfaction over the provincial development programme and law and order situation, PM Khan lauded the performance of the provincial government under the leadership of CM Alyani. He assured the chief minister of the centre's full cooperation for the well-being and uplift of the province. Separately, Prime Minister Khan was also apprised on the flood and Covid-19 situation. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz, Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar, Qasim Suri and NDMA chairman Lt Gen Mohammad Afzal accompanied the premier during his one-day visit to Quetta.

EU gives 1 mln Euro equipment to KPK

Consignment will be utilized for implementation of Community Driven Local Development (CDLD) Policy in 13 districts of the province

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: EU Ambassador to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara Friday handed over equipment worth one million Euro to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local government. The consignment will be utilized for implementation of Community Driven Local Development (CDLD) Policy in 13 districts of the province. Talking to a group of media persons, she said that the European Union (EU) supported the KP government in its effort to integrate poor regions and those affected by militancy and natural disasters into the na-

tional development agenda. It will be ensure by improving access to basic public services, enhancing sustainable livelihoods and strengthening the trust between local government and communities in rural areas of the province, she added. The envoy said the EU had provided direct support to the KP budget for implementing CDLD policy that will enable local communities to access additional public funds to implement small public infrastructure schemes such as paths, walking bridges, additional classrooms, health centers, irrigation channels and water pumps. To a question, Androulla Kaminara said that the EU

funded projects and programmes were helping to address the global and local challenges. The reduction of poverty was EU key objective that would be achieved by increasing the coverage in health, education, water and sanitation and irrigation for poor rural communities through an inclusive planning and investment process at the village level, she added. The EU envoy also lauded the services rendered by the official of KP local government and said their commitment and hard work were directly benefiting the rural communities.

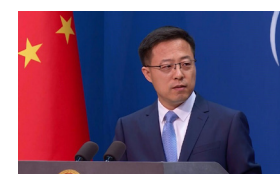
Picture on Page 3

China lauds Pak efforts in fight against terrorism

International community should fully recognize and respect Pak efforts in this regard: Zhao

DNA / NEWS DESK

BEIJING: Opposing attempts to link terrorism to any specific country, China on Friday commended Pakistan for making tremendous efforts and sacrifices in fighting terrorism and called upon the international community to fully recognize and respect such efforts. Terrorism is common challenge faced by all countries and Pakistan has sacrificed much in the fight against terrorism. "International community should fully recognize and respect Pakistan's efforts in this regard" said by a spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Zhao Lijian during his regular briefing. He said that China opposed to all kind of terrorism added that all countries



should engage themselves in anti terrorism international cooperation to jointly safeguard the world peace and security on the bases of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefits. The spokesperson said that 19th anniversary of the September 11 incident was being marked today which brought many challenges to the global security. Zhao said that the Chinese side believed that the United Nations (UN) should play a leading role in this regard, adding, "We oppose double standards on counter terrorism and we oppose the attempt to link the terrorism to any specific country."

Gwadar Expressway completed: Asim Bajwa

NAVID MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting Lt. Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa on Friday said about 80 percent work on the Gwadar East Bay Expressway had been completed. Asim Bajwa who is also Chairman of the CPEC Authority, in a tweet, also shared some pictures of the expressway showing asphalt work underway on the road. He said the expressway would help boost the port operations. It would prove to be the main artery of Gwadar Port through which the entire traffic of port would flow. The East-bay Expressway would also provide connectivity of the Gwadar seaport and its Free Zone with the network of National Highways to ensure fast transportation of import, export and transit goods. Gwadar port is being developed by China and is part of the mega project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Quaid's death anniversary observed

DNA

KARACHI: The nation observed the 72nd death anniversary of the country's founder Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on (Friday). President Dr Arif Alvi, while visiting Quaid-e-Azam's mausoleum, urged the countrymen to follow the rules and teachings of the Quaid. He added that it was the only way for Pakistan to achieve the goals that they have set for themselves to become a successful nation. "The way our nation has defeated the coronavirus speaks volume of our determination and resolve as the most developed nations are still struggling to deal with this pandemic."

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Pak envoy urges Chinese to take advantage of SEZs

While thanking China for its very valuable support to us during the pandemic, FM Qureshi appreciated the announcement made by Chinese President that whenever a vaccine is developed, it would be considered a public good

DNA / STAFF REPORT

BEIJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque has invited Chinese businessmen to take advantage of the dividend of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) being set up under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Pakistan has identified nine special economic zones and three of them are now in advanced stage of preparation. "We are going to share all the details very soon," he said in an interview with Economic Daily-China Economic Net (CEN). Pakistan has been committed to building industrial clusters in recent years to improve its ability to undertake the relocation of Chinese industries. Chinese companies have also been paying continuous attention

to the implementation of preferential policies in Pakistan's special economic zones.

In this regard, Haque said: "We have learned a lot from the Chinese experience of developing special economic zones." Talking about China-Pakistan trade relations during the COVID-19 pandemic, he pointed out: "First of all, we are very happy that China has posted a very positive and more than 3% growth in the second quarter. Despite the pandemic, the first quarter of this year we saw our bilateral trade increase." In this second quarter, there was a little dip because of the disruption of international travel. The updated FTA is very important. Over 300 items are now enjoying duty-free access to each other countries, including fisheries and



pharmaceuticals. "So there are many opportunities for the traders of the two countries to work in this area. We hope that in the months and years to come, our trade will increase from our previous figures." Talking about his experience in the first month of his new duty, Ambassador Haque first men-

tioned the second strategic dialogue between China and Pakistan which was held in August in south China's Hainan Province.

"While thanking China for its very valuable support to us during the pandemic, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi appreciated the announcement made by Chinese President Xi Jinping that whenever a vaccine is developed, it would be considered a public good. Regarding the ML-1 railway a multiplier effect for the Phase II of CPEC, he said, The spectrum of Pakistan-China relationship is very broad and very deep, adding, "We cooperate in all areas from defense to security, from trade to investment, culture, education, science and technology, agriculture, and tourism. CPEC is a very important element of our relationship."

The industrial development cooperation of phase two is also in sync with the social-economic development agenda of our current government. So these will be very important areas that I'll be working on during my term," he said. Ambassador Hashmi said, Diamer-Bhasha Dam is also as part of Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision, to provide a clean and affordable energy to our country. "And we are very grateful to Chinese companies for taking a lead in the construction of this dam." "ML-1 is the largest project on the CPEC. It is a very important project for both Pakistan and China. It will help to provide very economical and efficient inland travel in Pakistan. I think it will also be very important as a multiplier effect for the phase II of CPEC," he added.

Briefs

No leniency for motorway rape culprits: Buzdar

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar assured on Friday that the motorway gang rape incident victim would get complete justice. He in a statement hoped that the case would be resolved soon with the culprits to be brought to justice sooner than later. Those involved in this despicable act deserve no leniency, he declared.

The government will go the whole hog and ensure dispensation of justice to the victim woman, he assured, recalling the Punjab police had previously nabbed criminals involved in such deplorable incidents.

A woman was on her way along with her children from Lahore to Gujranwala via M-II when she was waylaid and gang-raped on the outskirts of the provincial capital in the early hours of Wednesday. It is noteworthy that the Punjab government has constituted a high-level committee to investigate the case. A notification regarding the constitution of the five-member investigation committee has been issued. The committee will be headed by Punjab Law Minister Raja Basharat and comprise additional chief secretary Home Department, the additional IG special branch, DIG investigation Punjab and the DG Forensic Science Agency as its members.

Rescue 1122 arranges awareness rally

MULTAN: Rescue 1122 organized awareness rally in connection with world first - aid day which will be marked on September 12 (Saturday). The rally led by District Emergency Officer (DEO) Rescue 1122 Dr Kaleemullah was taken out to sensitize citizens about importance of first aid.

Rescue 1122 had imparted training to about 40,000 people about first aid and life saving principles during ongoing year 2020 across the district. The trained people could help to save lives in case of any emergency.

Rescue 1122 Multan had also saved lives by providing first aid to 153137 injured in various emergencies so far. Speaking of this occasion, DEO Rescue 1122 Dr Kaleemullah said that every person of the society should get first aid training so that human lives could be saved by providing timely first aid to affectees in case of emergency.

The trained first aiders could be proved helpful in saving lives during any emergency. Rescuers, Rescue volunteers and local people attended the rally. It's pertinent to mention here that Punjab Emergency service Rescue 1122 is observing week long first aid and conducting various activities.

The seminar will be held at central station Rescue 1122 tomorrow on World first aid day and certificates also be awarded to Rescue volunteers. - APP

PDF, PCFA inaugurate Pak-China friendship tree plantation

"Pak China Friendship Tree" will be a proof that how both countries have deep rooted relationships. Gilani said that Pakistan and China are not only two neighboring countries but they have deep people to people connections as well

STAFF REPORT/DNA

ABBOTABAD: The Pakistan Development Foundation (PDF) and Pakistan China Friendship Association Khyber Chapter (PCFA) organized the inauguration ceremony of its ongoing collaborative project Pak China Friendship Tree Plantation Campaign 2020 in Hazara Division to plant thousands of trees. The ceremony was held at Commissioner's House which was attended by Special Secretary to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mr. Muhammad Khaliq Khan as Chief Guest. Besides him, Additional Commissioner Hazara Division, Muhammad Akbar Khan, the Chairman of the Pakistan Development Foundation, Muhammad Bilal Sethi, Secretary-general PCFA, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani, SSP Op-

erations Abbottabad, Chief Conservator of Forests, Assistant Commissioners of Hazara Division, representatives of media and a large number of social activists were in attendance.

The Chief Guest planted a sapling of deodar in the premises of Commissioner's House, Hazara and prayed for the successful completion of project. Addressing the ceremony, he remarked that Pakistan enjoys trustful relationships with China. Plantation of these friendship trees is a proof that how people of Pakistan love their long-tested neighbor. The Chairman of the Pakistan Development Foundation, Muhammad Bilal Sethi remarked that deforestation deeply impacted our environment. Thinning of ozone layer and global warming are bigger issues for our concern.



He encouraged the youth to come forward and discourage deforestation and cutting of trees. Sethi also urged the youth to partic-

ipate in plantation activities and put their efforts in making Pakistan clean and green. The Secretary General PCFA, Syed Ali Nawaz

Gilani enlightened the audience by adding that since 2007, Abbottabad (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan) and Kashgar (Xin-

jiang, China) are declared as sister cities and thus, we can learn from them much in socioeconomic sector. He, while highlighting the objectives of this project added that it will engage masses in positive and useful activities. He said that the trees planted under the title "Pak China Friendship Tree" will be a proof that how both countries have deep rooted relationships. Gilani said that Pakistan and China are not only two neighboring countries but they have deep people to people connections as well. At the end, souvenirs were distributed among special guests by the Chairman of the PDF, Muhammad Bilal Sethi and Secretary-general PCFA, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani. Glowing tributes were presented to PDF and PCFA and volunteering this initiative.

HEC issues NOC to AIOU for PhD in LIS

ISLAMABAD: Higher Education Commission (HEC) has issued No Objection Certificate (NOC) to the Allama Iqbal Open University's department of Library and Information Sciences (LIS) for offering PhD programme. According to a press release on Friday, by getting NOC the Department of Library and Information Sciences of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) will offer PhD programme in spring 2021 semester.

Dr. Pervaiz Ahmad, Chairman, Department of LIS, while expressing his views said that Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has achieved another milestone in higher education with reference to emerging fields of library and information sciences.

He also thanked Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Quayyum, Vice Chancellor, AIOU for his continuous support throughout the process. He viewed that it will provide an excellent opportunity of quality education to the candidates interested in the field across the country.

He said that the department has also launched a research journal recently which is HEC recognized in Ycategory and plays an effective role in promoting and strengthening research culture in the field of library and information sciences. Moreover, the Department of English of the university is also expected to be issued NOC by the HEC in near future to launch its MPhil English and PhD (Linguistics) programmes. The said programs have been approved by all the statutory bodies of the university and the application for NOC is in the final stage of approval process at HEC. - APP

Kashmir dead body recovered after 4 days

ISLAMABAD: The body of a Kashmiri youth martyred by Indian troops few days back was recovered from a steam in Budgam district, in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK).

According to Kashmir Media Service, the youth, identified as Aqib Lone from Shopian, was killed by Indian troops during a cordon and search operation and the body was found after four days of searches at Sukhnag Nallah in Chek Kawoosa area of the district. The youth suffered a bullet injury after the Indian troops fired at him during the operation after which he had jumped into the Nallah. Since then, the searches were going on and the body was recovered late last night, eyewitnesses told medi-

Five-member committee for motorway rape case

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab government has constituted a high-level committee to investigate the Lahore Motorway rape case. A notification has been issued regarding the constitution of a five-member investigation committee.

The committee will be headed by Punjab Law Minister Raja Basharat while additional chief secretary Home Department, the additional IG special branch, DIG investigation Punjab and the DG Forensic Science Agency will be the other members.

The committee has been tasked to complete the investigation within three days and submit the recommendations to Chief Minister Usman Buzdar.

'It is the State's duty to protect its women'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Commenting on the heinous gang rape incident on Motorway, Parliamentary Leader of the PPP in the Senate, Senator Sherry Rehman said, "The gang rape incident on the Ring Road has brought to the fore many troubling details of failure by law enforcers but a disturbing faultline of shocking prejudice in high places to the surface."

"The first issue is why the police were so egregiously late in responding to an emergency call. Despite the woman calling the emergency number 130 and giving them her location. Why did it take so long for them to respond? After changing 56 IGs what was the explanation by the Punjab police? Why were the squabbling over jurisdiction even when the serious and heinous nature of the crime was exposed?" she questioned. She said, "The other issue that needs addressing is how the victim is being shamed by Government officials as having been lax in her



own security by venturing out unescorted on a public highway or to have run out of petrol? This is a shocking reminder of the deep vein of misogyny that runs through some of our public officials, and it enhances a woman's insecurity on the streets of Pakistan as opposed to giving them succour or protection. What is the job of the police? Not to become guardians of public morality but to protect the right of all citizens to safely use public facilities like the motorway.

It is time our public servants were reminded that their jobs and salaries are maintained by the taxes paid by the ordinary people of Pakistan, and their cavalier responses are completely unacceptable.

Karot Hydropower Project marks another milestone

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Another milestone in the waterway system of Karot Hydropower Station was accomplished on schedule as the concrete lining of the headrace tunnel was successfully completed, Gwadar Pro reported.

During the construction process all parties strictly controlled quality and safety. A hard working team, 28,586 cu. m. of concrete and 2,334 tons of steel reinforcement made this remarkable landmark happen. A total of four headrace tunnels are arranged in the Karot Hydro Power Station. A single headrace tunnel consists of an upwardly inclined section, an upwardly curved section, an obliquely straight section, a downwardly curved section than the lower flat section.

The upward slope section is lined with reinforced concrete and the other sections are lined with steel cans. The lining thickness of the upward slope section is 80 centimeters and the diameter after lining is 9.6 meters. The lengths of the four headrace tunnels are 875 meters and the longitudinal slope is 14%. Since the beginning of first concrete segment of headrace tunnels, about 28,586 cu. m. of concrete and 2334 tons of steel reinforcement has been used.

The lining of the headrace tunnel was divided into two segments. The invert concrete was poured with integral formwork and the side top arch is poured with steel mold trolley. The side arch reinforcement is installed with a self-made steel trolley.

President POF Barcelona hosts dinner

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A prominent social worker and President Pakistani Overseas Forum Barcelona Spain Mr Ayaz Abbasi hosted a dinner in the honour of Senior Journalist Mohsin Raza Khan on his becoming Secretary of Pakistan Media Forum PMC Islamabad Those who attended and spoke the occasion were Saleem Safi Senior Anchorperson Geo program Jirga and Columnist Nadeem Raza Executive Director Such News Adil Shahzaib Senior Anchorperson Hum TV Zia Ullah Khan Founder and Chairman PMC Zahid Hashmi Chairman Peace Forum France Shahid Maitla Senior Anchorperson News one TV Asif Bashir Chaudhry Senior Reporter Geo TV Naseem Siddiqi Senior journalist and Bu-

reau Chief AabTak TV Ali Furqan Senior Reporter Voice of America VOA Yasir Nazar Awan Senior journal-

ist Uqaiish Gilani CEO Pinnacle Management Company PMC Zubair Illahi CEO Zubair and Co Peshawar

Amir Sheikh Controller News Such TV Abdul Ahad MD Zubair and Co ISLAM-ABAD



CM Sindh approves Rs700 mln grant

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has approved Rs 700 million grant for relief work being carried out in the rain affected areas of Sindh.

He approved the amount in a meeting on relief work in all the rain affected districts of the province here on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister Sindh directed the officials concerned for taking appropriate action like provision of food, mosquito nets, tents, and distribution of fodder for cattle in the rain-hit areas.

The meeting was attended by Advisor on Law Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Mumtaz Shah, SMBR/Relief Commissioner Qazi Shahid Parvez, Commissioner Karachi Sohail Rajput, Administrator KMC Itikhar Shallwani, Secretary Finance Hassan Naqi and other concerned officials. The chief minister said that he has visited rain affected areas in Karachi, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot, Tharparkar, Sanghar and Badin and found people were in problems.

"We, as a government, have tried to provide relief to the affected people but it was not enough," he said and added that the people in rural areas were demanding fodder and mosquito nets for them and their cattle. - APP

Faisalabad: 650 robberies in ten days



MUHAMMAD TAHIR

FAISALABAD: In the third largest city of Pakistan, hundreds of robberies, burglaries, shoplifting and muggings have resulted in the seizure of millions of rupees in cash, jewelry, motorcycles and vehicles from citizens just in 10 days. 650 cases of robbery and burglary have been registered in citywide police stations in last ten days and many people didn't register their complaints due to the inappropriate attitude of the police towards the public.

Mobile shop owner Dawood said that in one of my mobile shops located in Gulfshan Colony, robbers took employees and customers hos-

on condition of anonymity, said, "How can we stop burglary if the officers' household doesn't end all day?" Ikram, a businessman from the city, said that due to the special duties of the policemen, the police stations present a scene of desolation. The plaintiffs have been chasing the investigating officers of the case to pursue the cases and recover the stolen goods, but they are not getting justice. In addition, the investigation of pending cases is not being completed due to which the victims in these incidents are very upset. According to a report of an organization, most of the incidents are related to domestic burglary and robbery in which the accused loot cash and jewelry from the people.

The Oppressed people of Faisalabad are suffering from severe mental anguish due to the negligence of the police and the increasing number of robberies on a daily basis and appeals from the government to replace the incompetent police personnel and provide moral training to the police so that they can solve the problems of the people quickly with dignity.

tage and looted Rs 11 lakh cash and 10 mobile phones. Another shopkeeper, Waqas Ahmed, said he was on his way home at night after closing his shop at Gulistan colony when robbers robbed him of Rs 20 lakh. Citizens say police could not trace the any incident despite blockades. Horrific increase in incidents due to criminal negligence of police scared citizens of Faisalabad. Ali Ahmed, a resident of a village, said, "Now our humanity is dead. I saw an old man in distress. He was walking alone. I gave him a lift on my motorbike. When he saw no one on the road, he snatched my motorbike from me. He shot and wounded me. A police official, speaking

Quaid's vision of a peaceful, prosperous Pakistan remains our goal: COAS

It is pertinent to mention here that the 72nd death anniversary of the Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, is being observed by the nation on Friday

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Friday said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision of a vibrant, peaceful and prosperous Pakistan remains our goal.

According to a statement issued by Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), he said, "Under his leadership, #Pakistan emerged as a separate sovereign state." The COAS remarked, "Together we

achieve this, InshaAllah."

The 72nd death anniversary of father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was observed on Friday. In this connection, special ceremony of Quran Khawani and Fateha was held at the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam in Karachi.

People from different walks of life visited the mausoleum to lay floral wreath on his grave. Father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah passed away on 11th September, 1948 shortly after achieving freedom for the nation.



Meanwhile, taking to Twitter to pay tribute to the Father of the Nation, Director General (DG) ISPR said that under his leadership, Pakistan emerged as a separate sovereign state.

It is pertinent to mention here that the 72nd death anniversary of the Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, is being observed by the nation on Friday. Muhammad Ali Jinnah passed away on September 11 - 1948 shortly after achieving freedom for the nation. A special ceremony of Quran Kha-

wani and Fateha was held at the Quaid-e-Azam's mausoleum in Karachi, whereas, people from different walks of life also visited the mausoleum to lay floral wreaths on his grave. Moreover, educational institutions and political, social, and cultural organizations organised special programmes to mark the day. President Dr. Arif Alvi arrived at Quaid-e-Azam's mausoleum in Karachi today and laid a floral wreath at his grave and offered Fateha. The president also recorded his impressions in the visitors' book.

Briefs

'Roshan Digital Account' a leap forward: Zulfi Bukhari

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sayed Zulfiqar Abbas Bukhari felicitating the expats over the launch of 'Roshan Digital Account', has said that it was a leap forward towards materialization of the challenger bank.

The SAPM, in a tweet, said Prime Minister Imran Khan had fulfilled another promise with the expatriates as they were well-deserved the initiative for being back bone of the country's economy. "Congrats to all the overseas Pakistanis for a revolutionary financial product. OPs are our back bone and deserve to be facilitated. Roshan Digital Account is a first big step towards digital challenger bank. Today Prime Minister Imran Khan has fulfilled another promise to his special people," he tweeted.

'Digital Roshan Account' is a major initiative of the government to boost the remittances by enabling the overseas Pakistanis to open their bank accounts remotely. The move, which will eventually spur economic growth in the country, has multiple features including option of opening bank account in rupee and foreign currency or both, full repatriation of funds without regulatory approval, and others. — APP

AIOU offering PhD in Library Sciences

ISLAMABAD: Higher Education Commission (HEC) has issued No Objection Certificate (NOC) to the Allama Iqbal Open University's department of Library and Information Sciences (LIS) for offering PhD programme. According to a press release on Friday, getting NOC from the Department of Library and Information Sciences of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) will offer PhD programme in spring 2021 semester.

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Around 33 'Ehsaas Nashonuma' centers being established: Dr. Sania

An amount of Rs. 2,000 quarterly Nashonuma allowance would be given for girls and Rs. 1,500 for boys and for ensuring transparency in disbursement of such funds a survey was underway

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation Dr. Sania Nishtar on Friday said that around thirty three 'Ehsaas Nashonuma' centers were being established in 9 districts across the country.

During her departure on two-day visit to Rajanpur and Multan, she said such centers would be established in Khyber, Upper Dir, Bagh, Ghizir, Hunza, Kharmang, Kharan, Badin and Rajanpur districts in the first phase under 'Ehsaas Nashonuma' program.

She said that the program was formally launched by Prime Minister Imran Khan on August 13, 2020 at the Nashonuma Center in the Khyber tribal district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "Ehsaas Nashonuma Programme will focus on improving nutrition and health in the first thousand days of the child life, the most critical period in early childhood development, starting at conception and finishing at age two" she said. In a statement issued here she

said the nutritional status of newborns and infants is directly linked with the health and nutritional status of the mother before, during and after pregnancy. "The budget for the three-year Ehsaas Nashonuma Programme has been kept as Rs 8.52 billion", Dr. Sania said, adding that all funding for this program was being provided by the government. Quarterly stipend will be given along with provision of healthy food to deserving beneficiaries, she added.



A survey was underway across the country under the Ehsaas NSER, she said. During the two-day visit, Sania Nishtar will also visit the under construction Langarkhana and Ehsaas Kafalat center at Multan. Ehsaas Langarkhana's are being set up across the country under public-private partnership, she said. — APP

has been set up by the PIMS administration. In a statement, the deputy executive director denied the allegations, saying the accusation was staged by the nurse out of fear of being caught for financial irregularities. Iqbal Durrani said the female nurse intervened in the management's meeting with PWD on September 1 and that he met her in the presence of 12 other people. He added that the nurse has presented no evidence but we have camera recordings to prove that I have never met her alone and her allegations are baseless.

Fahad becomes RCCI executive member

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Fahad Barlas, has been elected an appointed Executive Member from Corporate Class at Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Friday.

His services for trade and commerce have been lauded by the Rawalpindi Chamber representatives on reposing their confidence on the occasion of Executive body elections.

President RCCI Mr. Saboor Malik congratulated new executive members and expressed the hope that they



would uphold the high traditions of Chamber.

Fahad Barlas expressed his gratitude to all representatives of Chamber for their support and said that it is great honor for his elevation as Executive Member Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He said it is the need of hour that we should work together for expansion of exports and all out efforts would be made to enhance made in Pakistan products. — DNA

RCCI condemns Lahore-Motorway incident

This incident has caused fear and worry in everyone. He demanded that the department, officers or personnel involved in the incident should be brought to justice

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Saboor Malik, President, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has expressed his grief and anger over the Lahore-motorway incident. He said that this tragic incident has created unrest among the citizens especially the business community. Speaking at a meeting of former

presidents at the Chamber House, he said the motorway has been considered a safe route for travel.

The incident has damaged the reputation of the motorway. Group leader Sohail Altaf said that the higher authorities should take immediate notice of the matter and the accused should be arrested and brought to justice. Such accused should be given the harshest and

emplary punishment so that such incidents do not happen again. The government should ensure safe travel for citizens on all highways. Sohail Altaf added that families always prefer to travel on the motorway. This incident has caused fear and worry in everyone. He demanded that the department, officers or personnel involved in the incident should be brought to justice.

Police net four Proclaimed Offenders

RAWALPINDI: Police on Friday claimed to have arrested four Proclaimed Offenders (POs) of B category, allegedly involved in various crimes.

According to Rawalpindi police Spokesman, special raids on the directive of City Police Officer (CPO) Muhammad Ahsan Younas were conducted by Rawalpindi police to net POs, court absconders and other outlaws. He told that Pirwadhai police managed to net two B-category POs namely Usman Ghani and Khalid Mehmood alias Mithu. — APP

PIMS Dy ED accused of harassment

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A nurse of PIMS Hospital Islamabad has accused the Deputy Executive Director of harassment. However, the official has denied the allegations. A case has been registered at the request of the female nurse.

The nurse alleges that she was harassed by the doctor and that her house was attacked as well. However, the doctor has gotten pre arrest bail and announced legal action against the accuser. Taking note of the matter, a fact-finding committee

has been set up by the PIMS administration.

In a statement, the deputy executive director denied the allegations, saying the accusation was staged by the nurse out of fear of being caught for financial irregularities.

Iqbal Durrani said the female nurse intervened in the management's meeting with PWD on September 1 and that he met her in the presence of 12 other people. He added that the nurse has presented no evidence but we have camera recordings to prove that I have never met her alone and her allegations are baseless.

Auto sale up 8% in August

ISLAMABAD: The sale of cars in August 2020 increased to 9,885 units compared to the sale of 9,126 units in same month of the preceding year, showing an increase of 8.31 percent. During first two months (July-August) of the current fiscal year, the auto sale witnessed a minor decline as it fell to 20,008 units against 20,094 units in July-August (2019-20), a latest data released by PAMA said.

According to break up figures, the sale of Honda cars (Civic and City) sharply increased by 64 percent to 4,190 units in two months of current year from 2,558 units in the corresponding period last year. The sale of Toyota Corolla, however, registered a decrease of 49.8 percent as it went down from 1,727 units in the corresponding month of last year to 867 units in same month of 2020. During the period July-August 2020-21, the sale of Toyota Corolla cars declined to 2,395 units against sale of 3,708 units in same period last year, showing a decline of 35.4 percent. — APP

SAPM directs to ban heavy traffic in Shamsabad

ATTOCK: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam has issued directions to the concerned authorities to immediately ban heavy traffic specially dumpers passing through Shamsabad village to avoid loss of precious human lives.

He said this during his visit to the legal heirs of a boy who was crushed to death by a dumper in the aforesaid village. He was accompanied by DC Attock Ali Anan Qamar, AC Hazro Maleeha Aeesar, TMO Hazro Sardar Aftab Khan and Malik Muhammad Shamsir Khan. SAPM Malik Amin Aslam said that plying heavy traffic specially dumpers through this village was a potential threat to the precious lives of the residents and said that this must immediately be banned and alternate route be provided for heavy traffic and barriers be installed at the entrance of village Shamsabad so that heavy traffic could be stopped from entering village. — APP

IIUI President chairs committee meeting

ISLAMABAD: President International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI) Dr. Hatha bin Hamoud Al-Otaibi, Friday chaired the meeting of the Finance and Planning Committee to discuss various agenda items regarding finance and planning.

The meeting was attended by Khalid Mehmood Memon, Director Budget, HEC and Nayyar Nadeem, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Education and Professional Training, Vice Presidents, Director Finance, Director HR, Director Administration and other relevant officials.

During the meeting, IIUI President was briefed about university's financial landscape and matters pertaining to planning. The committee discussed various agenda items, while the Chair gave directions accordingly as per requirement of the agenda.

On the occasion, IIUI President vowed that merit and IIUI's progress will be top priority. Hatha stressed that no stone should be left unturned to bring IIUI among the ranks of top international institutions.

He assured of every possible cooperation and supervision to achieve the set goals. The IIUI President opined that hard work is a prerequisite for success and he will be happy to encourage dedicated officials of university. Talking about the international academic landscape, he said that merit, research, provision of best facilities and dedication for internationalization will be top priorities. — APP

Pakistan-WB review financing ongoing projects

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and World Bank reviewed the WB financing of ongoing portfolio projects in Pakistan with worth \$10.4 billion dollars for 52 projects in review meeting.

The Minister for Economic Affairs, Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar chaired a high-level Portfolio Review Meeting of World Bank-funded projects in Pakistan at Ministry of Economic Affairs, said a press release issued by Ministry of EAD here on Friday. The meeting was attended by Country Director World Bank and relevant federal and provincial senior officials through video link.

The World Bank's financing for federal development projects amounts to \$ 6 billion while the Bank is providing \$ 1.9 billion to Punjab, \$ 1.9 billion to Sindh, \$ 0.4 billion to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and US\$ 0.2 billion to Balochistan. The WB-portfolio in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was reviewed in session.

The objective of the 3-days portfolio review meetings is to assess the progress of ongoing WB-funded projects, discuss implementation issues and suggest remedial measures to tackle those issues in a timely manner to ensure smooth implementation of projects and maximize disbursements in provinces. Moreover, pipeline projects are also being discussed to ensure their alignment with national priorities, readiness and timely approval of PC-Is/Is. — APP

Effective policing measures to be ensured: IGP

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Amir Zulfiqar has directed all police officials for high vigilance in the city to eradicate crime and ensure effective crackdown against drug pushers, proclaimed offenders and land grabbers. He made these directions while chairing a meeting held to review law and order situation and efforts of Islamabad police against crime. The meeting was attended among others by all DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed, DG (Safe City) Sarfaraz Ahmed Falki, all SSPs, AIGs and Zonal SPs. The IGP reviewed the performance of all Zonal officers and appreciated those



performing well. He said that activities of drug pushers and land grabbers have been significantly decreased in the city due to effective crackdown against them. Islamabad police chief said that future of young generation would be protected through strict action against

drug pushers. He directed all police officials to resume anti-drug awareness campaign among students and seminars should be arranged at educational institutions in this regard. He directed all police officials to complete investigation on cases and submit

their challans with courts at earliest. He asked all police officials to make efforts to curb crime and appealed the citizens to cooperate with police in efforts against anti-social elements.

The IGP directed all police officials to improve their performance by effectively combating crime and ensure arrest of proclaimed offenders at earliest. He asked police officials to take effective steps to control crime and adopt professional as well as responsible attitude to mitigate the sufferings of the people. He categorically asked all police officials to focus on resolving the public complaints and take every possible step to provide maximum relief to citizens.

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Briefs

NIC to hold webinar on Sep 18

ISLAMABAD: National Incubation Center (NIC) will hold webinar titled "Health Innovation by all, for all" to discuss healthcare system on September 18.

The webinar will shed light on Pakistan's current healthcare system and why is health innovation the need of the hour and how to make healthcare systems accessible, affordable and efficient.

The webinar will discuss for creating new solutions, services and business models to optimize how we interact with our bodies and comprehend the minute-to-minute understanding of our health conditions are in dire need, an official told on Friday.

He said that majority of people worldwide are leading to unhealthy lifestyles and this fact combined with the inefficient healthcare systems currently in place and the on-going global pandemic, are creating major health issues around the world.

This webinar will be conducted at the NIC facility as well as broad casted on Zoom. The webinar will focus on that this is time now to collectively work to improve our health and well-being through technology, he said. He said that "If you're an entrepreneur, a healthcare professional, medical student or someone with a passion to turn innovative ideas into health products or services, don't miss this event". - APP

IRSA releases 224,300 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 224,300 cusecs water from various rim stations with equal inflow of 223,800 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, both Tarbela and Mangla Dams have already attained their maximum conservation level of 1550.00 feet and 1242 feet respectively.

Water inflow and outflow in Tarbela dam was recorded as 119,200 and 118,700 cusecs respectively. Similarly water inflow and outflow in Mangla dam was recorded as 33,900 cusecs each. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 139,300, 185,800 and 452,300 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 29,800 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 14,000 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. - APP

Gang of motorcycle lifters busted

RAWALPINDI: Cantt Police Station have busted a gang named "Raja Gang" and arrested its four members involved in motorcycle lifting, street crimes and other criminal activities besides recovering 11 motorcycles.

A police spokesman informed that while acting on a tip off, a police party managed to bust "Raja gang" and arrested its four members including the ring leader Raja Rizwan, Muhammad Zubair, Muhammad Zeeshan and Junaid and recovered 9 Honda 125 and 2 CD 70 from their custody. - APP

FBISS-II Special Exams from Sept. 23

ISLAMABAD: The Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Special Annual Examinations 2020 of the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Islamabad will be held with effect from September 23. Regular candidates of SSC-II may collect roll number slips from their institutions and for ex-private candidates, same have been dispatched on their addresses given by them in their admission forms.

In case the Roll No slips of regular/ex-private candidates is not received by any candidate, he/she should either download the same from FBISS website

The number included Controller Exams (Conduct) 051-9269506, Director One Window Cell 051-9269577, Deputy Controller Exams 051-9269519, Deputy Secretary (OWC) 051-9269551, Assistant Controller Exams 051-9269542 and Superintendent (SSC Conduct) - APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Information and Broadcasting Akbar Durrani acknowledging the services of two retiring officers of information group, Ms. Naila Maqsood and Dr. Ata Panhwar at Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. - DNA

Huawei, HEC launch free ICT training programme

Top two students will be selected and sent to china for the learning tour in early 2021 together with students from around the world

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Huawei and HEC are going to offer free training in ICT skills to 30 undergraduate students across the country as part of Huawei Seeds for The Future Program 2020. In the last 5 years, around 55 students from across the country have been sent to China for 2 weeks training on the Chinese Culture and ICT Skills to further hone their career skills. This year due to COVID-19, HEC and Huawei will arrange the program virtually from 21st September to 25th

September 2020.

The Huawei Technologies (Pvt) Ltd Pakistan and The Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan are inviting application from potential Pakistani undergraduate students under Huawei's "Seeds for the Future" programme 2020. Huawei will organize online training for 30 outstanding Pakistani students in the field of ICT from September 21-25, 2020. The Selected students will be able to obtain valuable cutting-edge ICT Knowledge developed by Huawei's Headquarters and experience a cross culture communication virtually. Top two students will

be selected and sent to china for the learning tour in early 2021 together with students from around the world. Top ten students will be provided Huawei souvenirs for their participation. The application procedure is as follows: Please follow the instructions and fill out the online application completely and submit it. HEC reserves the right to conduct interviews of initially shortlisted candidates. Incomplete or saved application on HEC online portal will not be considered. The recommendation of nominating agency i.e. HEC will be final and binding. It must be noted that the mini-

mum CGPA required for the program is 3.5 or above. Students who are entering their 7th or 8th semester can apply for the program or if they are recent graduates, they are also eligible. Following is the detailed eligibility criteria: Be a Pakistani/AJK national & permanent resident of Pakistan/AJK. Dual nationality holders are not eligible. Majoring in disciplines/subjects such as Information and Communication Technology, Computer Science, Information Technology, Business Informatics, Multimedia & Digital Arts, Soft-

ware Engineering, Information Systems, Computer Engineering, Electrical Communication Engineering, Telecom Engineering, Electronics Engineering. Students who are currently enrolled in final year of ICT related Undergraduate degrees (four years program only with 7th Semester & 8th Semester) with minimum CGPA of 3.5 out of 4. Students who have completed their four years Undergraduate ICT related degrees with minimum CGPA of 3.5 out of 4. Less than 24 years old on closing date of application. Demonstrate excellent academic acumen, speak English fluently. Have a strong interest

in Information Communication & Technology and related fields. With personal computer equipment and strong internet connection. Selected students must be available during online training sessions (from 21st to 25th September, 2020). Final selection will be based on academic excellence & Federal Govt. quota policy. In case of final award, selected candidates will not be able to withdraw. Around 30 students from across the country will be trained by Huawei after final selection by HEC. The deadline for submission of applications is 14th September 2020.

One million trees to be planted this year: Mayor

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Mayor Sheikh Ansar Aziz has said that we launched Clean and Green Islamabad campaign in 2016, this is the third year we are planting trees in Islamabad. He expressed these views while addressing a function on the occasion of Clean Green Islamabad. He said that it has been three years now that we have been planting trees in Islamabad and our staff not only plant saplings but also take care of them. We start-

ed the Clean and Green Islamabad campaign in 2016 and I try to visit the plants that are planted every month. He said that the target is to plant one million trees this year. There is no funding for this but still we are increasing our resources and planting trees through private companies and taking care of them. Kachnar Park in Islamabad was planted by Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad in collaboration with Comsats University. Four hundred plants have been donated to MCI by the university.



ISLAMABAD: Mayor Sheikh Ansar Aziz planting a tree during Clean Green Islamabad Campaign. - DNA

UNHCR steps up efforts to support flood-affected refugees

In the same spirit, we also helped millions of Pakistanis during different emergencies in Pakistan in the past," she added

DNA

ISLAMABAD: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Refugee Agency, has stepped up efforts to support hundreds of Afghan refugee and Pakistani families affected by severe rainfall and flooding in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh provinces.

According to government's estimates, more than 190 people were killed, and thousands of homes were washed away in flooding across the country, said a press release issued here.



The UN Refugee Agency is working with local authorities and partners to assist the most vulnerable families - badly affected by the flooding. Core relief items

are being distributed to the affected Afghan refugees and Pakistani communities. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, UNHCR, Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees, (CAR) and

communities to meet their immediate needs," said Ms. Noriko Yoshida, UNHCR Representative in Pakistan.

Ms. Yoshida said that Pakistan has witnessed multiple challenges this year such as severe rainfall, flooding as well as the COVID-19 pandemic. "Our support and efforts are in solidarity with Pakistan and its people who have been hosting Afghan refugees for more than 40 years," she said.

"In the same spirit, we also helped millions of Pakistanis during different emergencies in Pakistan in the past," she added.

IESCO issues power schedule

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Friday issued a power suspension schedule to be observed on Saturday at various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work.

According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period on Saturday from 06:30am to 10:30am, Dhudial Express, Dhudial City, Dhudial Rural, CTM (Independent) Segalabad, Mehoota, Ward No-8, Samote, Jermote, Jakkar, Bourian, Duffer, Sector-4, APHS, Rehmatabad-1, VVIP, PAF, Chaklala, Tehmasabad, Dhokehakmad, RCC-II, RCC-III, Bari Imam, NCP, Mandala, Treat, University, Golf City, Pir Sohawa, Chakri, Jhanda, Rawalpindi-III, Adyala, 502 Workshop, CNC, State Bank, Hamyao Road, VIP, Shella, Hanif Shaheed feeders and surrounding areas. - APP

Motorway Police foils attempt of robbery

ISLAMABAD: Motorway Police on Thursday night foiled robbery attempt on Lahore-Islamabad Motorway. According to details, four armed men tried to stop the vehicles by throwing bushes on the motorway near Sheikhpura. The robbers managed to stop a vehicle. Meanwhile Motorway Police reached the spot but the robbers taking advantage of the darkness succeeded to escape. - APP

Three drug peddlers arrested

RAWALPINDI: Cantt Police in their ongoing drive against narcotics and anti-social elements conducted raids in different areas and arrested three accused besides recovering 3360 grams drugs from their possession. According to a police spokesman, in a raid, Cantt police arrested three drug peddlers namely Muhammad Ilyas, Umar Butt and Amir Khan and recovered 3360 grams Hashish from their possession. Police registered a case against the accused under Narcotics Control Act while further investigations are underway.

Superintendent Police (SP) Potohar appreciated performance of Cantt police and directed the police officials for high vigilance and monitoring against those involved in anti-social activities, the spokesman added. - APP

Two held for selling petrol illegally

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested two persons for selling petrol openly and seized filling instruments from their possession, informed police spokesman here on Friday. According to details, Race Course police during a course of action apprehended Muhammad Hashim on the charges of selling petrol illegally with 25 liter petrol while RA Bazar Police held Nasir Maskeen and recovered 5 liter Petrol and filling instrument from their possession. Police have registered separate cases against all of them and started investigation. Meanwhile, City Police Officer (CPO), Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younas has directed to launch crackdown against the illegal business of refilling gas cylinders and said that no one would be allowed to sell petrol openly in market. - APP

10 gamblers arrested

RAWALPINDI: Police on Friday arrested 10 gamblers and recovered Rs 6,340 cash stake money, 10 mobile phones and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Ratta Amral police team under the supervision of Station House Officer (SHO), acting on a tip-off conducted a raid in its jurisdiction and arrested 10 gamblers namely Malik Kamran, Arshad Mehmood, Raja Fida Hussain, Waqas Ashraf, Muhammad Junaid, Israr Ahmed, Waseem Sabir, Umar Mehmood, Zahid Mehmood and Muhammad Amir as they were allegedly involved in betting while playing cards. - APP

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

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Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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The next generation of thinkers

By MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

Education and a degree that comes with it allows students to step into the professional world. However, it is an awareness of knowing about their strengths and weaknesses that will help them become a success. The educational system of Pakistan requires one to rote learn the concepts and re-write them in the examination to earn grades. This is more or less the same system being followed across schools, colleges, and universities. However, with the advent of the Internet and with all forms of information at our fingertips, the concept of rote learning is becoming obsolete. Furthermore, the practice of taking examinations is also no longer applicable as companies want people who possess the skills to get things done. In this age of information overload, the question is not of where to find the concepts but how to apply them. This is why companies such as Google and Apple do not hire students with high grades but prefer hiring those who have the required set of skills to get things done. This is now the new mantra when it comes to securing a future in a field or industry of one's choosing. Gone are the days when people made an effort in securing a job for themselves. Today, the jobs that were the most pursued in 1999 are almost obsolete. New jobs have overtaken them. Take data science and cloud computing for instance. Two decades ago data science was considered a form of tech magic while cloud computing was not even a term that people were familiar with. With advancements in the world of technology, the corporate world has shifted from being a manually operating area to a one controlled by digital media and the Internet. The next generation of thinkers will emerge from the population that is attuned to using digital media and know how to use it for information dissemination.



Is anyone in charge?

It was an inauspicious beginning for the new IGP. On his very first day in office, which he had assumed after an undignified tussle between his predecessor and the CCPO Lahore, there was a terrible robbery-cum-rape in the limits of the Gujarpura police. The heinous crime also involved the Motorway Police, which is presently commanded by Kaleem Imam, because the victim of the crime had first asked them for help, but they were so long in coming, that the criminals not only dragged her into bushes on the corner of the highway, had their way with her in front of her children, ransacked her purse, and made good their escape, all before the police arrived. Because the crime took place off the highway, the Gujarpura police registered the case. This is not an aberration. This is part of the increasing crime occurring in the province. Part of the reason may be the loss of employment because of the coronavirus pandemic, but there is also the fact that the province is poorly policed. The prime reason for that is the almost blinding turnover at the top, with the current incumbent being the sixth IGP since the present government took over just two years ago. One reason for that turnover is the Prime Minister's attempt to administer his home province, and his hometown, while spending his time in Islamabad, and not letting the Chief Minister act on his own. Since the Chief Minister's main function is to limit himself to transmitting the Prime Minister's orders, not much attention is paid to good governance. The purpose of the police is not just to make sure that incidents like the Gujarpura rape end in justice for the victim, but that they do not take place at all. If the IGP is driven to hold meetings to show he is in charge, it is not so much his fault as the government's. The government is elected to provide the citizenry order, not the lawlessness that prevails.

Pakistan's image problem; some musings

Ansar Mahmood Bhatti



The Western media ostensibly maneuvered by Western security establishments takes pride in dancing to the tunes of their masters when it is asked to do so. What happened in Iraq. There were no weapons of mass destruction but Western media created hype and provided allied forces with an excuse to attack Iraq and overthrow a government elected by people of Iraq.

Skewed media reporting and spreading of propaganda against various institutions of Pakistan in fact appears to be at the top of the Western media and establishments. Peace in tribal areas is hard to digest for those forces who want instability in the region as they can only wield influence when the region is fragmented and bruised and governance system in a shambles. Now when peace has returned to the area - thanks to Pakistan's valiant armed forces - the enemies are left with no option but to mourn their defeat and lick wounds.

While there is no denying the fact that many families may have been adversely affected as a result of the operation against anti-social elements but then it is something normal during such clandestine operations. The armed forces did their best to avoid any collateral damages and provide maximum possible relief to those affected by clean up drive. As we can see, a handful of tribals presumably fed by alien forces, attacked military posts and even inflicted huge losses. Our security agencies had a right to respond and bring to justice such elements. The Western media ostensibly maneuvered by Western security establishments takes pride in dancing to the tunes of their masters when it is asked to do so. What happened in Iraq. There were no weapons of mass destruction but Western media created hype and provided allied forces with an excuse to attack Iraq and overthrow a government elected by people of Iraq.

In March 2010 Bob Geldof confronted Andrew Marr on a BBC report claiming the Ethiopian government used money raised for the famine to pay for weapons. Geldof and the Band Aid Trust reported the BBC to Ofcom over the incident. The BBC initially announced that it was standing by its report and claimed to have evidence to back up its stance. The BBC was forced to broadcast a series of apologies in November 2010 after realising that it did not have enough evidence that any money was spent on weapons, basing much of the unfounded claims on a CIA report it had failed to question. The BBC News at Six reporting of the American bombing raid on Libya outraged Thatcher and Conservative Party Chairman Norman Tebbit because they believed it accepted the Libyan government's propaganda about civilian casualties and because it gave no airtime to American or British spokesmen to explain their government's stance. Tebbit ordered Conservative Cen-

tral Office to compile a dossier on the BBC's reporting and then to hand it to the lawyer Lord Goodman for a critique. Goodman's critique largely agreed with the dossier's findings and on 30 October Tebbit submitted it to Lord Barnett, saying that the BBC's coverage was "a mixture of news, views, speculations, error and uncritical carriage of Libyan propaganda which does serious damage to the reputation of the BBC".

Likewise, a BBC Radio 4 documentary in 2005 claimed that it had evidence that a radio newsreader inserted the word "exactly" into a midnight time check one summer night in 1953, a code word to the Shah of Iran that Britain supported his plans for a coup. The Shah had selected the word, the documentary said, and the BBC broadcast the word at the request of the government. Apart from external factors, various internal factors have also contributed towards Pakistan's skewed image both at home and abroad. Let us begin with the role of Ministry of Foreign Affairs with regard to projection of soft image of country and its handling of foreign missions based in Islamabad or in other cities of Pakistan. During past few years, especially when a junior officer was elevated to the post of Foreign Secretary, things went topsy-turvy at the Ministry. This development not only impacted badly upon the internal working but it also contributed towards straining of relations with various foreign missions - whose biggest complaint was non-addressal of even their petty issues.

Undoubtedly, with the slightest effort, Pakistan's image abroad can be improved significantly. What the Foreign Office has to do is to listen to genuine grievances of diplomats and then help them in speedy redressal. Take the example of the ongoing operation against encroachments. The foreign missions located outside of the diplomatic enclave had to face unseemly situation when the civic body staff started removing security booths of various embassies without serving them any notices. The missions had no other option but to write to the Foreign Office and big-wig of the Islamabad Municipal Corporation and the Capital Development Authority (CDA). While the Foreign Office as usual remained unmoved, the Mayor of MCI took stock of the situation and issued a letter asking the CDA and other relevant staff to seek prior consent of the MCI before launching any operation against foreign missions besides admonishing them to treat them as state guests. The foreign missions nevertheless were nonplused to see anti-encroachment staff

again gate-crashing their premises to dismantle security booths even after issuance of the directives. It unequivocally shows lack of coordination among various institutions. So much so, some of the diplomats even went to the extent of packing up their missions from Pakistan in case such operations were not stopped and they were not treated humanely. In such circumstances how can we expect from these missions that they would encourage businessmen from their respective countries to explore business avenues in Pakistan!

Another issue that we face in terms of image problem happens to be the lackluster performance of our missions abroad. Most of Pakistan's diplomats abroad seem to be on honeymoon as we rarely hear from them that they are doing something constructive and positive to improve country's image. It is normal diplomatic practice that when a diplomat finishes his posting abroad he or she is called back to the headquarters where he or she is supposed to stay at least one year, and in some cases, two years, before proceeding to another posting. This practice ostensibly helps a diplomat get first hand information about changes that took place in his country during his or her absence. But interestingly our diplomats hardly report back to the headquarters once appointed abroad. In most of the cases they get shifted from one country to another and this practice remains in vogue till the time of their retirement. Then, the business community can also play important role in country's image building abroad by exporting quality products as per samples provided before delivery of final consignment. Unfortunately, some of the members of business community do not observe transparency while exporting their goods to other countries and thus earn a bad name and reputation for themselves and country also. That is perhaps the key reason that our exports continue to decline despite the fact that the government has extended so many facilities to business community including free fall of the dollar.

I am privy to a number of cases where our friendly countries wanted to buy our products despite the fact they did not need them, just to help Pakistan's struggling economy. However we tried to cheat with these friends also by quoting exorbitant prices. What a pity!! Summing up, those at the helms of affairs in the incumbent government need to take stock of such happenings if they really want to do something for this country.

World First Aid Day: Saving lives amid Covid-19

Khalid bin Majeed



Under the FAT program, thousands of people from public, private and corporate sector and students of almost educational institutions from schools to colleges and universities have been trained by the PRCS. In a landmark development, the PRCS first aid curriculum has also been accredited by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination

The World First Aid Day is being celebrated today around the globe, but in an entirely changed world this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) introduced the World First Aid Day in 2000 and it is celebrated on second Saturday of September every year with an aim to raise public awareness of how first aid can save lives in everyday and crisis situations as well as to encourage first aid training for all. Initially the theme for World First Aid Day 2020 was chosen as 'First Aid for Schoolchildren' but it was later changed to 'First Aid during Covid-19 Epidemic', since schools had been closed for months due to global outbreak of coronavirus.

While Covid-19 pandemic has reshaped almost the whole world, it has also given new meanings and dimensions to the first aid. Knowing first aid at all times, especially in emergencies, is important but it became extra important in the wake of Covid-19 epidemic because going to medical facilities was not recommended and people would spend more time at home. Hence, for as many people as possible, at least one in each household must know how to provide first aid to themselves and others in time of need. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is a world leader in providing first aid, and for more than 150 years, first aid has been one of the essential services provided to the injured by volunteers of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society has been continuously working on training the population on how to provide first aid during any emergency situations. Even during the Covid-19 peak days in Pakistan, when all routine trainings had been suspended, the PRCS first aid trainers, under the Corona Muhafiz Response Campaign, remained engaged in providing psychosocial support to the Covid-19 patients at their doorsteps

as well as hospitals. The premise of psychosocial support intervention was to control the side- and after-effects on psychosocial aspects of an infectious disease and attempt to minimize psychological impact with timely assessment, prevention and control. The scare of Covid-19 has been so strong and widespread that it has stolen all the attention of the world capitals due to which important health issues like the annual child immunization, blood donation campaigns, first aid training sessions and a slew of important health issues paled into insignificance. These issues have now shaped up into another serious challenge for the world to tackle. It is heartening to note that compared to the regional and international situation, the disease has subsided in Pakistan, with daily infections curtailed to a few hundred now. Though the battle is not over yet and there may be still a long way to go, the improvement in domestic situation of disease demands that other serious health-related issues, especially the stalled first aid training (FAT) program, must be addressed with dedication, devotion and commitment.

The Covid-19 pandemic also slammed the breaks on the PRCS FAT program, disabling the first aid educators from continuing their activities. However, as the situation has eased up, the PRCS has resumed its flagship FAT program on full scale under the leadership of its Chairman Abrar ul Haq. The aim of the program is to make the communities resilient to absorb shocks from any natural or manmade disasters.

Under the FAT program, thousands of people from public, private and corporate sector and students of almost educational institutions from schools to colleges and universities have been trained by the PRCS. In a landmark development, the PRCS first aid curriculum has also been accredited by the Ministry of Nation-

Health Services, Regulations and Coordination.

Currently, the PRCS is actively planning to institute a 'Red Crescent Corps' (RCC) on the pattern of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) of the past. Among other things, the first aid training will also be a core component of the RCC under which trainings for emergency response and blood campaigns will be imparted. Under a long-term strategy, the scope of RCC will be expanded to all provinces and efforts will be made to make it an integral part of early college education just like the NCC trainings. The objective of the initiative is to raise a whole generation of trained youngsters who are readily available to help out in the wake of any large-scale emergency or disaster situation in the country.

Efforts are on to make first aid part of the syllabi to achieve the aim of developing a resilient nation which is able to deal with the pre- and post-disaster shocks through better planning and response. Talks with the federal and provincial governments are in progress for incorporation of first aid in the national syllabi. The PRCS is a huge humanitarian organization with extensive network in every nook and corner of the country. Being part of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as well as a member of the ICRC and IFRC, the PRCS has movement partners in 194 countries of the world. As the international community celebrates World First Aid Day today, it is important that our government shows seriousness towards this issue and gives ownership to the first aid training program of the PRCS which will definitely help transform Pakistanis into a resilient nation.

The writer is Secretary General of Pakistan Red Crescent Society

Briefs

PCB in contact for a post: Akhtar

WEB DESK

KARACHI: Speaking to a YouTube channel, Akhtar said he is in contact with PCB for a post cricket's set-up. "Yes, I and PCB are in contact for a post but nothing is finalized yet," Akhtar shared. "See, I am ready to serve Pakistan's cricket once again with a completely changed mindset," he added. Akhtar said if he gets the opportunity to work with young cricketers, his first priority would be to inject aggression in them. "Our cricketers lack aggression. If I get the opportunity to coach youngsters, I would inject aggression in them. I will try my best to make a squad of 25-30 players and train them to become future stars. I don't want money as Alhamdulillah I am already living a comfortable life but my aim is to transfer my attitude and whatever I have learnt so far in youngsters," he concluded.

U19 trials to take place from Sep 16-19

DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced to conduct open trials for U19 cricketers across six venues including Quetta, Rawalpindi, Abbottabad, Lahore, Karachi, Multan. The trials will be conducted from September 16-19 on all six venues and the shortlisted players will get the chance to represent cricket associations in the upcoming National One-Day U19 Tournament from 13 October and National Three-Day U19 Tournament from 5 November.

Interested candidates who are born on or after 1 September 2001 will be eligible for the trials and can register themselves at 'trialregistration@pcb.com.pk' Following the two-day activity, 40 players will be short-listed for each of the six Cricket Associations, who will feature in trial matches, on 18 and 19 September, to stake claims in the final 20-player squads.

The trials will be held under strict Covid-19 protocols, which are available below along with the schedule of the trials. The players are advised to bring their own food items and energy drinks to keep themselves hydrated. National High Performance Centre coaches will be involved in the trial processes at the LCCA ground in Lahore and the Pindi Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi. Trials in Abbottabad, Karachi, Multan, Quetta will be conducted by members of the National Junior Selection Committee, who will be joined by the teams' head coaches.

Saleem Jaffar, Chairman of the National Junior Selection Committee, said: "The PCB has been encouraged by the government's decision to open educational institutions from 15 September and has now decided to hold open trials for the selection of six U19 sides for the National Three-Day and One-Day Tournaments.

Iraq: First weekly prayers since Covid-19

DNA

BAGHDAD: Thousands of supporters of Iraqi cleric Moqtada Sadr gathered at a mosque in east Baghdad on Friday for the first weekly prayers since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Iraq's mosques have been closed to gatherings for close to six months, but notoriously outspoken Sadr said on Wednesday that he would hold open-air prayers in his stronghold. In east Baghdad's Sadr City on Friday, worshippers put on medical masks and gloves and had their temperatures taken before being allowed into the courtyard of the main mosque, where volunteers were spraying disinfectant. "We urge everyone to abide by social distancing and protect themselves against this virus," the imam said in the opening of his brief sermon. Sadr had issued a list of restrictions on Twitter this week, including that worshippers must stand exactly 75 centimeters apart and sermons must last only 15 minutes.



NEW YORK: Victoria Azarenka reacts to winning against Serena Williams during a women's singles semi-final match at the 2020 US Open. - DNA

Turkey slams EU statement, says open to talks with Greece

The seven EU Mediterranean states said the bloc will draw up a list of new sanctions on Turkey at the end of September unless Ankara negotiates to resolve the dispute with Greece and Cyprus

DNA

ANKARA: Turkey's Foreign Ministry says Greece needs to "unconditionally sit at the negotiating table with Turkey" in order to achieve dialogue and cooperation in the region.

Turkey slammed a statement by European Union Mediterranean states on Friday, saying the comments it made were biased

and "detached from reality", but added Ankara was still open to unconditional talks with Greece.

Leaders of seven southern European countries on Thursday urged Turkey to end "unilateral and illegal activities" in the eastern Mediterranean and resume dialogue to ease tensions in the region.

Heads of states and government of France, Greece, Greek Cypriot Administra-

tion, Malta, Italy, Spain and Portugal gathered in Corsica. In their final statement, leaders reaffirmed their "full support and solidarity" with GCA and Greece who they say are facing Turkey's "confrontational actions." Leaders warned that "in absence of progress in engaging Turkey into a dialogue and unless it ends its unilateral activities, the EU is ready to develop a list of further

restrictive measures" at a summit later this month. The seven EU Mediterranean states said the bloc will draw up a list of new sanctions on Turkey at the end of September unless Ankara negotiates to resolve the dispute with Greece and Cyprus. Turkish Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hami Aksoy said in a statement that Greece needed to "unconditionally sit at the negotiat-

ing table with Turkey" in order to achieve dialogue and cooperation in the region, adding Athens needed to withdraw its military ships from around Turkey's Oruc Reis survey vessel in order to de-escalate tensions. A joint military exercise by the forces of Turkey and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is being successfully carried out, according to Turkey's National Defence Ministry.

The Martyr Captain Cengiz Topel Mediterranean Storm-2020 Exercise is being conducted amid rising tensions between Turkey and Greece over drilling for natural resources in the east Mediterranean. Greece has disputed Turkey's energy exploration in the eastern Mediterranean, trying to box in Turkish maritime territory based on small islands near the Turkish coast.

'Wasim inspired me to take up role'



DNA

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Mohammad Yousuf has revealed that Chief Executive Wasim Khan's vision inspired him to take up a role in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). The newly-appointed batting coach at the National High-Performance Center (NHPC) said that new appointments are the sign that they are eager to do something.

"I've said previously that I've seen few interviews of Wasim Khan, there were plenty of positive things and he along with new setup of the board, are itching to do for Pakistan cricket," Yousuf said. "New appointments of all former cricketers with whom I have played are the sign of change and I also said multiple times about my availability. This time when they (PCB) inquired me so I decided to take up the role," he added. The 46-year-old doesn't think that these new appointments are being made by the PCB to stay away from the criticism.

"In my opinion, qualification is the key while appointing someone and PCB did the same. We can not question the qualification of the likes of Waqar Younis or others," he maintained.

Muhammad Rizwan to remain first-choice Wicket Keeper, says Misbah-ul-Haq

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's head coach-cum-chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq has confirmed that Mohammad Rizwan would remain the first-choice wicketkeeper while going forward saying the Peshawar-born cricketer was doing great. Sarfaraz Ahmed was reluctant to play the final Twenty20 during the England series while Rizwan, Pakistan's first-choice wicketkeeper, played every other game and had an impressive tour; his performance with the gloves - particularly in the Test series - was widely praised. With the bat, he scored two fighting half-centuries and was named Pakistan's Player of the Series. He played the first

two T20s as well, before Ahmed replaced him for the final match. But the team management and captain Babar Azam had to convince Ahmed to play the match, assuring him his career wouldn't be defined by one game, and he still had a future with the national team. "He didn't refuse to play but raised genuine reservations over being asked to play in the last match of the tour," Misbah told ESPNcricinfo.

"The situation naturally gives you a concern and that's fair because he thought that a dip in his performance may get us to judge him going forward. Babar, Younis Khan, the batting coach and I spoke with him and told him that he did well on the tour and he should play one game without any additional pres-

sure. There was a need for clarity and we communicated effectively with him well before the game." Pakistan eventually won the game to draw the series, and while Sarfaraz had a relatively incident-free

game - he didn't bat - he did come under mild scrutiny for fluffing a golden chance to stump Moeen Ali early in his innings. Ali went on to score 61 off 33 balls, bringing England to within six runs of victory.

Misbah confirmed that going forward, Rizwan remains the first-choice wicketkeeper but insisted Ahmed had a future with the side. "It's totally wrong," Misbah said when asked if the game was Ahmed's farewell.



Beirut Port fire brought under control, says Minister Michel Najjar

DNA

BEIRUT: White smoke rose from the smoldering wreckage of Beirut's port on Friday hours after firefighters extinguished a huge fire that terrified the city's residents five weeks after a massive blast killed nearly 200 people and destroyed parts of Lebanon's capital.

It wasn't clear what caused the raging fire that broke out Thursday afternoon and covered the city with dark smoke and toxic fumes for hours, as fire fighters and army heli-

copters struggled to bring it under control. No one was hurt by the fire, the second at the port this week.

Caretaker Minister of Public Works and Transpiration Michel Najjar, whose ministry is in charge of the port, told a local TV station the fire appears to have been caused by sparks from a power tool during work at the port. The claim has been dismissed by an outraged and deeply skeptical public, with some accusing authorities of starting the fire to destroy evidence that may be found in the port wreckage. The fire led authorities

to say they have ordered the removal of dangerous materials from the country's ports and airport to avoid more such incidents that have traumatized the nation of 5 million. Military police opened an investigation into the fire. The head of Lebanon's Civil Defense said Friday the fire was extinguished and firefighters were working to cool down the area of the blaze.

On Thursday, as smoke began pouring from the facility, Beirut residents opened their apartment windows and hid in corridors fearing a repeat of the Aug. 4 blast

that killed 192, wounded 6,500, left a quarter million people homeless and caused damage worth billions of dollars. The explosion of nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate stored at the port for six years forced the government to resign six days later. The port explosion is still under investigation and negligence and mismanagement appear to be a main reason. Corruption is widespread in Lebanon, where the ruling class made up of sectarian groups has been running the country with impunity since the end of the 15-year civil war in 1990.

'EU states to take in 400 minors'

BERLIN: Ten European Union member states have agreed to take in a total of 400 unaccompanied minors left homeless after a fire laid waste to the biggest migrant camp in Greece, German Interior Minister Horst Seehofer said Friday. Germany and France will take in the bulk of the minors, each offering refuge to 100 to 150. Seehofer told a joint press conference with EU Commission's Vice-President Margaritis Schinas, who stressed that the disaster added urgency for the bloc to reform migration policy. - APP

Azarenka stuns Serena to reach final

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: Serena Williams was beaten 1-6 6-3 6-3 in the semi-finals of the U.S. Open by Victoria Azarenka on Thursday, denying her the chance of winning a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title on home soil this year. Belarusian Azarenka will play Japan's Naomi Osaka in her third final at Flushing Meadows on Saturday, having lost the previous two to Williams in 2012 and 2013. Six-times U.S. Open champion Williams came out firing winners from all sides of the Arthur Ashe Stadium court and wrapped up the opening set in little more than half an hour. Azarenka, playing her first Grand Slam semi-final in seven years, raised her game in the second stanza and came out on top after some explosive exchanges of power-hitting. The twice Australian Open champion kept up the pressure in the third as 38-year-old Williams struggled with an injury to her left ankle and sealed her place in the final with an ace.

Afghan peace talks to begin today

KABUL: Long-delayed peace talks between the Taliban and Afghan government negotiators begin today in Qatar, officials and the Taliban announced. "The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan would like to declare its readiness to take part in the inauguration ceremony of the intra-Afghan negotiations that shall be held in Qatar on September 12," the Taliban said in a statement. The presidential palace said government negotiators would head to Doha on Friday to participate in the talks. In a separate statement, the foreign ministry of Qatar also confirmed peace talks will begin Saturday. "These direct negotiations between the various spectrums of the Afghan people are a serious and important step towards establishing sustainable peace in Afghanistan," the ministry said. Talks were originally supposed to start in March but were repeatedly delayed as the Taliban and the Afghan government completed a prisoner exchange.

UK signs 'historic' trade deal with Japan

DNA

LONDON: The United Kingdom has struck its first post-Brexit trade deal with Japan, hailing the agreement as an "historic moment", just as it is struggling to clinch a deal with its closest trading partners in the European Union. The UK said the deal, which had been agreed in principle, meant 99 percent of its exports to Japan would be tariff-free. Digital and data provisions in the agreement went "far beyond" those in the EU's trade deal with Japan, helping British financial technology firms operating in the Asian country, it said. Financial services firms, food producers, coat-makers and biscuit bakers - as well as cheese producers - would benefit from the agreement which represented an "important step" towards the UK joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) in the Asia-Pacific region.

Experts from Central and South Asia discuss improving connectivity in the region

DNA

TASHKENT: The international video-conference "China - Pakistan Economic Corridor and Central Asia: Emerging connectivity opportunities" was held with the participation of leaders and experts from analytical and research centers from China, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. According to the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS), during the online dialogue, an exchange of views took place on the current situation in the Central and South Asia, the implementation of China's Belt and Road Ini-

tiative, the China - Pakistan Economic Corridor, and other projects designed to strengthen the connectivity of the region's countries. Speaking at the conference, head of the ISMI Department Sadullo Rasulov noted Tashkent's interest in implementing energy and transport and logistics projects that can ensure the formation of a network of sustainable strategic communications between the regions of Central and South Asia. In this regard, S.Rasulov recalled that Uzbekistan has forwarded a number of initiatives aimed at increasing connectivity in Central Asia. Among them, an important role is assigned to the construction of Uzbekistan - Kyrgyzstan - China railway, which is designed to

unlock the transport potential of the region and form China - Central Asia - Western Asia economic corridor. The importance of this road lies in the fact that it is the shortest route from China to the European and the Middle East countries. Compared to the existing routes, the distance will be reduced by 900 km, and the delivery time will be reduced by 7-8 days. Uzbekistan is also promoting a number of projects that will connect Central Asia by the shortest route through Afghanistan with Pakistan and the Middle East, provide an opportunity for the states of South Asia and the Middle East to enter the CIS and Europe markets.

The first is the construction of Mazar-i-Sharif - Kabul - Peshawar railway with access to Pakistan's Gwadar and Karachi ports. The second is the construction of Mazar-i-Sharif - Herat - Qandahar railway with access to Iran's Chabahar port. The ISRS expert pointed to the prospect of a possible conjugation of the corridor to Peshawar with flagship project "Belt and Road" - "China - Pakistan Economic Corridor". Taking into account the infrastructure development in Gwadar, this port will have every reason to become a key regional hub. He emphasized that Uzbekistan supports the implementation of such energy projects as TAPI, CASA-1000, and PTL-500

Surkhan - Puli-Khumri, not limited to laying transport corridors. According to him, transport communications and a unified energy infrastructure solve not only the problems of connectivity. They also serve to create new jobs, stimulate trade, motivate development, and thereby form the necessary socio-economic basis for the process of political settlement of the crisis in Afghanistan. In addition, the region's economic development programs will serve as a key factor in building consensus among regional countries on the need for early achievement of long-term and sustainable peace in this long-suffering country

Briefs

Greece:
Thousands
spend third
night in the
open

LESBOS ISLAND: Thousands of asylum seekers on the Greek island of Lesbos spent a third night in the open Friday after the country's largest camp burned down, as France, Germany and the Netherlands offered to take in hundreds of them, especially children.

Desperate families, many with young children were living rough, homeless and hungry, many without tents or even basic bedding. "We've lost everything, we were abandoned, without food, water or medicine," said Fatma Al-Hani, a Syrian woman who barely had time to grab her identity papers before the flames engulfed the camp. Germany and France on Thursday agreed on an initiative for EU states to share out some 400 minors from the camp, a source close to the talks told media. "As a preliminary step we are offering to Greece to accept refugees who are minors - other steps must follow," German Chancellor Angela Merkel told a panel discussion in Berlin. The European Union must "assume more shared responsibility" for migration policy, Merkel said. Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis wants that kind of sentiment transformed into action.

"Europe must move from words of solidarity to a policy of acts of solidarity. We have to put the migration crisis at the heart of our discussions and be much more concrete," he said at a summit of Mediterranean leaders in Corsica. The Netherlands offered to take in 100 of the migrants, half of them minors. - APP

Pompeo to
visit Cyprus
on Saturday

DNA

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday he will visit Cyprus to seek a peaceful solution to mounting Mediterranean tensions as he called on Turkey to pull back its forces. Pompeo will hold talks in Cyprus on Saturday after a trip to Doha where he will help inaugurate long-awaited talks between Afghanistan's government and the Taliban.

The top US diplomat said his trip to Cyprus would complement phone calls by President Donald Trump with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. The dispute "has to be resolved in a way that's diplomatic and peaceful," Pompeo told reporters on his plane. "So I'll be working on that project as well, trying to make sure that I understand the risks that are associated from the people of Cyprus' perspective," he said. Pompeo credited Germany with seeking to lower tensions. France has also been active on the maritime rift and has staunchly backed Greece and Cyprus. "We hope there will be real conversations and we hope the military assets that are there will be withdrawn so that these conversations can take place," Pompeo said. Turkey, which is hunting for gas and oil reserves in waters claimed by fellow NATO member Greece, last month deployed an exploration vessel backed by military frigates.

Pakistan warns of BJP-RSS
extremist ideology at UN

The conscious plan to destroy the Islamic cultural identity and change the Muslims demography of Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir is a serious violation of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, says Munir Akram

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: Voicing concern that UN principles are being flouted, a top Pakistani diplomat has described as a "grave violation of international norms" the 1992 destruction of the historic Babri Mosque in the Indian city of Ayodhya and the construction now underway of a Hindu Temple on its site. Speaking in a virtual High-Level Forum on the Culture of Peace, Ambassador Munir Akram said that Pakistan supported the UN Plan to Safeguard Religious Sites, but warned of the threats by extremists of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its affiliate Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to destroy hundreds of other mosques and historic Islamic religious sites across India. "Likewise," the Pakistani envoy added, "the conscious plan to destroy the

Islamic cultural identity and change the Muslims demography of Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir is a serious violation of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention."

In the past 75 years, Ambassador Akram said that mankind had made unprecedented progress towards a world order based, not only on power, but human values.

"This world order and international peace, however, are now under grave threat. The principles of UN are being flouted with impunity. Conflicts are proliferating and intensifying," he told delegates.

The coronavirus crisis, instead of uniting humanity, has accentuated and revealed our differences and divisions, the Pakistani envoy added.

"Intolerance, bigotry and prejudice are on the rise. Extreme right-wing populism is resurgent. Hate



speech has found its way into political and social discourse. Inequality within societies, and among nations, is widening. Truth has become a victim of expediency; falsehood has become the currency of discord." Guided by Qaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision, he said Pakistan has always sought to defend the principles of justice

and peace. Each year in the UN General Assembly, Pakistan - together with the Philippines - moves a resolution on the Promotion of Inter-religious and Inter-cultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, Ambassador Akram pointed out.

"The Riyasat-e-Madinah is a unique example in history of governance based on

equality, justice, tolerance and peace. It laid down the foundations for the golden age of Islam - in Arabia, Spain and South Asia - where peace was built on the values of tolerance and cooperation." Pakistan, he said, has constructed the world's biggest Gurdwara in Kartarpur to facilitate Sikh pilgrims, and Prime Minister Imran Khan opened the

corridor between India and Pakistan last year, a project the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres termed a "corridor of hope".

"The international community must utilize the political will to promote the culture of peace within and among nations," Ambassador Akram added.

Opening the event, the UN chief said while the COVID-19 pandemic continues to upend economies and societies, it also threatening to erode trust in public institutions and democracy, but people everywhere must continue to pursue peace.

"Not since the United Nations was founded have we faced such a complex and multidimensional threat to global peace and security," Guterres said. "In the face of this grave danger, it is more important than ever to work for a culture of peace, as the essential foundation for global cooperation and action."

Huge blast
rocks Jordan
arms depot

DNA

AMMAN: A huge blast rocked a Jordanian military munitions depot early Friday sparking a large fire, but there were no reports of casualties at the base situated in an uninhabited area. "An explosion occurred in the early hours of Friday ... in a warehouse containing unusable mortar bombs belonging to the armed forces," the government spokesman said in a statement. The blast happened in the city of Zarqa, 25 kilometres (15 miles) east of the capital Amman, where several Jordanian bases and depots are located. Images which swiftly spread on social media showed a huge ball of flame rising into the night sky, followed by the sound of several explosions. Government spokesman Amjad al-Adaleh said in his statement that "so far no injuries have been recorded". An initial investigation had determined that "the explosion was caused by an electrical short circuit in warehouses situated in an isolated and uninhabited area" which was under camera surveillance.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Russia Ganich Danila delivering a lecture at the National Defence University. - DNA

PTC partners with TMB
to digitize business route

The cooperation deal was signed by Syed Ali Akbar, Marketing Director, PTC and Khurram Malik, Head of Easypaisa, Telenor Microfinance Bank

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tobacco Company Limited has signed an agreement with Telenor Microfinance Bank to digitize its Route to Market structure. The agreement paves the way for introduction of digital transaction channels into PTC's supply chain by enabling digital payments between merchants and distributors through the Bank's mobile banking platform Easypaisa.

The cooperation deal was signed by Syed Ali Akbar,

Marketing Director, PTC and Khurram Malik, Head of Easypaisa, Telenor Microfinance Bank at a local hotel in Islamabad.

While commenting on this partnership with Telenor Microfinance Bank, Syed Ali Akbar, Marketing Director, PTC said that the partnership will not only enable our distributors, salespersons and retailers to operate in a cashless modus operandi by solving cash management issues but will also facilitate quick fund transfers and instant cash loans for them. He added that technological

advances and innovation can play a key role in business progress and to add value to stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion, Khurram Malik, Head of Easypaisa, Telenor Microfinance Bank said, "Digital enablement today allows organizations to reap significant benefits in terms of cost reduction and increase in turnover ratios. It is our goal to provide a reliable and convenient banking infrastructure to individuals and businesses across the country through collaboration with like-minded companies".

'MNFSR fails
to implement
NFS policy'

KARACHI: FPCCI's Businessmen Panel Secretary General (Federal) Chaudhry Ahmad Jawad said on Friday from 1985 to 1992, the country witnessed major breakthrough in cotton production, and at that time, cotton production increased to 12.8 million bales. It was a paradigm shift, in which Punjab produced 11.4m bales while Sindh produced 1.4m bales. In 2017, cotton production was 11.93m bales which fell to 9.861m in 2018 before slightly recovering to 9.451m in 2019. Talking to media, he said Cotton production in the country is experiencing a declining trend over the past few years, and interestingly Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) is operating without a full-time chief executive and requisite staff in their different centres. - DNA



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FPCCI holds international seminar on insurance

DNA

KARACHI: FPCCI Standing Committee on Insurance and Lahore Insurance Institute (LII) jointly organized an international online seminar titled, "Impact of COVID 19 on Insurance Sector - Opportunities and Challenges". The webinar was attended by over 100 participants from the insurance sector and the business community of the country. Dr Murtaza Mughal, Convener FPCCI Central Standing Committee on Insurance inaugurated the seminar and welcomed the participants and appreciated the initiative of LII in organizing the event. Speaking at the occasion, Chief Guest Mr John Thorpe, Senior Vice President,



Guy Carpenter Insurance Brokers explained the impact of the pandemic on the insurance sector, global reinsurance markets and insurance products like travel, health and business continuity insurance. Mian Zahid Hussain, Guest of Honour and former provincial minister in his address stressed upon close coordination among business community. He expressed dissatisfaction over low insurance penetration in the coun-

try and assured of full support in this regard. Muhammad Hisham, Chairman Lahore Insurance Institute briefed the participants about business interruption insurance and its importance in catastrophic events like recent rains in Karachi. He called upon UNDP to include Pakistan in the list of countries for the proposed Pandemic Insurance Pool for SMEs of 13 developing countries in which Pakistan has

not yet been included. He also stressed upon the government to create unemployment insurance pool as prevalent in the developing world. Mr Assad ur Rehman, CEO, Unique Insurance Brokers stressed on the need to develop innovative insurance products and embracing technology. He also requested FPCCI to play its role along with IAP in reducing heavy taxes on the struggling insur-

ance sector. Dr Murtaza Mughal said that the extraordinary times have opened up unique opportunities and underscored the need for risk cover at all levels of society.

Nowadays, the most common emotion being faced by each one of us is fear making us anxious and panicky. Presently there is no cure for COVID-19 hence it is natural to feel anxious, he said, adding that health issues go hand in hand with financial issues, therefore, it is important to focus on financial immunity for turbulent times. Health insurance is critical to ensure financial immunity to avoid disruptions in the life and finances of a person.

China, India
agree to
disengage at
border

DNA

BEIJING: India and China have agreed to "disengage as soon as possible" after troops engaged in a series of clashes at their disputed Himalayan border, according to a joint statement from the two countries. The nuclear-armed neighbours accused each other this week of firing shots across the flashpoint border - intensifying a months-long standoff that has already claimed at least 20 lives. Tens of thousands of troops from both sides have been deployed to the border, which sits at an altitude of more than 4,000 metres (13,500 feet). After a meeting Thursday between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar in Moscow, a joint statement said the two sides had agreed to de-escalate. "The border defense forces of both countries should continue dialogue, disengage as soon as possible, maintain the necessary distance, and ease the situation on the ground," the statement said.

Syria reports
Israeli missile
strike near
Aleppo

WEB DESK

DAMASCUS: Israel launched a missile strike near Syria's main northern city of Aleppo early Friday prompting air defences to respond, Syrian state media reported.

"At 1:30 am (2230 GMT Thursday), the Zionist enemy carried out an air attack, targeting the outskirts of Aleppo with salvos of missiles," state media said. The news agency did not specify what the target was but said that air defences had "intercepted most of the missiles". Israel has carried out hundreds of air and missile strikes on Syria since the civil war broke out in 2011, targeting Iranian and Hezbollah forces as well as government troops. The Israeli army rarely acknowledges individual strikes, but did confirm on August 3 that it had used fighter jets, attack helicopters and other aircraft to hit military targets in southern Syria. In recent weeks, presumed Israeli strikes have hit targets across government-held territory in Syria, from areas near the armistice line on the Golan Heights to the town of Albu Kamal on the Iraqi border in the far east.

After nine years of civil war, the Syrian government and its allies now control most of the country but the northwest remains in rebel hands while the northeast is controlled by Kurdish forces.

Briefs

Turkish delegation visits KP Assembly

PESHAWAR: The Turkish delegation headed by Vice Chairman of Turkey OZ Istanbul Group of Companies on Friday visited Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly and held meeting with the Speaker and Deputy Speaker. During meeting both sides discussed the issues of mutual interests, promotion of tourism in the province and allied issues in tourism sector. Moreover, the meeting agreed to provide opportunities for the Turkish business community by providing all facilities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The meeting stressed the need to strengthen business relations between Turkey and Pakistan. The delegation visited digitized Assembly Hall, and was briefed about it. Earlier, the Turkish delegation met Secretary Tourism Department Abid Majeed and discussed issues of mutual interest, investment opportunities in tourism and promotion of tourism sector in the province. — APP

Terminals for ferry service to be established at ports

ISLAMABAD: The terminals for ferry service at Karachi Port, Port Qasim and Gwadar Port would be established to facilitate people who want to travel all possible destinations across the world. At present, there was no international or national commercial ferry/passenger ships service operating in Pakistan for the purpose of transportation of passengers, said Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Haider Zaidi tweeted on Friday. "In pursuance of Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision of blue economy, Federal Cabinet allowed Maritime Affairs initiative to start Ferry/Passenger Ships to all possible destinations across the world", he wrote on. He termed it a historic day, adding that Maritime frontiers now open for sea travel. The potential for initiating a ferry service in Pakistan has been felt for quite some time, especially in the context of providing an alternate route to people. — APP

'Motorway rape case a challenge for police'

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Social Welfare Raja Basharat has said that the incident of robbery and rape of a woman on the motorway was as unfortunate for the Chief Minister of Punjab and the government as it is for the people and effective prosecution will be ensured after the arrest. He was speaking to the media Friday after inspecting the site along with the CM investigation committee. He said that the Chief Minister had full focus on this case and he was committed to provide justice to the affected family. Raja Basharat said that this case was a challenge for Lahore police and our priority was to arrest the accused as soon as possible. Commenting on the CCPO's statement, he said that the statement of an officer could be viewed separately and administratively but it would not be allowed to affect the independent investigation. "Investigative teams are investigating the incident while IG Punjab has also set up a special inquiry committee. The government is fully aware of the sentiments of the people and no aspect will be kept secret from them" he said, adding that investigations were being carried out from all angles in the light of which policies would be formulated to prevent such incidents in future.

Ali Zaidi, Uzbek Dy PM discuss trade routes

The trade volume of Uzbekistan and Pakistan has increased significantly in the past couple of years and with establishing an efficient trade corridor it will increase manifold

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Syed Ali Haider Zaidi on Friday called on Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister for Investment and Foreign Trade, Sardor Umurzakov and discussed establishment of trade routes and utilization of Pakistani seaports to connect Central Asian Republics to the world. The Uzbek delegation was also included First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs,

First Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade and Investments, Deputy Minister of Transport and Chairman of Uzbekistan Airways JSC, said a news release. The minister said Pakistan would utilize its potential of regional connectivity by linking landlocked Central Asian Republics to the world through seaports. Uzbekistan, a landlocked Central Asian Republic has export markets in gulf countries, southeast Asia, Europe and Africa. The cheapest route is through

Pakistani ports. Pakistani side expressed readiness to provide consultations and technical assistance in finding the best ways for use of the developed infrastructure of Gwadar, Karachi and Kasym ports by Uzbekistan. A group of Uzbek transport experts will be dispatched to Pakistan in the nearest time. The sides agreed that unimpeded access of Uzbek and Pakistani goods to the markets of two countries will allow to boost bilateral trade.

A dedicated terminal for goods from the Central Asian States and ease in the transit after the completion of MLL project was discussed in detail. A dedicated shipping fleet for central Asian exports was also proposed. The trade volume of Uzbekistan and Pakistan has increased significantly in the past couple of years and with establishing an efficient trade corridor it will increase manifold. Formation of a Joint Working group was also pro-

posed to further discuss the modalities for the execution of this plan. Pakistan has the requisite environment to benefit from this opportunity as the incumbent government's business friendly policies and the new shipping policy will strengthen Pakistan's role as the shortest and cheapest route to the world, hence making it a gateway to Central, South and Southeast Asia. Earlier on Thursday, The Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, Sardor

Umurzakov arrived in Islamabad on an official visit. Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce, Abdul Razak Dawood received him at Nur Khan Airbase. Talking to the media on the occasion, Razak Dawood said Pakistan desires to strengthen its relations with the Central Asian States in diverse fields. He expressed the confidence that the visit of the Uzbek Deputy Prime Minister will help further promote trade between the two countries.

Petroleum Division organizes seminar

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Petroleum Division organized a national seminar to deliberate upon the issues of natural gas supply and pricing matters on September 9, 2020 at Prime Minister Secretariat, Islamabad.

The Seminar witnessed strong participation from Federal Government, Parliamentarians, Provincial Ministers, provincial energy departments, corporate executives and energy experts. The discourse was very productive and led to suggestions on the way forward for issues pertaining to Gas sector of Pakistan. In his keynote address, the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Imran Khan appreciated the efforts of Minister for Energy Mr. Omar Ayub Khan, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Petroleum Mr. Nadeem Babar and Petroleum Division over holding debate on gas sector and emphasized the need to outline a long-term strategy to address shortages & circular debt challenges keeping in view national interest.

Federal Minister for Energy Mr. Omar Ayub Khan voiced the hope that the current Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan would address the daunting challenge of energy crisis to and would achieve supply of affordable energy to the people. He added that energy sector should be prioritized as a vital national interest and dealt with mutual coordination of Provinces and Federation to take the maximum benefit of natural resources of the country. SAPM on Petroleum Mr. Nadeem Babar noted that the serious challenges in terms of gas availability from domestic sources had hit the country because of insufficient Exploration & Production activities in the last 10 years while the demand was rising steadily.

"PRP" wins Int'l Literacy Program of the year

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United States Library of Congress announced the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) literacy program, "Pakistan Reading Project," as the 2020 recipient of the International Literacy Program of the Year.

Over the past seven years, and working in tandem with Pakistani education officials, USAID's Pakistan Reading Project has improved the reading skills of 1.7 million Pakistani students by delivering reading instructional materials to classrooms, training teachers in new instruction techniques, and encouraging schools to dedicate more classroom time for reading. This early grade literacy project has also worked closely with the Government of Pakistan to improve policies and systems for early grade reading across national, provincial, and local levels. "We're very honored and pleased that the Pakistan Reading Project is this year's Library of Congress recipient of this International Literacy Award," said USAID/Pakistan Mission Director Julie Koenen. "The program has proved to be a cornerstone of our partnership with Pakistan in education by increasing the literacy rates across the country and improving the reading of so many Pakistani students."

Karachi's first woman SHO claims 'harassment'

DNA

KARACHI: A female police official of the Sindh police, Inspector Ghazala, on Friday blamed the provincial law enforcement authority's officials for harassing her. Ghazala was the first woman station house officer (SHO) to be appointed in Karachi's Clifton neighbourhood. She on Friday came up with harassment allegations against her seniors, without naming anyone, and said that some of the police officials in the department were harassing her. Her claims have emerged after multiple cases of rape and harassment against women have emerged from across the country in the past couple of days. It is pertinent to mention here that the woman, a resident of Gujranwala, was going back to the city from Lahore when her car ran out of petrol in the Gujranwala area at the motorway on Tuesday night. She waited for her husband and called the Motorway Police's emergency helpline 130 for help. While she was stranded on the road, two unidentified persons from the nearby area approached the car and forcefully brought the woman out of the vehicle and allegedly raped her in the nearby fields.

Senate body on IT, Telecom meets

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication, was held on Friday at Parliament House. The issues taken up pertained to payment of increase of pensions as per recommendations of the Committee's report adopted by the Senate in its sitting held on 28 January, 2020, non-availability of internet facility in areas of Daag, Arangi and Battu in Balochistan and propagation of defamation of Parliamentarians with particular reference to Senator Kalsoom Parveen.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Syed Ali Haider Zaidi meeting with Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister for Investment and Foreign Trade, Sardor Umurzakov. — DNA

Pak-China youth entrepreneurship to enhance under BRI: CIFTIS

DNA

BEIJING: The Forum on International Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship in BRI, a subactivity of China Beijing International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) that held here reiterated the two countries' resolve to boost their cooperative partnership. According to Gwadar Pro, topics for discussion included international

youth innovative development and youth entrepreneurship cultivation. All Pakistan-China Friendship Association (APCFA) represented by General Secretary Farwa Zafar, and member Kashif Qutub took part in this event online. In addition, youth from China and countries across Asia, Africa and Europe also participated in the forum. According to Farwa Zafar, participants have been benefited and connected to many innovative pro-

grammes presented at this forum. "Cultural differences and sensitivities to know for doing successful business in China by Yuri Khylostov was a topic much appreciated by APCFA as an activity to pursue in the Sino-Pakistan business community in future," she said. Qin Feng, the Chairman of the BRI Youth Alliance, highlighted the power of innovation in the construction of the BRI and how it of-

fered opportunities for youth to be engaged as active players. The forum also launched the International Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative, which will promote international youth innovation and entrepreneurship cooperation through the platform of CIFTIS. Farwa said that the forum provided Pakistani youth many innovative opportunities which can help them join CPEC projects.

Two sub-groups to look into GIDC issue

The Adviser directed that two separate sub-groups will be formed to look into the issue of GIDC to propose 2-3 workable options for the amicable solution

SAUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh chaired two separate meetings here at the Finance Division with the group of representatives from fertilizer industry and APTMA to discuss the issue of Gas Infrastructure Development Cess, GIDC. SAPM on Petroleum Mr. Nadeem Babar and Minister for Industries Mr. Hammad Azhar were also present during the meetings. Offi-

cial of the Ministry of Finance, Petroleum Division and FBR also assisted during the meeting. Lt. Gen. (Retd) Tariq Khan, Chairman, FMPAC and Chairman APTMA, Dr. Amanullah Kassim Machiyara in two separate meetings requested the Adviser Finance to extend the time limit for the payment of GIDC so that both industries have a better liquidity position. The Adviser discussed the issue in detail with the participants of the meeting and provided due opportunity to share their views supported by the

relevant facts. The Adviser on Finance however underlined that decision of the honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan has to be implemented. SAPM on Petroleum and Minister for Industries also briefed the meeting. After detailed deliberations the Chair decided that the issue will be resolved in the light of the decision of the court but the government will also support the industry in the post Corona environment. The Adviser directed that two separate sub-groups will be formed to look into the issue of

Court extends Safdar Awan's interim bail

DNA

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court of Lahore on Friday extended interim bail of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader, Captain retired Safdar Awan till September 16 in a case related to violent clashes outside National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) office. On August 12, chaos was witnessed outside NAB office after PML-N workers clashed with police personnel ahead of party leader Maryam Nawaz's appearance before the bureau. The plea was taken up by ATC Judge Arshad Hussain Bhutta. After hearing the arguments from both sides, the court extended interim bail of Safdar Awan till September 16.

Pakistan, China share a common vision: Sanjrani

Chairman Senate hosts farewell dinner for the outgoing ambassador of China YaoJing

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has said that Pakistan and China have exponentially enhanced cooperation on a number of fronts and such cooperation is reflective of strong ties and linkages at both government and parliamentary levels. He expressed these views at a reception hosted in honor of the outgoing Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing here at Islamabad on Friday. He said that augmenting relations with China is the cornerstone of our foreign

policy, and our friendship with China represents national consensus and the common desire of all Pakistani people. "We support and commend President Xi Jinping's visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that aims at enhancing regional and international connectivity", Chairman Senate remarked. He further added that this vision resonates with Pakistan's own resolve and commitment to promote peace, development and prosperity through cooperation, inclusivity and mutual respect. Chinese Ambassador presented 3rd volume of "The



Governance of China" to the Chairman Senate. The book is a compilation of speeches of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Chairman Senate expressed his gratitude to Ambassador Yao Jing for this wonderful gesture of presenting the 3rd Volume of "The Gov-

ernance of China" to the Senate of Pakistan. He also congratulated President Xi Jinping, for documenting another volume of his highly revered collection of speeches and writings on the subject. Chairman Senate expressed his confidence that Pakistan and China will continue to explore numerous avenues of further cooperation. He said that Pakistan and China have a shared vision of regional prosperity and cooperation between the two reflects trust and confidence. He underlined the need for more linkages at different levels for the

benefit of the people of two sides. He also expressed his well wishes to the outgoing Ambassador. Speaking on the occasion Chinese Ambassador said that Pakistan and China are peace loving countries. Both the countries also love their integrity and sovereignty. We have stood together through thick and thin. We work together for international justice and collective regional development and connectivity. We are together on principal stance of Kashmir cause. It is an emotional moment as Pakistan has not been part of my job but also my life.