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SCO welcomes start of intra-Afghanistan peace talks in Doha

Chief of Army Staff Gen Bajwa lauds readiness of forces

India losing its credibility globally: Foreign Minister



Briefs

President stresses cyber security

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Wednesday said considering the growing risks of cyber attacks, it was a must to secure the cyber space for protection and security of online data of citizens, businesses and public institutions. Chairing a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Cyber / Information Security here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, he said Pakistan had embarked upon the journey of digital transformation that had increased the risks of cyber attacks. He underscored the need for collaborative efforts by all the stakeholders to secure the cyber space. The president was briefed upon different initiatives being taken by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications.

'Nawaz to return only after treatment'

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif said on Wednesday that it was not possible for his brother and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif to return to the country without getting treatment. The PML-N president's statement comes a day after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Nawaz Sharif during a hearing over the former prime minister's petition requesting exemption from court appearance.

Centre, Balochistan to transform region: Asim

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the PM Lt Gen (retd) Asim Bajwa said collaboration of central and provincial governments for development of Balochistan would transform the region and bring prosperity for the locals. Asim Bajwa, who is also Chairman of the CPEC Authority, said in a tweet, "As Gwadar City and Port is coming up fast, an unprecedented level of seriousness by the govt in Islamabad and Quetta for uplifting South Balochistan." - APP

Parliament passes FATF related bills

Opposition stages walk out; blames Speaker for being partial; PM Imran also attends the joint sitting

NAVEED MIRAJ / DNA

ISLAMABAD: A joint sitting of parliament on Wednesday passed amendments in three bills crucial to the fulfillment of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) requirements. Prime Minister Imran Khan also attended the session summoned by President Arif Alvi and chaired by National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser. The opposition staged a walk out in protest after having noisily rejected proposed amendments to some clauses of the bills. The three bills that were passed with amendments were the Islamabad Capital Territory Waqf Properties Bill, 2020, Anti-Money Laundering (Second Amendment) Bill and the Anti-Terrorism Act (amendment) Bill, 2020. According to Radio Pakistan, the Islamabad Capital Territory Waqf Properties Bill is aimed at proper management, supervision, and administration of Waqf properties in the territorial limits of Islamabad Capital Territory. The Anti-Money Laundering (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020 is "aimed at streamlining the existing anti money laundering law in line with international standards prescribed by FATF", said the publication. At the outset of the session, Adviser to the

PM congratulates coalition partners

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said that gang-rape incident on motorway near Gujarpura has shaken the entire country. Addressing the Joint Session of the Parliament in Islamabad on Wednesday, he said that the government is planning to bring the legislation after the motorway gang-rape incident to prevent such incidents. The prime minister said that the prime suspect in motorway gang-rape incident Abid Ali was involved in gang-rape incident. He committed the heinous crime again after he was not given strict punishment.

Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs Dr Babar Awan tabled the bill pertaining to Qaqf properties. A voice vote was conducted and the motion to table the bill was passed. Subsequently, the NA speaker proceeded to conduct a vote count, asking the parliamentarians in favour to stand up. On the motion to present the bill, 200 voted in favour and 190 opposed it.

Shibli lauds services of Chinese envoy

Pakistan, China's relationship is moving forward in accordance with the leadership's vision: Yao Jing



ISLAMABAD: Senator Shibli Faraz, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting in a meeting with Yao Jing, the Chinese Ambassador. - DNA

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing called on Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz in Islamabad Wednesday. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz said that the addition of agricultural component in China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would help in developing scientific farming, increasing crop yield and ensuring food security in the country.

The minister said that cultural diplomacy was vital in promoting people-to-people contacts and enhancing understanding of each other's values and traditions. He said cultural events in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan as well as in Gilgit-Baltistan would be well received. Apart from other relevant institutions, Lok Virsa would also provide the necessary coordination for enhancing cultural outreach and facilitate the Chinese cultural troupes, said a press release.

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ISLAMABAD: The ambassadors of the European Union and its Member States met with Dr Sania Nishtar, SAPM on Poverty Reduction, for a highly interesting exchange on the success and challenges of the Ehsaas programme. - DNA

PM vows to pursue rape case to conclusion

FAIZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has expressed his commitment to pursue the recent motorway rape incident case to the conclusion and getting the culprits punished in accordance with the law. He expressed the determination while presiding over a high level meeting in Lahore on the law and order situation in Punjab, availability and prices of essential goods and commodities, and welfare projects. He showed his serious concern over the incidents of rape of children and women.

As the meeting was also briefed on the progress of recent motorway rape case, it was discussed and deliberated on the introduction of one emergency number throughout the country as well as the establishment of a central database of crimes.

Indian troops martyr 2 Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD: Indian troops in their fresh acts of state terrorism martyred two Kashmiri youth including one in custody in Baramulla district, Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). According to Kashmir Media Service, the Indian troops and police arrested a youth identified as Irfan Ahmed during a cordon and search operation at Tujer Sharief in Sopore area of the district, last night, and later killed him in custody. The occupation authorities have suspended internet service in the town to prevent people from getting information about the incident and deployed Indian forces' personnel in strength to stop demonstrations against the killing. - APP

India losing credibility globally: FM Qureshi

"Indian occupied Kashmir is an internationally recognised disputed territory, and there are also UN resolutions about the issue," said Qureshi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said on Wednesday that India is losing its "credibility on international forums" because of its aggressive posturing in the region, reported Radio Pakistan. In a statement, Qureshi said India's objection to Pakistan's political map at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) meeting of national security advisers was rejected. He added that it was an "embarrassment" for India. "Russia, being the host of the meeting, did not accept



India's perspective," said Qureshi, adding that New Delhi violated the SCO rules by raising a bilateral issue at the platform. "Indian occupied Kashmir is an internationally recognised disputed territory, and there are also UN resolutions about the issue," said Qureshi. The foreign minister, while highlighting India's action

in Ladakh, said that China repeatedly offered India to resolve issues through dialogue, but New Delhi adopted an aggressive posture, and then faced humiliation. On Tuesday, Advisor to PM on National Security Moeed Yusuf said that India had raised its concerns in the SCO national security advisers' meeting on Pakistan's new political map and demanded that it not be displayed during his speech. Speaking to media, Yusuf said that Pakistan had responded in writing to India's objections, making it clear that the map was the country's right.

COAS lauds forces' readiness



NAVEED MIRAJ

RAWALPINDI: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Gujranwala on Wednesday. COAS was briefed about operational, training and administrative matters of the Central Command Formations. Later, COAS inaugurated Burraq Combat Skills Training Complex (BCSTC) aimed at enhancing mecha-

nised elements' crew proficiency in overcoming obstacles encountered during offensive operations. COAS also witnessed integrated training of the strike formation. All elements including armoured, Artillery, Engineers and Mechanized Infantry demonstrated operational combat worthiness. COAS appreciated operational readiness of the strike formation and high morale of troops.

Shahbaz slams NA speaker

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, Shehbaz Sharif, on Wednesday lashed out at the Speaker of the National Assembly, Asad Qaiser, for not letting opposition leaders speak during the joint session of the parliament. A joint sitting of parliament, earlier today, passed amendments in three bills crucial to the fulfillment of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) requirements. The opposition staged a walkout in protest after most of their proposed amendments to the bills were rejected and they were not allowed to speak. "Asad Qaiser did not allow a debate to take place on our proposed amendments [to the bills]," said Shehbaz, flanked by PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and other opposition parliamentarians.

Rashakai SEZ to boost Pakistan's economy

BEIJING: A Chinese foreign ministry's spokesperson said on Wednesday that the development of Rashakai Special Economic Zone would boost high quality development of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and inject a new momentum into Pakistan's economic development. "It will surely boost high quality development of the CPEC and inject new momentum into Pakistan's economic development," Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing in a response to APP question regarding signing of development agreement of Rashakai SEZ between China and Pakistan. - APP

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Defence Day of Pakistan celebrated in Paris - Page 07

Pakistan stands with China on Global data security: Officials - Page 08

USAID's Project helped 1.7 million children

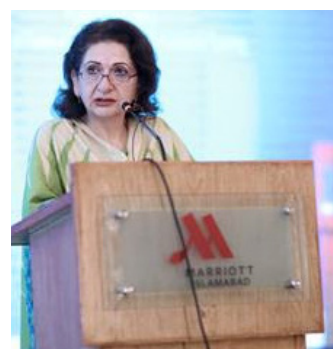
The project developed and distributed 7.3 million copies of learning material for teachers and students in five languages, including Urdu, Sindhi, Pashto, Balochi, Brahui; and two dialects of Sindhi and Pashto

DNA

ISLAMABAD: After seven years of partnering with the Government of Pakistan's federal and provincial education leaders to improve the reading skills of more than a million Pakistani school children, the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Pakistan Reading Project concluded its programming on September 14. To mark the occasion, education officials from the governments of Pakistan and the United States, along with USAID's implementing partner, the International Rescue Committee, held a ceremony at the Islamabad Marriott Hotel to showcase the program's success. The Pakistan Reading Project benefitted 1.7 million

children through training more than 27,000 teachers in reading instruction across Pakistan. The project developed and distributed 7.3 million copies of learning material for teachers and students in five languages, including Urdu, Sindhi, Pashto, Balochi, Brahui; and two dialects of Sindhi and Pashto spoken in Balochistan.

"One of the successes of the project was to further validate the importance of learning to read in local languages in the early grades of school," said Deputy Mission Director Michael Nehrbass. "Our hope is that the project's methodology can expand to all public schools around the country through the support of the Pakistan government and PRP's partners. As we have seen from the schools where the project was successful, this



initiative can improve the foundational reading skills of early grades students, which will lead to more success in the later grades." All of the Project's material is available on Pakistan's government education department websites in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Sindh, and the Islamabad Capital

Territory for free public access. The reading learning materials also are available on the Global Digital Library portal for free downloads at www.digitallibrary.io.

PRP's work with provincial curriculum departments and textbook boards resulted in the adoption of Urdu and Sindhi language curricula and improved textbooks for grades one and two, which incorporated phonics-based teaching instruction, assessment, and gender inclusion and equity. PRP also supported developing the curriculum for teacher education and training for more than 7,700 youth through tertiary education programs. Consequently, 41 percent of teacher trainees are now employed and 21 percent are pursuing higher education. Despite the COVID-19 outbreak, the

PRP still reached 5.9 million people through various means. For example, PRP used WhatsApp to share COVID-19 awareness, reading learning resources, and a radio program to increase awareness of their activities to a broader audience.

PRP has received recognition for its achievements. It was selected as one of eight projects from among 80 projects around the world for a Learning @ Scale research study by RTI International, which is an effort funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In addition, the United States Library of Congress selected the PRP as the International Literacy Program of the Year. This award is intended to draw public attention to the importance of literacy and the need to promote literacy and encourage reading.

Briefs

KP to amend
Sugar
Factories
Control Act

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government has decided to bring amendments in the Sugar Factories Control Act 1950. Sources aware about the development said that with the amendments the amount of fine over the sugar mills would be increased from Rs10,000 to Rs100,000.

The amendments are aimed to resolve the problems of farmers in the crushing season and to ensure timely payments. The amendments in this regard would be tabled before the provincial cabinet meeting, said the sources. In the month of July, Prime Minister Imran Khan had ordered authorities to launch a crackdown against sugar mafia in light of the sugar inquiry commission report. According to details, the prime minister had ordered Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to launch an investigation against sugar barons in light of the sugar inquiry commission report. It is pertinent to mention here that the federal cabinet had approved an action plan against sugar mafia back in June.

Dr Maha's
father seeks
new medical
board

DNA

KARACHI: The father of Dr Maha Shah has filed an application to the Additional District and Sessions Court South for the constitution of a new medical board for revising the investigation into the death case. The petitioner's counsel Abbas Rasheed submitted the application of Dr Maha's father, Asif Ali Shah, which stated that police had termed the incident as suicide and all evidence were collected in the same aspects. The plea sought the court for ordering the formation of a new medical board. It also read that the pistol had been shot in her head from the right hand, whereas, the previous medical report stated the bullet shot from the left hand which increased the suspicions. The petitioner requested the district and sessions court for allowing the exhumation of Dr Maha's body for post mortem and medical examination to ascertain the cause of her death. It said that the woman was seemingly given poison or excessive drugs. It is pertinent to mention here that the father of the deceased woman, Asif Ali Shah, had nominated Junaid, Waqas, Irfan Qureshi and others in her daughter's death case.

World Patient
Safety Day

ISLAMABAD: Like other parts of the globe, International Patient Safety Day will be marked on September 17 including Pakistan, the objective of World Patient Safety Day to enhance global understanding of patient safety, increase public engagement in the safety of health care and promote global actions to enhance patient safety and reduce patient harm.

World Patient Safety Day was established by the 72nd World Health Assembly, in May 2019, with the adoption of resolution WHA72.6 on 'Global action on patient safety', and an endorsement for the Day to be marked annually on 17 September, said a press release.

World Patient Safety Day builds on a series of successful annual Global Ministerial Summits on Patient Safety, which started in London in 2016. The origin of the Day is firmly grounded in the fundamental principle of medicine—First, do no harm. The COVID-19 pandemic is presently among the biggest challenges and threats to face the world and humanity, and health care is living its greatest crisis in patient safety ever! The pandemic has exerted unprecedented pressure on health systems worldwide. Health systems can only function with health workers, and a knowledgeable, skilled and motivated health workforce is critical for the provision of safe care to patients. Objectives of World Patient Safety Day 2020 raise global awareness about the importance of health worker safety and its interlinkages with patient safety. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Senator Sitara Ayaz, Chairperson Senate Committee on climate change meeting Palestinian Ambassador Mr. Ahmed Jawad Rabel, about the candidature of Chairman Senate, Mhammad Sadiq Sanjrani for the upcoming election of IPU president — DNA

Nearly 96% of Pakistan's corona
patients make successful recovery

290,760 people recovered so far across Pakistan, making it a significant count" and showing that 95.93% of the patients recovered, with 303,089 total cases, of which 5,936 were active ones

DNA

ISLAMABAD/KARACHI: Nearly 96% of Pakistan's coronavirus patients have made a successful recovery, a status report issued Wednesday by the country's nerve centre monitoring the pandemic read. According to the National

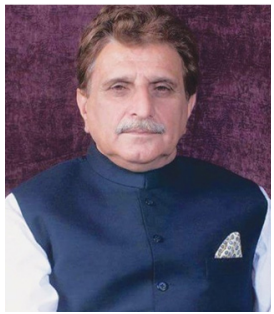
Command and Operations Centre (NCO), "290,760 people recovered so far across Pakistan, making it a significant count" and showing that 95.93% of the patients recovered, with 303,089 total cases, of which 5,936 were active ones. The NCO said almost 29,100 tests were car-

ried out over the past 24 hours and 665 people tested positive for the coronavirus. Across Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, 13,642, 9,828, 2,003, 2,303, 656, 310, and 355 tests were

conducted, with the total so far at 3,024,987. Of the four individuals who died of the respiratory illness, three passed away in hospitals and one at home, it added. No deaths were reported in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Islamabad or Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

As of reporting time, there was "no patient on vent in AJK and Balochistan", whereas 97 of the 1,912 total vents allocated for COVID-19 cases were occupied across Pakistan. Of the total 303,089 cases, 132,591 were in Sindh, 97,946 in Punjab, 37,140 in KP, 15,984 in ICT, 13,690 in Ba-

lochistan, 3,297 in GB, and 2,441 in AJK. Of the total 6,393 deaths, 2,448 were reported in Sindh, 2,220 in Punjab, 1,257 in KP, 178 in ICT, 145 in Balochistan, 79 in GB, and 66 in AJK. Some "735 hospitals with covid facilities with 995 patients admitted across the country," the NCO said.

Problems of LoC
people to be addressed
on priority: Farooq

MIRPUR (AJK): (AP-P): Prime Minister Azad Jammu & Kashmir Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan Tuesday assured the people, those were affected by the unprovoked firing by Indian forces on line of control (LOC) that their problems would be addressed on priority. He was addressing a ceremony held in Kotli AJK in connection with the distribution of cheques of the financial relief among the persons affected by the recent unprovoked Indian firing incidents. Haider said the government would utilize all its resources to mitigate the suffering of the people affected due to continued Indian forces firing. He said civil populations living close to

the line of control, have been facing tremendous difficulties and government could not remain oblivious from the agonies and difficulties being faced by them and we would resolve their problems on priority basis. The Prime Minister said that Kashmiri living on the both sides of the line of control were determined to continue their struggle to till the complete liberation of occupied Kashmir from India and added that Kashmiri had linked their destiny with Pakistan and this everlasting relation would continue. Raja Farooq Haider said that India has intensified its brutalities in occupied Kashmir and we would not remain in different of the mass genocide of Kashmiris at the hands of brutal Indian forces. He said Kashmiris have also been facing continued communication lockdown for the last over one year but despite Indian repressions the Kashmiri people have been continuing their struggle for the liberation of their motherland.

'Punjab govt
introducing
reforms for
thana culture'

ISLAMABAD: Punjab government spokesperson Musarrat Jamsheed Cheema Wednesday said that the provincial government was working to uproot 'thana culture' by bringing reforms and equipping the police stations with high-modern technology system on the pattern of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police. Talking to PTV news channel, she said the reforms were introduced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) police which yielded positive results and became a model police for other provinces. —APP

New Punjab LG system is PM's
vision to bring change: Basharat

DNA

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Social Welfare Raja Basharat has said that Punjab's local government system is the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan which will play an important role in empowering the people at the grassroots level. He was presiding over a seminar on Punjab Local Government Act 2019 in the Punjab Assembly on Wednesday. Secretary

Local Government Dr. Ahmed Javed Qazi, members of Punjab Assembly, government officers and representatives of civil society were also present on the occasion. Raja Basharat said that the Prime Minister gave full guidance in the preparation of the new Local Government Act of Punjab while the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, opposition and all stakeholders were consulted in its preparation. He said that compared to the previous

local government systems, this system reduces the tension of power between the federal, provincial and local representatives of the people. Raja Basharat said that in terms of revolutionary changes, it would be the first local government system in South Asia under which the people would directly elect a mayor in the style of London. Raja Basharat said that the government is making serious efforts to hold local bodies elections as soon as possible.



ISLAMABAD: Maj Gen Shahid Mahmood Kayani, Commander, Defence Security Force (Comd. DSF) called on Maj Gen Muhammad Arif Malik HI(M), DGANF. — DNA

BRT service
suspended
temporarily

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government on Wednesday suspended the Peshawar Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) service temporarily, as it conducts a technical review of the project's buses for safety purposes.

"A fresh review of BRT's buses will be held," said Spokesperson TransPeshawar Muhammad Omair. "The safety of the passengers is the institute's top-most priority," he added. He said that a detailed review of the buses will be conducted by the company that manufactured them, adding that an investigation was also being carried out to determine why two buses of the project had caught fire earlier.

"A comprehensive investigation and inspection of all buses will be conducted," he said. "The BRT service will be restored after it is completely cleared [from defects] from all technical angles," added the spokesperson. He said that the decision had been taken in the larger interest of Peshawar's citizens.

Maryam
challenges
FBR notice

DNA

LAHORE: PML-N Vice President Maryam

Nawaz on Wednesday filed an appeal in the Lahore High Court (LHC) challenging a notice by the Inland Revenue department of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for recovery of income support levy. She through her counsel moved the appeal assailing an LHC single bench's verdict regarding income support levy, citing the FBR and other relevant officials as respondents. The appellant states that she has been served a notice by the FBR for recovery of Rs657,000 income support levy despite the fact that she had paid all taxes and requested the court to declare it illegal.

697 suspected
dengue cases
in Punjab

LAHORE: As many as 697 suspected cases of dengue virus reported during last 24 hours were under surveillance as their tests were being conducted, informed Primary & Secondary Healthcare department here on Wednesday. One new confirmed case of dengue virus was reported in the province during last 24 hours from Lodharan. So far 50 cases of dengue have been confirmed from January this year in the province, and 44 recovered patients were discharged after recovery. Currently 6 patients of dengue virus were under treatment, spokesperson said. Due to dengue no death has been reported this year due to effective measures taken by the government.

The Punjab government was actively working to prevent and counter dengue across the province and the anti-dengue staff recovered dengue larvae from 11,210 places during the last seven days. The department, however, urged the people to adopt precautionary measures and keep their environment clean and dry for protection against dengue. —APP

RCCI demands exemplary
punishment in motorway incident

The house also passed a nine point declaration demanding that the victim's identity should not be revealed to the media or anyone else. Female Interrogation officers should carry out all initial investigations.

ABID RAZA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has demanded an exemplary punishment in Gujarpura motorway incident. The motorway incident has brought fear and insecurity among the citizens and business community shows full solidarity with the victim

family. This was stated by President RCCI Saboor Malik while addressing a rally organized by Rawalpindi chamber of Commerce in solidarity with the victim family and to raise voice for women rights here on Wednesday in Rawalpindi. A large number of women from all walks of lives, Industry, academia and civil society participated in the rally. The participants wore black armbands and hold-

ing placards with various slogans for women's rights. The house also passed a nine point declaration demanding that the victim's identity should not be revealed to the media or anyone else. Female Interrogation officers should carry out all initial investigations and Special courts should be formed for dealing such cases with all female staff including judges etc. The house also urged that the

death penalty should be the only punishment for all such cases and all appeals be decided upon within 30 days of filing the application. It further asked that all punishments should be carried out within 7 days after the lapse of appeal period. The house voices that all costs of the lawsuits upon victims should be borne by the state and strongly demanded that the bails of rapists & molest-

ers be cancelled. Group leader Sohail Altaf, former president Shahid Saleem, Senior Vice President Noshewan Khalil Khan, Vice President Hamza Sarosh, Vice President PPCCI Nadeem Sheikh, representatives from trade associations, Sheikh Hafeez, Sharjeel Mir, members of the executive committee, women members and a large number of women members were also present on the occasion.

Briefs

AIOU strengthens regional network

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Wednesday decided to provide necessary training to staff of the regional centres for resolving network and connectivity issues during ongoing online course workshops throughout the country. Directorate of Regional Services shared files of LMS Regional Portal and Manager RD, a video tutorial, for guiding the staff, especially focal persons of the regional centres based in different parts of the country to settle students' issues at the regional offices. Professor Dr. Zia U-Qayyum, Vice Chancellor AIOU, has instructed the Directorate of Regional Services as well as Directorate of ICT of the university to extend all facilities to the regional offices for provision of education to students at their doorsteps, said a press release. According to Director Regional Services (DRS), Inam Sheikh, "It was a big challenge to enhance preparedness level, particularly to overcome connectivity issues to conduct workshops in highly expanded regional network of the university in a short time. - APP

Action against using LEDs, high beam lights

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has decided to take strict action against those involved in using high beam lights and Light-Emitting Diodes (LED) during drive. Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Farrukh Rasheed said that decision has been made to ensure safe road environment in the city and avoid accidents. A total of 1,728 vehicles had to face action during the ongoing year having HID/LED lights while such lights were also impounded. Special squads have been constituted to check use of LED/HID by motorists while police pickets would be erected at important boulevards of the city including Expressway, Kashmir Highway, Margallah Road, IJP road, Murree Road, 7th Avenue and 9th Avenue. - APP

Bike lifter held red handed, six bikes recovered

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Industrial Area Police held a wanted member of bike lifting gang and recovered six stolen motorcycles worth hundreds of thousands of rupees from him, a police spokesman said. Following the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfikar Khan, DIG (Operations) Waqar Ud din Syed assigned task to SP Industrial Area Zubair Ahmed Sheikh to accelerate efforts against bike-lifters.

Business community plays vital role in development, says Shibli

Syed Shibli Faraz said that the business community should identify the opportunities of joint ventures in foreign countries

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz says the business community plays a lifeline role in development of the country. He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of Auditorium Export Display Center at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Wednesday. The Information Minister stressed the need of linkage between the business community and academia. He said the business community's role during the COVID-19 pandemic was also very important. He said the Business community was the lifeblood of the economy and facilitating them in promoting business activities was the key focus of the current government. Ms. Sajida Zulfikar MNA,

Mian Akram Farid Chairman Founder Group, Tahir Abbasi Senior Vice President, Saif ur Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Khalid Javed, Abdul Rauf Alan, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Tariq Sadiq, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Ch. Waheed ud Din, Mian Shaukat Masud, Zafar Bakhtawari, Nasir Qureshi, Malik Sohail Hussain, Khalid Chaudhry and a large number of business community were present at the occasion. Syed Shibli Faraz said that the business community should identify the opportunities of joint ventures in foreign countries and the government would facilitate them in their materialization. He said the business community supported the government during the Covid-19 pandemic and the government was responsible for protecting their respect



and honor in society.

He said that due to the wise decisions of the Prime Minister Imran Khan, economic activities have been restored in the country. He congratulated ICCI for constructing a state-of-the-art auditorium in its new building and stressed that federal ministers of finance, commerce and other business

related ministries should hold policy dialogues in this facility to make consensus economic policies. He said that the government would support ICCI in strengthening industry-academia linkages and entrepreneurship promotion. In his welcome address, Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of

Commerce & Industry said that the basic purpose of constructing a state-of-the-art auditorium in the new building of ICCI was to hold policy dialogue with federal ministers on budget and other business related policies. He said that the business community was the fourth pillar of the economy and key stakeholder in the economic

development of the country, therefore, the government should formulate economic policies in consultation with them that would put the country on the path of sustainable economic growth. He said that ICCI would utilize the auditorium to promote industry-academia linkages along with promoting start-up businesses and companies. Khalid Javed, Chairman ICCI Construction Committee gave a detailed briefing about the construction of the Export Display Centre building and auditorium. He thanked all the former Presidents of ICCI for contributing in their respective tenures towards the construction of the new building and auditorium. He also thanked the donors and vendors for their material support in completion of the export display centre building and the auditorium.

Resuming educational activities a good decision

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor Quaid-e-Azam University Dr Muhammad Ali Wednesday said that resuming educational activities was a good decision of the government as the country could not afford to close the educational institutes for an indefinite period. The universities, schools and other institutions must strictly comply with the guidelines and SOPs (standard operating procedures) issued by the government, he said talking to Radio Pakistan. He said, half of the courses would be taught to the students in class rooms while half will be through online. "After two or three months the things will be under control then the government will definitely review its policies. I would like to convey message to the students and staff get education but strictly follow the guidelines and SOPs to remain safe from the pandemic," he added.

Transparency and tolerance urged to strengthen democracy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The civil society representatives and senior journalists have shown grave concern over the recent cases against journalists and media houses for pointing out malpractices of some government departments and individuals. Government and other departments should have tolerance to criticism or set their house in order instead of harassing the whistleblowers and the journalists, they demanded, adding, the rising dictatorial measures against media outlets and journalists would not help the government or anyone else to hide their unwarranted practices. Rather, the uncalculated action would create more hatred against the government and the institutions. They said media houses and journalists have seen the worst forms of suppression against freedom

of expression in the dictatorial regimes. But this is the first time that a 'democratic' government is taking the same steps to curb the difference of opinion instead of taking corrective measures at their own end. The webinar was organized by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) on Wednesday to mark the International Day of Democracy (IDD). The panel included senior journalist Fouzia Shahid, daily Dawn's correspondent from Washington Anwar Iqbal, media affairs expert Imran Riaz, civil society reps Maheen Rizvi, Naureen Fatima and Dr Mahmood ul Akhtar. The webinar was hosted and conducted by Devcom-Pakistan Director Munir Ahmed. Anwar Iqbal said unfortunately, we have not learned even the basic democratic values in the last 73 years. We do not tolerate any dif-

ference of opinion right from our home to any level in the society. Government and state institutions believe that they are always right whatever decisions they make. They don't feel comfortable with inputs from the opposition. Any criticism is taken as anti-state or anti-government. So, the media persons and the intellectuals having differences of opinion are subject to harassment and bullying. Inclusive and participatory approaches are the essence of democracy. Our policies and strategies should be open to comments by the public, and transparency and accountability for all shall be the general practice. Selected accountability or picking up people without evidently proved cases are denial of justice. Fouzia Shahid said every institution has been politicized, even the state institutions and some of the judges too. Mistrust and lack

of argument rule all over. Server violation of constitutional framework is being committed. Every unit of the federation encroaches on other's sphere. Journalists are supposed to be the eyes and ears of the society and watchdogs over the government. But harassed and arrested when they point out uncalculated practices. This intolerance on the part of the government and corporate businesses on the name of state institutions is worrisome. Such kind of incidents would not only create anxiety among the media but also send negative messages to the general public. Munir Ahmed said we are not a democratic society. We don't afford to be democratic because we are run by different types of influential elite. If we give equal rights to minorities, poor and marginalized groups of the society, it would dent the vested interest of the influential elite.

SOPs urged during anti-polio campaign

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner Capt (R) Anwar Ul Haq on Wednesday directed officials of District Health Authority to implement COVID-19 Standard operating procedure (SOPs) in letter and spirit during five-day anti-polio drive being commenced from September 21. Chairing a meeting to review anti-polio drive arrangements, he said that Polio was a National issue and it was responsibility of all to play an effective role to make the country polio free. He directed the officials to set up check posts at entry points of the city in order to vaccinate anti-polio drops to every child coming from outside. The DC said that unfortunately Pakistan was one of the two remaining countries in the world where polio was still categorized as an endemic viral infection and collective efforts were needed to completely wipe it from the country. Meanwhile In-charge anti-polio drive Chaudary Muhammad Hussain informed APP that 1950 polio teams would go door-to-door to administer polio drops to 872,000 children less than five years in all Tehsils and Union Councils of the district. He said that 396 area incharges, 204 medical officers, and allied hospitals and Tehsil Headquarter hospitals would participate in the campaign. He said all possible steps had been taken by the concerned to make the campaign a success. "269 fix centers would also be set up to administer drops", he added. Sufficient quantity of vaccine was available, and no stone would be left unturned to make the campaign a success, he added. - APP

2 gangsters held, valuables recovered

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Criminal Investigation Agency (CIA) of Islamabad Police has nabbed two gangsters involved in street crime and recovered 15 stolen mobile phones, laptop, motorbike and weapons from their possession, a police spokesman said. According to details, a CIA team nabbed two gangsters involved in dacoities and street crime. They have been identified as Waqas Ahmed s/o Mehmood Ahmed resident of Taxla Rawalpindi and Qasim Zia s/o Zia Muhammad resident of Taxla Rawalpindi while police team also recovered 15 stolen mobile phones, laptop, motorbike and weapons along with ammunition from them.

Police recovered 100 bottles of liquor

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police, in a crackdown against anti-social elements, claimed to have arrested two drug pushers and a bootlegger besides recovering 3,380 kg chars and 100 bottles of liquor from their possession, a police spokesman said on Wednesday. According to police, Kalar Syedan police team under the supervision of SHO, conducted a raid and arrested Imran Masih with 100 bottles of liquor. Kalar Syedan police, in another raid, managed to arrest a drug pusher, Gustabas and seized 2,180 kg chars from him. Similarly, Wah Cantt police team rounded up Roshum Khan with 1,100 kg chars. Police have registered separate cases against them and started investigation. CPO appreciated the performance of police and directed the police officials for high vigilance and monitoring against those involved in anti-social activities, the spokesman added. - APP

Metric syllabus to reduce for exams 2021

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has given approval to reduce the syllabus of metric level students for the annual examination 2021. The decision has been taken in order to facilitate the metric students and keeping in view the current circumstances due to pandemic coronavirus, a press release on Wednesday said. This curriculum has been uploaded on the official website of Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) www.fbise.gov.pk. The students and teachers could download it from the FBISE Website, it added.



ISLAMABAD: Participants of the media workshop pose for a group photo with Executive Director WMC. - DNA

India's foreign policy designs serious threat: Info Secy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a Panel Discussion have said that India's hegemonic foreign policy designs pose threat to peace in the region and beyond. The Panel Discussion on "Decoding India's Foreign Policy in the Regional and Global Context" was held in Islamabad today under the auspices of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. They said Hindutva mind-set, hegemonic designs and domestic politics are the major contributing factors to India's foreign policy. In his remarks, Information Secretary Akbar Durrani said India is playing a dangerous

game by its chauvinistic and hegemonic policy by flouting Indus Water Treaty, Simla Agreement and Ceasefire Agreement of 2003 between Pakistan and India. He said time has come that the world should notice irresponsible and aggressive posturing of India causing instability and threat to peaceful coexistence at the regional and global context. The Information Secretary said Pakistan believes in peaceful co-existence with all its neighbouring countries. He said the world is acknowledging and appreciating Pakistan's positive role in Afghanistan's peace process. This is a clear manifestation of its commitment towards stable and peaceful Afghanistan but

India is playing as spoiler and trying its best to sabotage the peaceful settlement of Afghan quagmire. Speaking on the occasion, former Foreign Secretary Riaz Hussain Khokhar said all Indian leaders wanted to make India a hegemonic power in South Asia. However, he said, Pakistan happened to be an obstacle in this Indian dream. He said Modi wants to transform India into a Hindu state. Riaz Khokhar said Indian government has been carrying out ruthless killing of innocent people in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He said Pakistan should provide full spectrum support to the Kashmiris in their just struggle

for freedom. He regretted that the world conscience is not awakening over the gross human rights violations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Former Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir said India is more isolated within the region today than ever before. He said India's relations with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan have turned bad. He said China has sent a strong message over Laddakh episode that India should not commit any strategic blunder. He said Indian union is fragile with one third of its territory under insurgency. He said Indian government's Hindutva mind-set is taking the country to dark ages.

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Briefs

Qureshi greets Egyptian ambassador

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Egyptian Ambassador Tareq Dahrough called on Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi in Islamabad on Wednesday. During the meeting, matters related to regional situation and mutual interest were discussed.

Foreign Minister congratulated the Egyptian ambassador for assuming his responsibilities in Pakistan. Both sides expressed satisfaction on bilateral relations between Egypt and Pakistan. Foreign Minister emphasized on joint efforts to promote economic cooperation between two countries. Shah Mahmood Qureshi apprised Egyptian ambassador about ongoing human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr. Ashraf assume charge as chairman PCRWR

ISLAMABAD: Prominent expert, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf has assumed the charge of regular Chairman Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), Islamabad on Wednesday. According to the PCRWR, Dr. Ashraf has assumed charge after approval by the federal Cabinet and notification issued by the Ministry of Science and Technology. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf was an eminent Scientist/Engineer and has completed his Doctoral degree from University of Newcastle, United Kingdom. Previously, he has also served the Council as Chairman PCRWR from 2015-2018. He has more than 20 years' experience on different positions in the field of Water Resources Management in Pakistan. Officers and staff of PCRWR have welcomed the appointment of Dr. Ashraf and hoped he would take steps to strengthen the role council through making it as a vibrant organization. — APP

Shibli lauds services of Chinese envoy

From Page 01

He said a fast emerging, stable and prosperous Pakistan was in sight as its economy was making strides and environment for investment had tremendously improved, opening a myriad of opportunities for growth and development. He hinted at media exchanges and orientation/training programmes for young journalists. The Chinese Ambassador said that relationship between China and Pakistan was moving forward in accordance with the vision of leadership. He lauded Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision of according due importance to the well-being of the general public. The Chinese Ambassador apprised the Minister that the year 2021, being the 70th anniversary year of Pak-China relations, a number of programs, activities and exchanges were being firmed up in the spheres of culture and media.

Ambassador Yao Jing said Chinese side will be sending an agricultural group to Pakistan for looking into proposals for betterment of agriculture sector and also strengthening agri-educational institutions to impart skill development and vocational training to farmers in Pakistan. The meeting was attended by senior officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Both China and Pakistan agreed to further strengthen collaboration in the fields of media and culture.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Egypt met with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. — DNA

Hashoo Foundation handed over protection kits to ITP

SSP Islamabad Traffic Police Mr. Farrukh Rasheed extended his personal thanks and gratitude to Hashoo Foundation and Hashoo Group for assistance, in his remarks acknowledged the value of today's contribution

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Law enforcement agencies, whose duties bring them in close and frequent contact with members of the public, are on high risks to the COVID-19 virus. To mitigate this risk Hashoo Foundation handed over protection kits to Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP). Each kit includes a KN-95 mask, soaps, and water flasks, in addition to this canopy umbrellas were

also handed over to not only ensure their safety from the novel virus but also from harsh weather. A handover ceremony was held at SSP - Farrukh Rasheed's office. SSP Islamabad Traffic Police Mr. Farrukh Rasheed extended his personal thanks and gratitude to Hashoo Foundation and Hashoo Group for assistance, in his remarks acknowledged the value of today's contribution and appreciated the Hashoo



Foundation's efforts to support the law enforcement agencies to overcome the challenges posed by COVID-19. He added that "The ITP is committed to serve the citizens and anything that helps them to stay safe while serving the public makes a great difference to eradicate the COVID-19." Recently Hashoo Foundation also donated personal protection equipment kits to Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

Some Int'l NGOs closed, says Ali



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan has said that government believes in strengthening the structure of religious seminaries for the promotion of Islam. Replying to a question during Question Hour in the Senate session, he said we have complete liaison with the administration of the seminaries across Pakistan. He said being a signatory of UN Charter, Pakistan has frozen properties of UN designated entities and as a responsible member of the world body, Pakistan has to follow UN instructions after thorough examining. The Minister of State informed the House that

some international non-governmental organizations have also been closed in the country for not fulfilling the requirements.

Answering another question, Ali Muhammad Khan said reviewed master plan of Islamabad will likely be finalized next year. He said high-rise buildings are being encouraged to protect green areas in the country, which is evident from the fact that the federal cabinet has recently barred construction of prison on greenbelt in the Islamabad Capital Territory. Replying to a question, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Shibli Faraz said the government is focusing on promoting regional languages, culture and traditions through Radio Pakistan and PTV. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan always calls for formulating programmes, based on indigenous culture of Pakistan and religious traditions, which can be viewed with the entire family. He stressed the need to repulse cultural onslaught of India and other countries by highlighting cultural asset of Pakistan. The Senate also passed "The Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2020."

Conservation of wildlife top priority of Govt: SAPM

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam Wednesday said that the conservation of wildlife and protection of their habitats in the country had been given top priority by the present government under Ten Billion Tree Tsunami (TBTT) programme. He said that "Humans are responsible for the current rate of species extinction, which is at least 100-1000 times higher than nature intended, pointing towards astonishing 60% decline in the size of populations of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles & amphibians in just 40 years

across the world." "We are focusing on protecting populations of some of the world's most ecologically, economically and culturally important species," he added, said a press release issued here. The minister said that the survival of which remained threatened by poaching, illegal trade & habitat loss under Ten Billion Tree Tsunami program. "Global studies show that humans have kept fulfilling their survival needs by over-fishing rivers and oceans, poaching endangered animals & overhunting important species without thinking," he said — APP

Mandviwalla stresses to strengthen democratic values

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Saleem Mandviwalla while addressing a seminar in connection with "International Democracy Day" has reiterated that legislature, executive and judiciary, all need to resonate the same ideals of democratic principles if we are to speed up our progress. The seminar was organized by Bhutto Foundation at Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science & Technology in Islamabad. "I remain inspired by the

profound statement made by my leader, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who said, "Democracy is the greatest revenge", Mandviwalla remarked. He called for benefiting from global best practices and ideals of democracy to further strengthen the foundation of democracy in the country. He further said that vibrant media, free & fair elections, education and freedom of speech are some of the basic ingredients which make democracy and democratic culture to flourish. He observed that demo-

cratic interventions of the past halted or slowed down the democratic process at various stages. However, this in turn prompted the followers of democratic principles to work even harder to achieve the ideals of representation in our system. Chairman Senate Saleem Mandviwalla has said that democracy is a "way of life" that encourages tailored setups across different societies in order to make it work. Sadly, many powers today continue to influence the right of nations exploring their own rendition of democratic

principles. However, time plays the biggest role in determining the evolutionary path of democracy. He called for joining hands together despite political and ideological differences and keeps the progress of Pakistan as top priority. "For us, Pakistan is a prime example of how democracy continues to evolve seven decades on. It is the very basis on which Pakistan came into being in 1947, and today, Pakistan is considered as one of the largest democracies in the Muslim world", Deputy Chairman observed.

PNCA to hold Musical Evening on 26th Sep

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) will hold an evening of classical music titled Sur-Sajjan blended with the richness of soulful and touching famous Sufi's and Folk singers at PNCA courtyard on 26th September.

The event aimed at promoting the virtues of peace and harmony to rekindle the traditional music developed many centuries ago by the sufi saints. Well Known singers Sain Zahoor and Jameel Lohar would perform the sufi and folk music to enthrall the music lover from twin cities, an official told on Wednesday.

They would entertain the audience with musical performances decorated with famous Qawalis besides their own musical pieces.

He said that this event intended to provide the opportunity to people from Rawalpindi and Islamabad to come and experience a pacifying evening.

He said that strict SOPs would be followed with sitting arrangement of social distancing and face masks and pocket sized hand sanitizers are compulsory. He said that it was a family ambience event that has specifically been arranged to enhance the culture activities and provide healthy entertainment to citizens. — APP

'NADRA clears suspected CNICs'

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Ijaz Ahmed Shah on Wednesday informed the Senate that



National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) had temporarily cleared the suspected Computerized National Identity Cards (CNICs) on the basis of recommendations of Parliamentary Committee. In a written reply on a question in the upper house of the parliament, the minister said that a mechanism was evolved to handle blocked cases on the basis of which 2246 CNICs of Sargodha Region were temporarily cleared. He added legal notices were issued to applicants for giving them a chance to appear in respective NADRA Zonal Verification Board with proof of citizenship. He said that a number of Computerized National Identity Cards were re-blocked or cancelled after completion of formalities in the country.

He said that five CNICs were cancelled after completing all formalities like issuance of notice order under NADRA Ordinance, 2000 being non-nationals as they could not provide required documents on the basis of Ministry of Interior notification. He added notices were issued to said individuals to appear before NADRA Verification Board. However, 183 individuals from Sargodha Region did not appear before the board therefore CNICs of said individuals were re-blocked, he said. — APP

Kazakh Ambassador visits COMSTECH office



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Akan Rakhmetullin visited Islamabad-based Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Standing Committee on Scientific & Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) and held the talks with its Coordinator General, Prof. Mr. Iqbal Choudhary, on matters, related to ongoing cooperation between Kazakhstan and COMSTECH, as well as to specific projects, which aim to extend it. — DNA

Dangerous spike

PAKISTAN lifted the lockdown long ago. Slowly and gradually, all sorts of activities are resuming. After a hiatus of almost six months, educational institutions have also begun operations once again. But precisely at this time, the report of sixteen COVID positive cases of students and staff of Riphah Medical College Islamabad is an alarming development. The picture becomes grim as top government officials have acknowledged the surge in the patients' numbers in the capital territory. According to DC Islamabad, the infection is mostly spreading through hospitals. Given the situation, the government must look into the matter and do what is necessary to curtail the further spread of the virus. Now that schools have reopened and kids are attending classes we are walking on a very tight rope. The officials must ensure that the schools and other educational institutions strictly follow the guidelines. And before anything else, the authorities must seek an explanation from the administration of the sealed medical college and penalise the ones who violated the issued instructions. The responsible ones must be held accountable. Penalising the violators will serve the purpose of a deterrent. Otherwise, other academic institutions will also show negligence. Pakistan indeed flattened the curve by mid-August despite the earlier predictions of our country eventually crossing a million cases. But due to Pakistan's low numbers of COVID-19 cases and related deaths, we see laxer implementation of precautionary measures. Many have stopped following the safety steps. In rural and small cities, people rarely, if ever, acted according to the directions of the government at any point in time. The old habits are back; we are witnessing the same violations in urban centres as well. The government should not let the gains reverse. Another lockdown would become necessary if the spike gets unmanageable. If imposed, it could prove disastrous for the economic health of the country.

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A hybrid model of education

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

THE reopening of educational institutions across Sindh has been seen as an event that could have been postponed. The reopening could be delayed as the fear of Covid-19 spreading in its second phase seems to be inevitable. The virus was real and it affected people in Pakistan. While the scare of this virus is still here, children need to be protected. In this regard, children need to wear masks at all times when at school. However, children may get frustrated because the mask can cause some level of suffocation. Moreover, children from the primary classes may not keep the mask on their face for long. They are innocent beings and may take the mask off when talking to classmates or when playing. The objective of the educational institutes across Pakistan must follow the hybrid educational method. Under this system, the classes are held online and on campus. Where half or a predetermined strength of the class can stay at home and take classes online, the rest willing to come to campus can take physical classes. However, in this regard, the management and staff of educational institutes must be on the same page with the parents and their students. A hybrid method will facilitate the management and faculty members. Where the faculty will conduct classes from home, students will take such classes from the safety of their homes. However, the concerned authority can also permit colleges and universities to continue teaching from home. Students who need to perform practical can be asked to visit their campus at predetermined hours while following SOPs. The main objective is to keep the students safe. This can only happen when educational institutions are working on the same page. Online education was successful when the country was under lockdown. The same strategy can be continued until the fear of Covid-19 looms over us.

India: Epicenter of terrorism in South Asia

Sajjad Shaukat



In fact, Premier Modi and the BJP collusion with other similar outfits like RSS have intensified anti-Kashmir moves. Acting upon the ideology of Hindutva ((Hindu Nationalism), Indian extremist rulers' various other measures such as continued lockdown in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK), issuance of domicile certificates to 400000 non-Kashmiris

In order to obtain its secret designs, aimed at augmenting Indian hegemony, India which has become epicenter of terrorism in South Asia is foiling the peace process between Afghanistan and Pakistan, including the entire region by managing terrorist attacks, particularly in Afghanistan and Pakistan to create a rift between Islamabad and Kabul. Through its military and intelligence agency RAW, India has continued interference as part of hegemonic policies vis-à-vis her neighbouring countries, including those ones with whom India does not share border. Besides supporting separatism in East Pakistan which resulted in dismemberment of Pakistan, New Delhi occupied

Sikkim, subdued Bhutan, Burma and Bangladesh—also sponsored terrorism in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. During Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rule, India has accelerated meddling in the internal affairs of these countries. And Indian military and RAW have been given free hand to target these states through manipulation of political dissent, ethnic divisions and economic backwardness.

On August 5, last year, New Delhi revoked articles 35A and 370 of the Constitution which gave a special status to the disputed territory of the state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). The act split the J&K which includes the Kashmir Valley and the Ladakh area, into two federal territories: Jammu and Kashmir, which will have a state legislature, and Ladakh area, which will be ruled directly from New Delhi. Thus, Indian fanatic Prime Minister Modi's government led by extremist ruling party BJP unilaterally annexed the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) to turn Muslim majority into minority. India also issued an infamous map on October 31, 2019 which displayed bifurcation of the J&K and identifies Pakistani side of Azad Kashmir as well as certain areas of Gilgit-Baltistan as an Indian territory.

Apart from Pakistan, China also rejected the Indian malicious acts as "unlawful and void", saying that India's decision to "include" some of China's territory into its administrative jurisdiction "challenged" Beijing's sovereignty. Despite the latest agreement to resolve the issue through dialogue, border dispute between New Delhi and Beijing, which remains unsettled, has increased tensions between the two countries.

In fact, Premier Modi and the BJP collusion with other similar outfits like RSS have intensified anti-Kashmir moves. Acting upon the ideology of Hindutva (Hindu Nationalism), Indian extremist rulers' various other measures such as continued lockdown in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK), issuance of domicile certificates to 400000 non-Kashmiris to bring demographic changes in the Muslim-majority area and intermittent shelling inside Pakistani side of Kashmir in relation to the Line of Control (LoC), which have killed hundreds of innocent villagers show India's anti-Muslim and anti-Pakistan policies. In this respect, reliable sources as mentioned in Pakistan's media on August 18, 2020 disclosed that Afghanistan-based the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has merged with its splinter groups Jamat-ul-Ahrar (JuA) and Hizb-ul-Ahrar (HuA) in Afghanistan. Their sole objective is to restart terrorist activity in Pakistan, while simultaneously sabotaging efforts to restore peace and stability in its war-ravaged Afghanistan.

The sources added that Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security and RAW played a key role in their reunification. The agreement, reportedly, designated Mufti Noor Wali as the amir (Chief) of TTP, making him responsible for all planned terrorist activities inside Pakistan and Afghanistan. Islamabad has long accused Kabul of turning a blind eye toward TTP and other terrorists who fled to Afghanistan to escape counter-terrorist operations in Pakistan. Pakistan's concerns were also supported in a recent report presented to the United Nations Security Council. According to the UN report of July 26, 2020, "The banned

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and its splinter group Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA) continue to target Pakistan from their bases in Afghanistan...the leadership of TTP is also operating from Afghanistan, including Noor Wali Mehsud, supported by his deputy, Qari Amjad and TTP spokesperson Mohammad Khorasani, claiming responsibility for various high-profile attacks in Pakistan and has facilitated others by JuA and Lahshar-e-Islam...the significant presence of ISIL-K (The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant Khorasani) in Afghanistan", which the UN warns "now pursues a global agenda".

The UN report warns of "a strong presence of ISIL-India in Kerala and Karnataka. ISIL-K considers Afghan territory a base for spreading terrorist influence across the wider region...The investigators found links between Indian nationals and terrorist attacks in Sri-Lanka. According to diplomatic sources, there is now pressure on India to curb the financing from ISIL-India to its affiliates in line with the FTAF recommendations to prevent terrorist financing". Notably, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi met US special envoy for Afghan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad at Islamabad on July 1, 2020 and warned that "Afghan peace process has entered into a crucial phase and there is a need to be cognizant of the elements that want to sabotage the peace efforts in Afghanistan".

In the meeting, Qureshi reiterated Pakistan's commitment "to continue to play its reconciliatory role in establishment of peace in Afghanistan with sincerity through collective responsibility. He said that "Pakistan is ready to cooperate with regional and international stakeholders for enduring and peaceful political solution to the Afghan issue...the development of whole region depends on establishment of peace in Afghanistan...the agreement of all sides on intra-Afghan dialogue and announcement of negotiating teams is a good omen". Foreign Minister Qureshi repeatedly stated that India "has been continuously trying to destabilize Pakistan to divert attention from its own internal chaos" by elaborating: "India is interfering in Balochistan province of Pakistan at the same time it is also adversely affecting peace efforts in Afghanistan." As regards the recently-held intra-Afghan dialogue in Doha-the capital of Qatar, the US has appreciated Islamabad's positive role.

Since Zalmay Khalilzad started his efforts to convince the Taliban to have direct talks with America, he admitted that Pakistan have been playing a key role, as Islamabad succeeded in bringing the Taliban to the negotiating table. Zalmay Khalilzad who, repeatedly, visited Pakistan and met country's civil and military leadership admired Pakistan's role in the US-Taliban peace dialogue. It was due to Pakistan's major role in Doha that on February 29, this year, the US and the Taliban signed the historical agreement for bringing peace to Afghanistan.

Regrettably, New Delhi is trying to disrupt the US-Taliban peace deal as part of its scheme to destabilise the regional countries in general and Afghanistan and Pakistan in particular. In the recent past, India's Home Minister Shri Amit Shah threatened of conducting air and surgical strikes inside Pakistani territory. Reacting to Amit Shah's statement, Foreign Minister Qureshi stated: "Let me make it clear to Amit Shah that if India made the mistake, we will give a befitting

response...Amit Shah should tell...Why does India not launch a surgical strike on Laddakh?...India has reached the extreme in committing atrocities in Kashmir...India wants to sabotage the Afghan peace process...New Delhi is threatening Pakistan to divert attention from its internal situation".

Earlier, the DG of ISPR Maj-Gen. Babar Iftikhar said: "Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa warned India...[saying] We will respond any aggression with full might... India faced great humiliation in the recent military standoff with China...faced embarrassment in map issues with Nepal as well...India is meddling in issues [of countries] where it doesn't even have a border...India is facing many internal challenges especially after the emergence of coronavirus... many issues have emerged in India after the August 5, 2019 move, which revoked the special status of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir...There is an emergence of Islamophobia in India. Now they [India] think the best way is to divert the attention towards Pakistan...The situation on the LoC...1229 ceasefire violations by India have been committed since start of this year...while their quadcopters have also violated airspace [of Pakistan] on different occasions".

In a news conference on August 13, this year, DG of ISPR said: "We are ready to fight even India may buy 500 Rafale fighter jets. India is involved in terrorism inside Pakistan... India has been taking hegemonic steps and spreading the fire of communal hatred. This along with their military spending has made their expansionist policies quite clear to everyone. Pakistan has been working towards ensure peace in Afghanistan...Peace in Afghanistan means peace in Pakistan." Addressing the ceremony of Defence Day at General Headquarters (GHQ), Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa said on September 6, this year that the country has responded in a befitting manner when it was attacked owing to a foiled attack in Balakot. General Qamar Javed Bajwa also warned the nation of the perils of fifth-generation or hybrid warfare saying that its aim is to "discredit the country and the armed forces, and to spread chaos". He vowed that the army would fight against the threat with the support of the nation and be successful against it. General Bajwa further stated that Pakistan seeks peace in the region, adding that the country's key efforts in Afghanistan were a testament to the fact. He warned that neighbouring India has adopted an "irresponsible attitude... took the "illegal step of ending the special status of occupied Kashmir...India has once again threatened peace in the region...The armed forces of Pakistan are fully equipped, vigilant and aware."

Nonetheless, by ignoring the modern global trends like renunciation of war, peaceful settlement of disputes and economic development in wake of the spread of coronavirus and its negative economic consequences almost all over the world, even in India, instead of cooperating with the regional countries to promote peace, India's hegemonic designs are destabilising the region. So, India has become epicenter of terrorism in South Asia.

The writer is an expert on international affairs and is author of the book: *US vs Islamic Militants, Invisible Balance of Power: Dangerous Shift in International Relations*. Email: sajjad_logic@yahoo.com

Abysmal human rights environment in IOJ&K

Iqbal Khan

Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS), a local human rights group, has reported that there were "mass arrests, torture, killings, use of excessive force, harassment, and intimidation" after the abrogation of Article 370."The year witnessed at least 366 killings in different incidents of violence," said the report. There were "extrajudicial executions of at least 80 civilians, besides killings of 159 militants and 129 armed forces" in 2019

IN August last year, the Indian government had surprisingly revoked the special autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir, it's only Muslim majority state. The revocation of Articles 370 and 35 A of Indian constitution shocked residents of the region. The government also split the state into two federally controlled territories, calling them Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Union Territories. This effectively took political representation away from the people of IOJ&K and vested these into the hands of BJP-RSS ruled Indian Government of India. This move has further strained India's diplomatic relations with Pakistan. After one year of revocation of special status of IOJ&K Pakistan has issued a new official political map, which includes all of Kashmir as its territory while annotating it as a disputed zone. Since August 05, 2019, the residents of IOJ&K have been living under hardship conditions through near continuous disruption, curfews and internet outages. Kashmir people call India's internet ban as a "digital apartheid." According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), the Indian Occupation forces have repeatedly "failed the people of Jammu and Kashmir and have long denied them justice for decades through abuses by security forces, leading to a cycle of unending violence". The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), a union of traders, has stated that the internet blockade has caused a huge loss to businesses. Internet-based industries such as tourism, export, silk carpet industry, e-commerce and social entrepreneurship are completely shut. "The ban has hampered our day-to-day trade. The prolonged internet blackout has also hit students, professionals, journalists, activists and emergency services in the region. Research and other academic works have come to a halt for thousands of students". Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS), a local human rights group, has reported that there were "mass arrests, torture, killings, use of excessive force, harassment, and intimidation" after the abrogation of Article 370."The year witnessed at least 366 killings in different incidents of violence," said the report. There were "extrajudicial executions of at least 80 civilians, besides killings of 159 militants and 129 armed forces" in 2019. Among the 80 civilians killed in 2019, 69 were killed after August 5. Twelve of those killed in 2019

were women and eight were children. Besides becoming victims of extrajudicial executions, children also faced illegal and unjust detentions, ill-treatment, including torture, at the hands of armed forces during detention," the JKCCS report stated. Pakistan's, Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhristated that due to the illegal and indiscriminate use of pellets, dozens of Kashmiris were wounded and some had sustained eye injuries causing permanent blindness."Indian occupation forces in occupied Kashmir have been using pellet guns and their lethal cartridges since 2010, resulting in a large number of deaths and grievous injuries to thousands of Kashmiris, including women and children. The Kashmiri youth has been systematically targeted in this deadly campaign. FO spokesperson said: "The BJP leadership must realise that it is directly responsible for the illegal actions of Indian occupation forces. "No illegal acts [instruments], such as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) and the Public Safety Act (PSA), can provide legal cover to a crime recognised as such by international law."

Pakistan has urged the international community to remain cognizant of human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and "use all the tools at its disposal to hold India accountable". India must be made to fully comply with its international legal obligations," the statement concluded. In an August 14 article "India: New Reports of Extrajudicial Killings in Kashmir" Human Rights Watch has disclosed new cases of extrajudicial killings in IOJ&K. "The Indian authorities should immediately order an independent, impartial investigation into the killings by security forces of three people in July 2020 in Jammu and Kashmir", HRW said. "Security forces have long operated with impunity in Kashmir, and in the past army's departmental investigations have been more focused on shielding those responsible for abuse than providing justice," said Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "There can be no end to the cycle of violence in Kashmir if security forces are not held accountable for their past and current abuses." Any army investigation into the recent killings will be meaningless, Human Rights Watch said, because the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) gives the security forces effective immunity from prosecution for seri-

ous human rights abuses. It grants the military wide powers to arrest, shoot to kill, and occupy or destroy property in counterinsurgency operations.

Since the law came into force in Jammu and Kashmir in 1990, the Indian government has not granted permission to prosecute any security force personnel in civilian courts. Human Rights Watch and others have long documented how the law has become a tool of state abuse, oppression, and discrimination, and called for its repeal.

Indian Supreme Court has said that all killings by security forces should be investigated and that use of such force was not permissible "even in an area declared as a disturbed area under AFSPA and against militants, insurgents and terrorists." "The government should repeal AFSPA, ensure a civilian and independent investigation into the latest killings, and reverse its ongoing restraints on basic rights", Ganguly said. The international community must take urgent cognizance of these egregious human rights violations in IOJ&K and use all tools at its disposal to hold India accountable for its illegal actions. India must be made to fully comply with its international legal obligations.

India's inhuman methods to subjugate the Kashmiri people through killings, torture, forced disappearances and incarcerations have failed in the past and will not succeed in the future. The perpetuation of India's state-terrorism cannot break the will of the Kashmiris or quell their efforts to secure their inalienable right to self-determination as enshrined in the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions. India must be made to comply with its international legal obligations and respect fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people, including the foremost right to life. Pakistan continues to expose India for its illegal and unacceptable actions in IOJ&K and extend its full support to the Kashmiris in their just struggle for the inalienable right to self-determination. It is the collective responsibility of the World community, including the United Nations, to work for peaceful and permanent resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant Security Council Resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri.

– Writer is a freelance contributor, email: Iqbal.khan9999@yahoo.com

Briefs

Australian PGA C'ship moved to February

DNA

SYDNEY: Former world number one Adam Scott will have to wait a few more months to defend his Australian PGA Championship after organisers on Wednesday announced a coronavirus-induced delay to this year's tournament.

The event - previously won by the likes of Ian Baker-Finch, Greg Norman and Seve Ballesteros - had been scheduled for Brisbane, Queensland, in December, but a bar on interstate travel means it will now take place in February. "With a raft of strict control measures in place across most Australian states, the difficult decision to reschedule the tournament was made in hope restrictions will ease by early next year," a PGA Tour of Australasia statement said.

Overseas visitors are mostly barred from entering Australia and Queensland has closed its borders to almost all travellers from other states, making the delay virtually inevitable. Last year Queensland native and former US Masters champion Scott beat fellow Australian Michael Hendry by two strokes to win the event co-sanctioned by the European Tour and the PGA Tour of Australasia.

Turkish police arrests 106 over FETO terror links

DNA

ISTANBUL: Police in Turkey remanded in custody 106 people over their suspected links to the Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO), the group behind the 2016 defeated coup attempt, security sources said on Wednesday.

Prosecutors in Istanbul had issued warrants for 132 suspects, including 82 active soldiers and 50 dismissed or retired soldiers from the Turkish Armed Forces, over their alleged links to the terror group, said a source who asked not to be named due to restrictions on speaking to the media.

In an Istanbul-based operation in 34 provinces, anti-terror police teams arrested 106 suspects, the source said. The police continue the hunt for the remaining suspects, it added.

FETO and its U.S.-based leader Fetullah Gulen orchestrated the defeated coup on July 15, 2016, which left 251 people martyred and nearly 2,200 injured. Ankara also accuses FETO of being behind a long-running campaign to overthrow the state through the infiltration of Turkish institutions, particularly the military, police, and judiciary.

PATA examines on post COVID-19 destination

DNA

BANGKOK: Many of the significant considerations taken into account by consumers when selecting travel destinations are health-related; while at the same time, there is an overall positive resident sentiment about travel and tourism in the Asia Pacific region above global averages, with most residents ready to welcome visitors again with due attention to the traveller impact on environment and cleanliness. These are some of the results from the recently launched report, The Impact of Health and Hygiene on post COVID-19 Destination Competitiveness in Asia Pacific, published by the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) with contributions from the cofounders of the Global Health Security (GHS) Index, a project of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security (JHU); TCI Research, Tripadvisor, and the World Economic Forum. "Despite much remaining unknown about the future of travel post COVID-19, this timely report highlights emerging trends about health and hygiene in travel and tourism concerning traveller booking behaviour and resident sentiment," said PATA Chief of Staff Trevor Weltman.

Japan's Yoshihide Suga formally voted in as PM

Abe, Japan's longest-serving premier, resigned because of ill health after nearly eight years in office. Suga served under him in the pivotal post of chief cabinet secretary

DNA

TOKYO: Japan's Yoshihide Suga was voted prime minister by parliament's lower house on Wednesday, becoming the country's first new leader in nearly eight years, as he readied a "continuity cabinet" expected to keep about half of predecessor Shinzo Abe's lineup. Suga, 71, Abe's longtime right-hand man, has pledged to pursue many of Abe's programmes, including his signature "Abenomics" economic strategy, and to forge ahead

with structural reforms, including deregulation and streamlining bureaucracy.

Abe, Japan's longest-serving premier, resigned because of ill health after nearly eight years in office. Suga served under him in the pivotal post of chief cabinet secretary. Suga won 314 votes out of 462 cast by parliament's lower house members. The chamber takes precedence in electing a premier over the upper house, which was also expected to pick Suga because of a ruling bloc majority. Suga, who won a ruling



Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leadership race by a landslide on Monday, faces a plethora of challenges, including tackling COVID-19 while reviving a battered economy and dealing with a rapidly aging society.

With little direct diplomatic experience, Suga must also cope with an intensifying U.S.-China confrontation, build ties with the winner of the Nov. 3 U.S. presidential election and try to keep Japan's own relations with Bei-

jing on track. Domestic media said that roughly half of the new cabinet would be people from the Abe cabinet. There will be only two women and the average age, including Suga, is 60. Among those expected to retain their jobs are key players such as Finance Minister Taro Aso and Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, along with Olympics Minister Seiko Hashimoto and Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, the youngest at 39. "It's a 'Continuity with a capital C' cabinet," said Jasper Koll, senior adviser to

asset manager WisdomTree Investments. Abe's younger brother, Nobuo Kishi, is likely to be tapped for the defence portfolio, while outgoing Defence Minister Taro Kono will take charge of administrative reform, a post he has held before. Yasutoshi Nishimura, Abe's point man on COVID-19 response, will remain economy minister, while Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kajiyama, the son of a politician to whom Suga looked up as his mentor, will also retain his post, media reported.

Pandemic to cost \$14bn, says FIFA

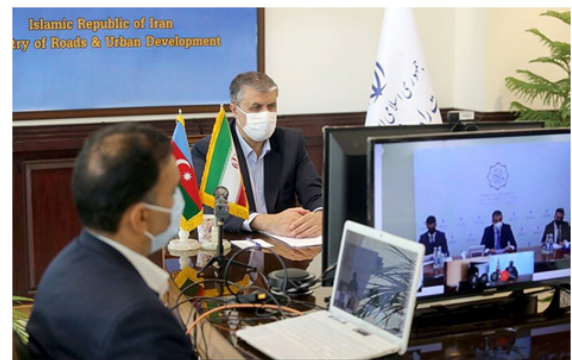
DNA

ZURICH: FIFA has put the cost of the coronavirus pandemic on football around the world at \$14bn in lost revenue. That figure accounts for about a third of the game's global economic value with the club and national game worth about \$46bn worldwide. The pandemic has already led to more than 150 football associations seeking financial help from the \$1.5bn emergency relief fund set up by football's governing body.

Olli Rehn, chairman of FIFA's coronavirus steering committee, laid bare for the first time the true financial effect the coronavirus has had on the game through fixture list chaos, empty stadiums and loss of TV rights revenue. "It's a huge number and it covers the football economy in its entirety, including all youth academies," Rehn, a Finnish politician and governor of the Bank of Finland, said on Wednesday. "This will impact next year as well, there is a carry over," Rehn, who is also independent deputy chairman of the FIFA

Governance Committee, said. He said while Europe was hit hardest in terms of absolute cost, it was the associations outside Europe that "have suffered more". "In particular in South America, many on account of their relative means and the spring to autumn season," he said. Last month, European Club Association chairman Andrea Agnelli predicted lost revenue of four billion euros (\$4.7bn) over two years for its member clubs. Each national association can request a FIFA grant of \$1m (\$2m for confederations) plus \$500,000 for women's football. Loans are available to national associations up to a maximum value of \$5m (\$4m for confederations). Meanwhile, Barcelona legend Lionel Messi was the highest-earning footballer of the year, according to a Forbes report, with \$126m in earnings. The report, published on Wednesday, placed Juventus player Cristiano Ronaldo second with \$117m. Paris Saint-Germain's Neymar followed in third with \$96m, but the rising star was his club mate, 21-year-old Kylian Mbappe, who has earned \$42m.

Iran, Azerbaijan discuss ways to expand rail cooperation



DNA

TEHRAN: Iran and Azerbaijan transport ministers discussed railway relations and cooperation during a meeting via video conference on Monday evening, the portal of Iran's Transport Ministry published. During the talks with Azerbaijani Minister of Transport, Communications and High Technologies Ramin Guluzade, Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami expressed Iran's readiness for the expansion of regional rail infrastructure and communications. Referring to the support and emphasis of the two countries' presidents on the need for developing transportation and transit cooperation, the officials expressed hope that by completing joint projects, the two neighbors would expand their relations in the mentioned fields. Further in the meeting, Eslami briefed his Azeri counterpart about Iran's railway network, as well as the vast capacity of the country's

railways in the north-south and east-west routes and its connection to the railways of neighboring countries. Mentioning the fact that most of the southern ports of Iran are connected to the country's national railway network, the official called on Guluzade to take necessary measures for both sides to benefit from these capacities.

"Given the numerous areas for cooperation in the fields of roads, transportation, and other sectors related to these areas, we can help bring the two countries closer and strengthen cooperation between the two sides," he said. The construction of a joint bridge on the Astarachai River in Astara, the completion of the Astara-Astara railway terminal given its capacity and role in goods transportation between the two countries, and the construction of the Rasht-Astara railway were also among the issues discussed during this online meeting. Back in July 2019, Guluzade visited Iran to hold talks with Iranian officials including the transport minister for discussing the expansion of ties.

Emirati, Bahraini normalization agreements not to achieve security: PNC

Israeli warplanes fired missiles at a site in Beit Lahiya in the northern strip. They also targeted areas in Deir al-Balah, a city in central Gaza, as well as parts of Khan Younis in southern Gaza. No casualties were reported

ISLAMABAD: As the key to security and peace in the Middle East was Palestinian people obtaining their full rights, the Emirati and Bahraini normalization agreements with Israel did not represent the Arab popular position, especially in Bahrain and the Emirates. Palestinian National Council (PNC) in a statement, issued after the signing of the two normalization agreements in Washington on Tuesday, under the auspices of the United States, said it will not achieve security, stability and prosperity in the region.

The Council stressed that the Arab countries which signed those agreements have legalized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel with its Islamic and Christian sanctities, and have ratified the US "Deal of the Century". PNC is the legislative body of Palestine Liberation Organization and elects the PLO Executive Committee, which assumes leadership of the organization between its sessions. It said the real threat to Arab national security and the Palestinian cause was the Israeli occupation, which was trying to liquidate Palestinian national rights in home return and establishing the state with Jerusalem as its capital. Israel had not hidden its ambitions in implementing its plans and consolidating its expansionist colonial hegemony, not only in Palestine, but

in the Arab region, and was aimed at perpetuating the Intra-Arab conflict and control Arab natural wealth and resources, which must be enjoyed by the generations of Arab nation, the statement added. PNC said that the only winners from the agreements were Israel and Trump Administration, where the US President was able to exploit the fragmentation and weakening the Arabs, and deceive some of them, to achieve his own goals to improve his chances of success in the upcoming presidential elections.

The Council reiterated that the agreements will neither break in the support of Palestinian people and their leadership, nor will undermine their determination and will in the face of all those pressures, and attempts to impose a political blockade, after the failure of Trump Administration to achieve its goals through the financial blockade and economic sanctions. PNC called on Palestinian people everywhere to join the

popular activities that unified the national leadership of popular resistance, to reject and denounce the signing of the normalization agreements. The Council extended salutes to the masses of Arab nation, especially in Bahrain, from political societies, parliamentary blocs, parliamentarians and civil society organizations, who rejected the normalization agreements with Israel, and reaffirmed their genuine Arab stances towards the first cause of Arab nation, which was Palestine. - APP

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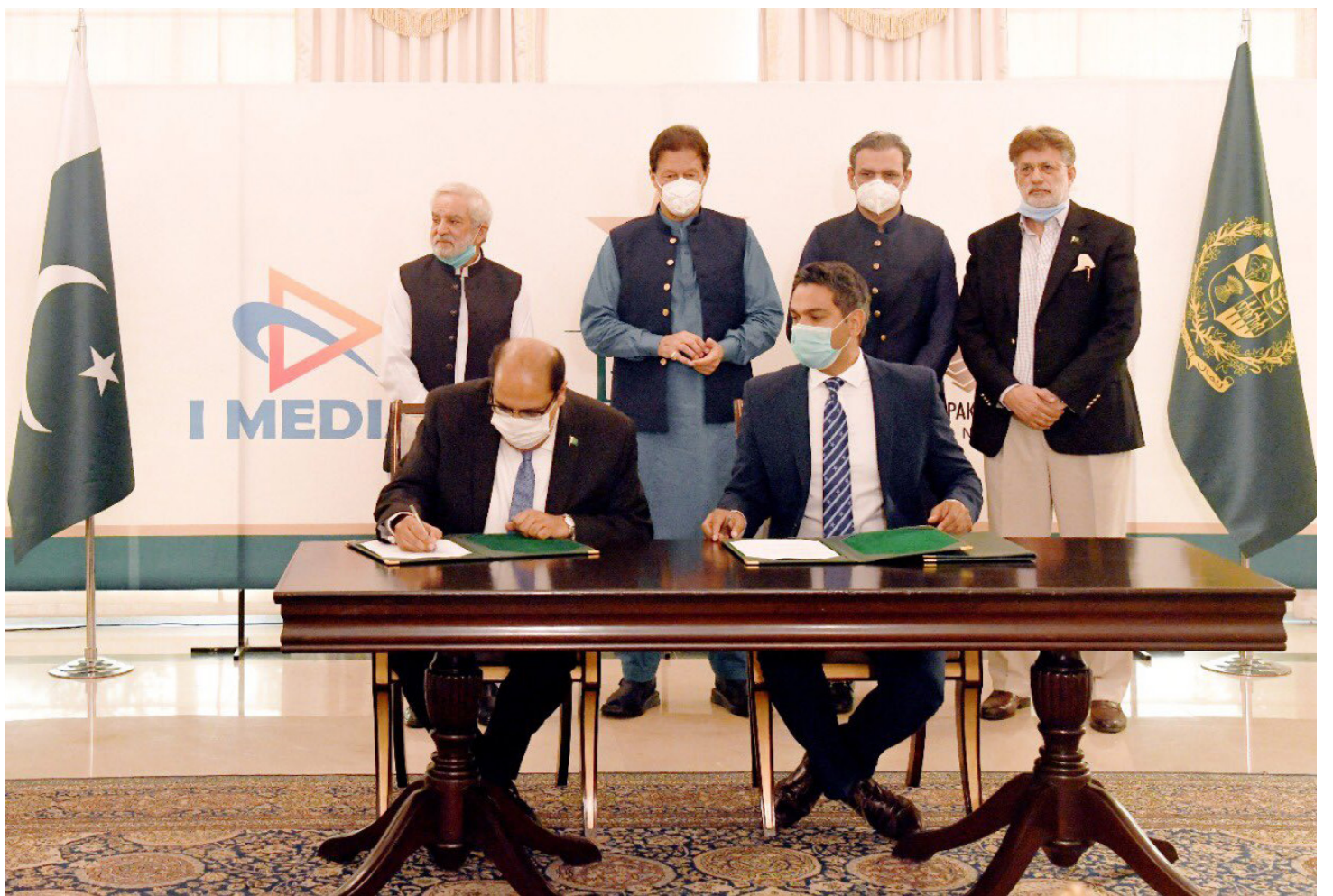
Pakistanis standing with Palestinian brethren: Siraj

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Senator Sirajul Haq has expressed shock and regret over the agreement of another Arab state to normalize relations with Israel, saying the decision hurt the feelings of entire Muslim Ummah and put in danger the free Palestine cause. In a statement issued from Mansoor on Wednesday, he quoted the decree issued by an international organization of Islamic scholars in which they unanimously declared holding relations with the Zionist state as haram.

The Senator expressed resolve that Pakistan nation and Jamaat-e-Islami were standing shoulder to shoulder with their Palestinian brethren in their fight for freedom of Masjid-e-Aqsa and al-Qudus. Meanwhile, the father of Zainab Shaheed Ameen Ansari held a meeting with the JI chief and lamented that child rape incidents were increasing in the province despite passage of Zainab Alet Bill from the assemblies. Sirajul Haq said the JI was already raising strong voice at assemblies' forums and on streets against these incidents and would not sit silent until the provision of

safe environment for the children and women. Furthermore, JI Deputy Emir Liaqat Baloch said the prime minister was directly controlling Punjab from Islamabad like his personal property. The method adopted by the centre paralyzed the biggest province and completely damaged already poor infrastructure, he said, adding even the prime minister home constituency in Mianwali was presenting a pathetic situation where roads were damaged, schools and hospitals were unavailable and people had no access to clean water facilities.



ISLAMABAD: On PMK's direction, historic milestone in Pakistan's cricket broadcast history. PCB signs MOU with PTV & Cable operators for airing rights of all cricket under PCB in Pakistan. Revenue generated will be spent for promotion of cricket through proper system. -DNA

SCO welcomes beginning of intra-Afghan talks in Doha, Qatar

We would like to express hope for the progressive development of the intra-Afghan dialogue based on respect for the interests of all public, political, ethnic and religious groups in the interests of Afghanistan's peaceful reconstruction and sustainable development

DNA

BEIJING: Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Secretary General, Vladimir Norov has welcomed the beginning of inclusive talks between the Afghanistan's Government and the Taliban in Doha, the capital of Qatar. "We would like to express hope for the progressive development of the intra-Afghan

dialogue based on respect for the interests of all public, political, ethnic and religious groups in the interests of Afghanistan's peaceful reconstruction and sustainable development," he said in a statement issued here by SCO Secretariat on Wednesday. He pointed out once again that there was no alternative to settling the conflict in Afghanistan through political dialogue and



an inclusive peace process implemented and supervised by the Afghan people themselves. "We see this process as one of the main security and stability factors in the SCO space that can boost multifaceted collaboration between the SCO and Afghanistan," he added. Norov reaffirmed his support for the efforts of the people of Afghanistan, which is an SCO observer state, to bring about peace

and economic progress and to fight terrorism, extremism and drug-related crime. Based on the outcome of the SCO Foreign Ministers Council meeting held on September 10, 2020 in Moscow, the event participants highlighted the importance of joint efforts within the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group and stated their intention to start implementing the next steps in the roadmap as soon as possible.

Aussie report concerns over health workers

SYDNEY: An Australian research released on Wednesday showed medical face masks don't always fit all health workers correctly, especially females and those of Asian heritage.

"Satisfactory airborne protection will only be provided if the filtering facepiece respirators are properly fitted to the individual's face, providing a tight facial seal," senior co-author Professor Britta von Ungern-Sternberg from the University of Western Australia explained.

"Airborne protection is decreased in the presence of a leak as unfiltered air will be drawn inside the mask."

The research found the P2/N95 masks only fit 85 percent of female health workers properly, comparing with 95 percent of males. Asian female health workers were particularly ill-fitted with those masks, with initial fit-pass rates recorded at just 60 percent. - APP

Tottenham in talks to sign Bale

DNA

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur are in talks to re-sign Wales forward Gareth Bale from Real Madrid, and are closing in on a deal for his teammate Sergio Reguilon.

Bale, 31, left Spurs to join Real for a then world record £85m in 2013 and has since scored more than 100 goals and won four Champions League titles. "Gareth still loves Spurs," his agent Jonathan Barnett told BBC Sport Wales. "It's where he wants to be."

Both Bale and left-back Reguilon had been linked with Manchester United.

Spain international Reguilon, 23, came through the youth setup at Real and made his first-team debut in October 2018. United spoke to Real about him but were put off by the Spanish giants' insistence on a buyback clause.

That has allowed Tottenham to step in, and the expectation is he will now join Jose Mourinho's squad. Where Bale is concerned, a loan looks likeliest at the moment, although a permanent transfer has not been ruled out with Real keen to recover costs as they look to offload their highest earner.

Bale's salary is perhaps the biggest hurdle for Spurs to overcome - he still has two years left on a contract which is thought to be worth about £600,000 a week.

Briefs

Thirteen detained after fire near second Greek camp

ATHENS: Thirteen people have been detained on the Greek island of Samos after a fire threatened the local migrant camp, police said Wednesday, days after another blaze destroyed Europe's largest migrant camp on Lesbos. "We are examining the possible participation of these suspects in the incident," a Samos police source told AFP. The officer declined to identify the nationalities of the suspects. The fire broke out in a forested area near the Samos camp late on Tuesday, but firefighters were able to place it under control. The Lesbos fire at Moria camp on September 8 left over 12,000 asylum seekers homeless. Police have arrested six migrants in connection with the incident. — APP

Explosions spark huge fire in Italian port

ROME: Explosions and a huge fire ripped through the port area of the Italian city of Ancona early Wednesday, destroying warehouses and lorries, but there were no casualties, firefighters said. The flames created vast mushroom clouds of smoke in the city on Italy's Adriatic coast. The explosions sparked the fire shortly after midnight. The blaze was under control Wednesday morning after the intervention of 16 firefighting teams, the fire service said on Twitter. It was not yet clear what caused the explosions. As the smell of burning filled Ancona, the capital of the Marche region, the council said it had "temporarily ordered closed all schools, the university, the parks, open-air sports facilities". — APP

Turkey's first flying car takes off successfully

ANAKARA: Turkey's first flying car, Cezeri, was successfully tested in Istanbul. The car is named after Ismail al Jazari, a renowned 12th-century Muslim engineer and polymath. Designed and manufactured by Turkish engineers, the 230kg prototype ascended to 10 metres during its flight tests, manufacturer Baykar said in a statement on Tuesday. "We will make more advanced prototypes in the upcoming process, and perform flights with a human [on board]," Selcuk Bayraktar, the chief technology officer, was quoted as saying. Bayraktar added that it would take an estimated 10-15 years for Cezeri to hit the air and 3-4 years to use for recreational purposes such as quad bikes in rural areas. "After smart cars, the revolution in automotive technology will be in flying cars. So from this point of view, we are preparing for tomorrow's races, rather than today's," he added.

Bosnia 282 new corona cases

ZAGREB: Bosnia and Herzegovina confirmed 282 new coronavirus cases on Wednesday, and due to the constant deterioration of the situation, notably in areas bordering Croatia, the Federation's response team will demand that a state of natural disaster be declared again. "The situation is difficult and very serious in the Western Herzegovina and Herzegovina-Neretva cantons," Assistant Federation Health Minister Goran Cerkez told the press in Sarajevo. The two cantons have by far the highest number of new cases per 100,000 inhabitants, 186 in the former and 145 in the latter. Cerkez said the reason was people returning from holidays, but also non-compliance with the Federation COVID response team's measures. He added that the biggest source of the infection were large weddings and the fact that local government did nothing to prevent that. He said he would ask the Federation government to declare a state of natural disaster again, but this would not mean additional restrictions but the establishment of mechanisms to ensure that the necessary decisions were made more quickly and efficiently. — APP

Defence Day of Pakistan celebrated in Paris

Highlighting the sacrifices of Pakistan armed forces were put on display along with the newly issued political map of the country. National anthems of both the countries were played on the occasion

DNA

PARIS: Defence and Martyrs Day of Pakistan was celebrated at an event held at the Embassy of Pakistan here last night. Keeping in view the Covid-19 related restrictions, a dinner was arranged with limited number of guests, instead of a full-scale reception. Mr. Jean-Bernard Sempastous, President France-Pakistan Friendship Group in the French National Assembly and Mr. Francois Pupponi, Vice President of the Group attended the event as Guests of Honour. Together with Charge d'Affaires a.i. Mr. M. Amjaz Aziz Qazi and Defence Attaché Air Commodore Syed Muhammad Azmat Ali they laid a ceremonial floral wreath to honour the martyrs and cut the cake. Members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of French armed forces also attended the dinner. Highlighting the sacrifices of Pakistan armed forces were put on display along with the newly issued political map of the country. National anthems of both the countries were played on the occasion. In his remarks Charge d'Affaires a.i. Mr. M. Amjaz Aziz Qazi highlighted the significance of the day and the sacrifices made by the



people and armed forces of Pakistan in protecting the country. He emphasized that Pakistan stands for peace but this must not be misconstrued as weakness. The world understands that our desire for peace is for economic wellbeing and

prosperity of the people of the region. There would be no compromise on the sovereignty and security of the country and any kind of misadventure will be dealt with firmly, he added. Mr. Qazi said this day is a symbol of courage, strong

will and unmatched spirit of sacrifice by the brave Armed Forces of Pakistan. He reminded the audience about the oppressed people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, who are struggling for their right of self-determination, adding that Paki-

stan will continue to support the Kashmiri people in their just struggle in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. Defence Attaché said that this day is celebrated each year to pay tribute to our martyrs and survivors and

to reiterate our resolve to defend the country with unity. We honor the soldiers, sailors and airmen of Pakistan, firmly backed by the entire nation, successfully defending the homeland by repulsing the enemy's aggression, he added.

'Virus cost global tourism \$460 billion'

MADRID: The coronavirus crisis cost the global tourism sector \$460 billion in lost revenue during the first six months of 2020 as the number of people travelling plunged, the UN said. Revenue lost between January and June amounted to "around five times the loss in international tourism receipts recorded in 2009 amid the global economic and financial crisis," the Madrid-based World Tourism Organization said in a statement. International tourist arrivals fell by 440 million during the period, or 65 percent, with Asia, the first region to feel the impact of Covid-19, seeing the steepest decline, it added. "This represents an unprecedented decrease, as countries around the world closed their borders and introduced travel restrictions in response to the pandemic," the Tourism Organization said. While tourism is slowly returning to some destinations, the UN body warned that "reduced travel demand and consumer confidence" would continue to hurt the sector for the rest of the year.

Special UN envoy to mediate Libya conflict

DNA

NEW YORK: The United Nations Security Council has asked Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to appoint a special envoy to broker peace in Libya, although Russia and China abstained from voting on the resolution that extended the UN mission in the country. Ghassan Salame, who headed the UN political mission and was also charged with trying to mediate peace, quit in March citing stress. Guterres informally proposed a replacement, but the United States wanted the role split to have one person run the UN mission and a special envoy to focus on mediation. The Security Council agreed to that proposal on Tuesday. "With the new structure, we will have to present a new candidate and we will have to naturally consult with the Security Council for that purpose," Guterres told Reuters news agency in an interview on Monday. The Security Council traditionally agrees - informally - by consensus to such appointments. Several months ago, the US proposed that Guterres appoint former Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt to be special envoy, but diplomats said she had since withdrawn herself.

Chinese academy launches projects on ozone pollution

BEIJING: China's leading academic institution for natural sciences announced Wednesday that it has launched a special research project to solve the problems of how ozone pollution forms and how to control it. Ozone pollution is a form of air pollution characterized by high concentrations of ozone, a form of oxygen, at ground level. At present, global ozone concentration is on the rise, with an average annual increase of about one microgram per cubic meter.

In China, while air quality has improved with the concentration levels of many air pollutants falling, the ozone concentration has kept rising, said Bai Chunli, president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, at the launch of the project in Beijing, stressing that the task of air pollution control is still arduous. "The causes, sources and migration mechanisms of ozone pollution are extremely complex, and many related scientific issues are still unclear.

Scientists find world's oldest sperm in Myanmar amber

NAYPYITAW: A team of paleontologists have discovered what they believe is the world's oldest animal sperm, frozen inside a tiny crustacean in a blob of tree resin in Myanmar 100 million years ago. The oldest known examples of fossilized animal sperm were previously a mere 17 million years old, according to the team of experts led by Wang He of the Chinese Academy of Science in Nanjing. The sperms were found inside an ostracod, a kind of crustacean that has existed for 500 million years and can be found in many oceans today, they said in a paper published Wednesday in the prestigious Royal Society's Proceedings journal. They were found in the body of a female specimen, indicating that she must have been fertilised shortly before being trapped in amber, the experts said. — DNA

Belarus charges protest leader for undermining national security

DNA

MINSK: Belarus investigators have officially charged a protest leader with incitement to undermine national security, the Investigative Committee said in a statement on Wednesday. Kolesnikova was charged with calling for "actions aimed at undermining Belarusian national security" using the media and the internet, the committee said. Kolesnikova, 38, is currently in jail in Minsk after ripping up her own passport last week to thwart an attempt to expel her to Ukraine. A member of an opposition coordination council, she was the last of three female politicians left in Belarus who joined forces before an August 9 presidential election to try to challenge President Alexander Lukashenko. A vocal critic of Lukashenko,



she played an important role in weeks of mass demonstrations and strikes by protesters who accuse Lukashenko of rigging his re-election. Lukashenko, who has been in power for the last 26 years, denies that allegation and has accused foreign powers of trying to topple him in a revolution. He has responded with a crackdown which some of those detained say includes torture and beatings. While Europe has said it does not recognise Lukashenko as the legiti-

mate leader of Belarus, Russia has supported its ally. On Monday, Russia agreed to a \$1.5bn loan with Minsk, President Vladimir Putin said, adding that the Belarusian people should resolve the crisis without foreign interference. Putin, in comments broadcast on television from talks alongside Lukashenko in Russia's Sochi, said he thought a proposal by the Belarusian strongman to carry out constitutional reform was logical and timely.

EU chief calls for 'European Health Union' amid pandemic

WEB DESK

BRUSSEL: The president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, urged EU members to build a stronger health union on Wednesday, promising a biomedical research agency and a global summit. In her first annual State of the European Union address, von der Leyen said the coronavirus pandemic had underlined the need for closer cooperation. "The people of Europe are still suffering," she said. "For me, it is crystal clear - we need to build a stronger European Health Union," she said. "And we

need to strengthen our crisis preparedness and management of cross-border health threats." Addressing MEPs in the European Parliament, von der Leyen said her commission would try to reinforce the European Medicines Agency and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. And she announced the creation of a new agency for biomedical advanced research and development, dubbed BARDA. Then next year, she will work with Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and the Italian G20 presidency to convene a global health summit to learn and share the lessons of the coronavirus crisis. "This will show Europeans that our Union is there to protect all," she said. Health policy remains the responsibility of EU member states and, while Brussels has tried to coordinate the bloc's response to the epidemic, national lockdowns and border rules have varied widely.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz in a meeting with Ambassador of UAE, HE Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi. — DNA

OIC and Turkey call for ending abuses in Kashmir, Palestine

"We also urge the Council to implement the recommendations contained in the OHCHR's two reports on Jammu & Kashmir," the OIC statement said.

GENEVA: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has urged the UN Human Rights Council to effectively address the "systematic" human rights violations of the people suffering from long-running disputes in Palestine, Jammu and Kashmir, Myanmar and Nagorno-Karabakh, saying its global rights agenda would remain elusive without dealing with those issues. In a statement delivered on behalf of OIC, Pakistan's Ambassador Khalil Hashmi said that the Jeddah-based organization

also remains "deeply concerned" on the growing incidents of xenophobia, Islamophobia and religious intolerance, resulting in denigration of venerated religious personalities and symbols. "Recent incidents (re-publication of caricatures by Charlie Hebdo) and burning of the religious text and ridiculing religious personalities constitute grave incitement to violence," he said while commenting on the report of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet on the situation of human rights in the world. There was no justification for

such acts, invoking the right to freedom of expression, he said. "The OIC calls upon all stakeholders to speak out against these deliberate acts of provocation that have no basis under international human rights law. Culprits behind such acts must be held to account and brought to justice." Voicing concern over the deteriorating human rights situation in the illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK), the OIC called on all concerned to ensure the protection of the people's basic rights and fundamental freedoms.

"We also urge the Council to implement the recommendations contained in the OHCHR's two reports on Jammu & Kashmir," the OIC statement said. "The OIC also reminds the international community of its obligations to ensure the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir and fulfill the promises made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir." On Palestine, the OIC urged all UN bodies, especially the Council, to earnestly follow up on the

implementation of resolutions on the Palestine dispute and hold accountable those responsible for violations of the rights of the Palestinian people. Meanwhile, Turkey also expressed concern over the human rights situation in IOJK. "We reiterate our call to the Indian Government to ease the current restrictions in Jammu-Kashmir," the Turkish representative to the Council said. "We sincerely desire that Kashmir issue is resolved through peaceful means between India and Pakistan on the basis of the relevant UN resolutions." — APP

Briefs

IHC orders to arrest Nawaz before next hearing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday released a detailed verdict over its decision to issue an arrest warrant of the former Prime Minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Nawaz Sharif. The detailed judgment of the division bench of the Islamabad court was written by Justice Aamir Farooq and was also signed by the other judge Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani. The court noted that the lawyers of Nawaz Sharif failed to satisfy the bench, therefore an appeal regarding the exemption of the former prime minister from personal appearance in the Al-Azizia and Avenfield cases on Tuesday. It is pertinent to mention here that the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has rejected the exemption plea of the former premier Nawaz Sharif and released his non-bailable arrest warrants in Al-Azizia and Avenfield cases on Tuesday. The pleas of the former prime minister Nawaz Sharif for seeking his exemption from personal appearance in the Al-Azizia and Avenfield references have been rejected by the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

Sex offenders' database to be made: Faisal Javed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The government will create a national sex offenders database, Senator Faisal Javed Khan said Wednesday, a day after he said the ruling PTI aimed to propose stricter punishments for child rapists. Speaking to the media here in the federal capital, Javed said sexual abusers often blackmail survivors and their families. "A database of rapists will be set up," he added, noting that a consensus was needed for public hangings of rapists. "Those who abuse children and women will be punished severely," the senator told the media. "The prime minister has made it clear that no concessions should be made to such monsters." He added that there would be legislation to mete out the harshest punishment to predators and sexual abusers and laws enacted to keep the identities of rape survivors secret. "Such criminals blackmail victims of abuse," he added. Javed stressed that an example would be made out of sexual abusers and child rapists through legislation. "There needs to be a debate on laws of public execution," he said.

'Government believes in strengthening of religious seminaries'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan has said that government believes in strengthening the structure of religious seminaries for the promotion of Islam. Replying to a question during Question Hour in the House, he said we have complete liaison with the administration of the seminaries across Pakistan. He said being a signatory of UN Charter, Pakistan has frozen properties of UN designated entities and as a responsible member of the world body; Pakistan has to follow UN instructions after thorough examining. The Minister of State informed the House that some international non-governmental organizations have also been closed in the country for not fulfilling the requirements. Answering another question, Ali Muhammad Khan said reviewed master plan of Islamabad will likely be finalized next year.

Pakistan stands with China on Global data security: Officials

Pakistan has underscored the need for dialogue and international cooperation to ensure an open, secure, peaceful, and inclusive environment in cyberspace, ICTs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan stands solidly with Iron Brother China after Beijing announced the Global Initiative on Data Security, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday quoting official sources. China last week announced that it was launching its own initiative to set global standards on data security, countering the US attempts to persuade like-minded countries to "ring-fence their networks" from Chinese technology. Announcing the initiative at a Beijing seminar on global digital gov-

ernance, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi cited growing risks to data security and what he characterized as efforts to politicize security issues and smear rival countries on technology matters—in an apparent swipe at Washington. To counter such challenges, he said: "It is important to develop a set of international rules on data security that reflect the will and respect the interests of all countries. Beijing's initiative comes amid heightened tensions with Washington over issues including trade and technological competition. Pakistan already welcomed the announcement of the Global Initiative on Data Security by China on September 8. The Global Initiative, the officials said, "advocates a comprehensive approach towards data security and addresses several key issues which are being extensively deliberated at the United Nations and other multilateral fora, and on which the norm-building process is currently underway." In recent months, the Donald Trump administration has taken steps to curtail what it describes as "national security threats" from Chinese tech firms like Huawei Technologies Co. and popular Chinese apps including ByteDance

Ltd.'s TikTok and Tencent Holdings Ltd's WeChat. Chinese officials, meanwhile, have accused the US of imposing a double standard and of trying to sabotage the efforts of Chinese businesses to expand. Pakistan has underscored the need for dialogue and international cooperation to ensure an open, secure, peaceful, and inclusive environment in cyberspace, ICTs, and a balanced approach to technological progress, economic development, and national security interests. With a population of over 200 million people and a flourishing digital landscape marked by a growing

number of online users, the officials said: "Pakistan attaches immense importance to leveraging digital technologies for enabling socio-economic development and facilitating more effective and efficient governance and public service delivery, said Pakistan Foreign Ministry. Pakistan, it said, "is committed to promoting international cooperation in ICTs and cyber security as a means of bridging the digital divide. All countries are equal stakeholders in the development of rules governing digital economy and security of cyberspace and ICT, it added.

PHILADELPHIA: Despite cautionary notes sounded by some US public health officials about that accelerated timeline, US President on Tuesday said a vaccine against the deadly coronavirus could be three or four weeks away, Trump, speaking at a town hall hosted by ABC News in Philadelphia, defended his handling of the coronavirus crisis, and said a vaccine could be ready for distribution before the US presidential election on November 3. "We're very close to having a vaccine," he said. "If you want to know the truth, the previous administration would have taken perhaps years to have a vaccine because of the FDA and all the approvals."

'Vaccine could be available in a month'

DNA

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ISLAMABAD: European Union Ambassador to Pakistan, Androulla Kaminara calls on Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi. – DNA

PIA incurs Rs280mn loss after suspension of EU flights

PIA raked in Rs 5.81 billion revenue as against expenditure to the tune of Rs 5.31 billion, he added. Sarwar said the PIA also resumed flights to Canada, UAE, Oman, Qatar, Malaysia, Afghanistan, and Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) incurred a loss of Rs280 million after suspension of its flight operation to and from the European Union (EU) states, Aviation Minister Ghulam Sarwar informed the National Assembly on Wednesday. In a written reply, he said the national flag carrier's receipts from its flight operation in the EU bloc fell to Rs1.41 billion from Rs1.69 billion in July-August 2020. However, the minister said the airline raked in a sum of Rs520 million from its Pakistan-UK flights during this period. He said it hired the services of Malta company for flights between the two countries besides operating four roundtrip charter flights during coronavirus lockdowns. The PIA raked in Rs5.81 billion revenue as against expenditure to the tune of Rs5.31 billion, he added. Sarwar said the Pakistan International Airlines also resumed flights to Canada, UAE, Oman, Qatar, Malaysia, Afghanistan, and Saudi Arabia. In July, the European Union Air Safety Agency (EASA) had suspended the authorisation for the PIA to operate in the bloc for six months. "EASA has temporarily suspended PIA's authorisation to operate to the EU member states for a period of 6 months effective July 1, 2020, with the right to appeal against this decision," a Pakistan International Airlines statement had said. – DNA

UAE Embassy donates 4000 hand sanitizer bottles to QAU

Ambassador of the UAE to the Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al Zaabi, inaugurated the campaign at QAU by distributing the hand sanitizers to the University. The campaign will cover different universities, colleges and schools in the federal capital

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of United Arab Emirates Islamabad has donated nearly 4000 bottles of hand sanitizers and 300 reference books to the Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) here on Wednesday. The initiative was the part of UAE Embassy's hygiene campaign "Let's give everyone a clean hand" to combat against the COVID-19 pandemic. Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al Zaabi, inaugurated the campaign at Quaid-i-Azam University by distributing the hand sanitizers to the University. The campaign will cover different

universities, colleges and schools in the federal capital. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor, Quaid-i-Azam University lauded the efforts of Embassy and thanked the UAE Government for the donation. The Vice Chancellor along with his team briefed the Ambassador regarding the University and discussed the possibilities of future cooperation in the field of Higher Education. The Ambassador Al Zaabi on the occasion stated that the UAE leadership always given importance to assist the health and education sectors in the brotherly Islamic Republic of Pakistan, numerous renowned and state of the art hospitals and educational institutions in Pakistan bolster the UAE's commitment to stand consistently with the People of Pakistan. The Ambassador said, the hygiene campaign under the theme "Let's give everyone a clean hand" is an initiative by the UAE Embassy to contribute in the Government of Pakistan's efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, as the hands hygiene has an important role in containing this pandemic. The Ambassador pointed out that the deep rooted relations between UAE and Pakistan are based on political, economic and trade relations, defense and security ties, cultural cooperation and exchange of experiences. Deans of the faculties, Chairpersons of the Departments, Registrar, Director Academics, Director Student Affairs, Director ORIC and senior faculty members attended the ceremony. – APP

FIA obtains record of fake documents visas

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has obtained record of issuing visas to foreigners on fake documents. The Federal Investigation Agency had launched an investigation into the issuance of fake visas to foreigners on the orders of Interior Minister Brigadier (r) Ijaz Shah. According to sources, an investigation report against several officials of the passport office has also been obtained, while investigations were also carried out against the staff of passport office. In the light of these investigations, it has been revealed that about 600 foreigners were issued visas on fake documents. The Lahore Passport Office said that the visas were issued on the instructions of the interior ministry officials. Earlier, Interior Minister Brigadier (r) Ijaz Shah had rejected the first fact-finding report.

Fakhar Imam for enhancing Pak-Netherlands ties

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam on Wednesday urged the need for enhancing Pakistan-Netherlands cooperation in the fields of agriculture and livestock, particularly in floriculture to promote high value crops production in the country. The minister also invited the Netherlands to invest in dairy farming, agribusiness and food processing of Pakistan in order to further strengthen the bilateral trade and investment relations of both the countries. Talking to the Ambassador of Netherlands Wouter Plomp, who called on him, the minister said that both countries can collaborate in fresh cut plants, flowers and bulbs to enhance farm income, says a press release. Fakhar Imam also highlighted the longstanding partnership between Pakistan and Netherlands, which spans over last many years and

appreciate its assistance for ensuring food security in the country. He also appreciated Netherlands for providing technical assistance, trainings and said Pakistan and Netherlands have vast potential for collaboration in the field of research in food security and livestock sector development. Pakistan imports more than 7,000 metric tons seed potato from Netherlands valuing Euro 1 million per annum, he said adding that both the countries enjoying friendly relations as it is one of the largest trading partners of Pakistan in the European Union. The Netherlands has a highly mechanized agricultural sector that provides large surpluses for the food-processing industry and for exports. After the United States, the Netherlands is the biggest exporter of agricultural produce in the world, exporting around 65 billion Euros worth of vegetables, fruit, flowers, meat and dairy products each year.

LHC slams 'failed' police patrolling system

DNA

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday slammed Punjab's police patrolling system, saying it had "failed" to protect citizens, in light of the September 9 gang-rape that sparked anger and protests calling for public hanging of rapists. Speaking during a hearing on petitions to form a judicial commission to investigate the case, LHC Chief Justice Muhammad Qasim Khan asked authorities how many hours the inspector-general of police (IGP) for Punjab patrolled daily. "Tell me how many days and when the IGP Punjab patrols (the streets)," the judge asked. "Senior police officers should be seen patrolling at night in each district from 11pm-1am," he remarked. Deputy inspector-general (DIG) of police for legal affairs, Jawad Ahmad Dogar, also made an appearance during the hearing and presented a report to the court.

Chairman NAB directs arrest of all absconders

DNA

LAHORE: Chairman, National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Justice Javed Iqbal visited NAB Lahore Bureau Wednesday. He was briefed by DG, NAB Lahore and Combined Investigation Teams (CITs) over NAB Lahore performance particularly on the updates in all Mega Corruption Scandals. The cases included Inquiry against Excise & Taxation Department Officers and Officials for issuance of illegal Liquor License to a Private Hotel; updates in Money Laundering Reference against former Chief Minister, Mian Shabbaz Sharif and family, Inquiry against Noorul-Amin Mengal and Ex-DG LDA accused Ahad Khan Cheema for allegedly changing Lahore's Master Plan; Case against former Provincial Law Minister, Rana Sanaulah.

Azerbaijan ambassador Alizada praises CGSS

Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery HI (M), (Retd), President, CGSS highlighted that joint activities between Pakistan and Azerbaijan have played an active role in ensuring active future collaborations as well

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Defense wing of the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Pakistan hosted a dinner. The dinner was to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts and initiatives of Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad that has achieved milestones in strengthening bilateral ties between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. Ali Alizada, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan praised the management of CGSS and mentioned that CGSS has been playing an active role in introducing Azerbaijan to Pakistani people. He highlighted the



recent Online Internship Program jointly organized by CGSS and Embassy of Azerbaijan, Pakistan that has brought the academia of both countries closer. Colonel Mehman Novruzov, Defence Attache of the Embassy of Azerbaijan to Pakistan highlighted the role of CGSS for its contribution in the growing diplomatic ties between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, he specifically mentioned the importance of people

to people contact that is now being established between both countries. Maj Gen Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery HI(M), (Retd), President, CGSS highlighted that joint activities between Pakistan and Azerbaijan have played an active role in ensuring active future collaborations as well. Lt Gen Naem Khalid Lodhi, (Retd), Former Federal Defense Minister of Pakistan extended his gratitude to the Defense wing