



# Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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**Somalian envoy welcomes Pakistan 'Look Africa' policy**

**Italy, Pakistan have common vision on poverty reduction**

**M-3 an example for building green supply chain**



## Briefs

### Biden says 'Inshallah' during debate

DNA

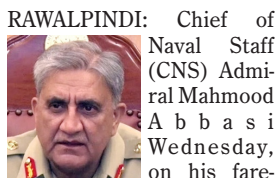


NEW YORK: Democratic White House hopeful Joe Biden took on incumbent President Donald Trump in the first debate and used the word "Inshallah". Apart from its original meaning of 'If God wills it', the phrase 'Inshallah' is also often used sarcastically by Muslims when they are talking about something that is unlikely to happen.

A video going around on social media of the debates showed President Trump saying that he will soon release his tax returns filed with US authorities, when Joe Biden interjected with "Inshallah".

### COAS lauds services of Naval Chief

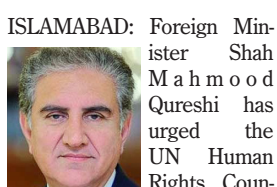
SHUJAAT HAMZA



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral Mahmood Abbas on Wednesday, on his farewell visit, called on COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa at General Headquarters (GHQ). The COAS thanked CNS for his services to the nation during a long and illustrious career, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release. On his arrival at GHQ, the CNS was presented Guard of Honour at Yadgar-e-Shuhada. Earlier, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, COAS met with veterans of 1st PMA long course at (GHQ). The Army Chief acknowledged and appreciated the role and sacrifices of the senior officers as leaders.

### UNHRC urged to take notice of AI closure

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has urged the UN Human Rights Council to take notice of the closure of amnesty international office in India. In a statement on Wednesday, he said the Amnesty international was compelled to shut its office in India when it started to expose blatant human rights violations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and unmasked police's complicity in anti-Muslim riots in Delhi.

## COVID-19: WHO backs PM's strategy

While mentioning Pakistan, Dr Tedros said the country deployed the infrastructure it built up over the many years for polio to combat COVID-19

DNA

GENEVA: World Health Organization (WHO) chief Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has once again praised Pakistan's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and supported Prime Minister Imran Khan's policy to balance life and livelihood as the country combatted the disease. The WHO chief, in an op-ed, discussed in detail the international efforts towards fighting the pandemic, remarking that "there are glimmers of hope that encourage us now and in the near future". While mentioning Pakistan, Dr Tedros said the country deployed the infrastructure it built up over the many years for polio to combat COVID-19.

Echoing PM Imran Khan's policy of balancing life and livelihood, the WHO chief said, "the choice is not between con-

trolling the virus or saving the economy; the two go hand-in-hand".

"Community health workers who have been trained to go door-to-door vaccinating children against polio have been redeployed and utilised for surveillance, contact tracing and care," he noted about Pakistan.

Dr Tedros noted that the strategy has worked well for Pakistan in suppressing the virus and the economy is also picking up once again.

Pakistan's coronavirus cases have reached 312,263 with 747 new cases in the last 24 hours while the death toll is at 6,497, according to the National Command and Operations Centre, which oversees the country's coronavirus policy. PM Imran's aide Senator Faisal Javed responded to the remarks saying this is the endorsement of the prime minister's vision who has always talked about the common people.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iraq Hamid Abbas Lafta called on Federal Minister for Defence Pervez Khattak. – DNA

## Pakistan to expand defense ties with Iraq

The envoy of Iraq, in a meeting with Perviaz Khattak, conveyed and reaffirmed commitment of the people and government of Iraq to work closely with Pak

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Defence Pervez Khattak on Wednesday said Pakistan was ready to enhance and expand its defence relations with Iraq as both the countries should work closely to share their experiences and build capacities of their armed forces.

Ambassador of Iraq Hamid Abbas Lafta called on Pervez Khattak here, said a

press release issued here.

The minister emphasized that Pakistan attached great importance to its relation with Iraq and wished to expand cooperation in all fields of mutual interests especially in defence.

He conveyed that Pakistan strongly supported the sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of Iraq.

"Pakistan has developed best training facilities and infrastructure for its Armed Forces. Numerous foreign countries are avail-

ing these facilities, especially the training related to special services group and counter terrorism," the minister said. Therefore both countries could mutually share their defence related experiences, he added.

The ambassador conveyed and reaffirmed commitment of the people and government of Iraq to work closely with Pakistan and further strengthen their bilateral relations, especially in the field of defence.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Afghan High Council for National Reconciliation, Dr Abdullah Abdullah called on President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi (News on Page 4). – DNA

### British HC encourages women for scholarship

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: The British High Commission in Pakistan is strongly encouraging Pakistani women from across all fields and from across Pakistan to apply for the Chevening scholarship 2021/22. The online Chevening application window is now open to receive applications until 3rd November 2020 for the academic year 2021/22.

The UK Government's Chevening Scholarship enables outstanding emerging leaders across Pakistan to pursue fully funded one-year master's degrees in the UK; and is a unique opportunity to develop leadership potential, network with students from across the world and experience the best of the UK's first class education offer.

The Head of Communication and Public Diplomacy at the British High Commission, Fouzia Younis said: "I am delighted for the first time in the history of the Chevening Pakistan programme that this year nearly 60% of our selected scholars were talented and inspirational Pakistani women who are committed to making a difference. This forms part of our ambition to have at least an equal split of male and female scholars and I would love to see the same again for the next academic year."

Chevening alumni, Amna Abbas – Chief Legal Officer and Company Secretary, Telenor Microfinance Bank, said: "The Chevening Scholarship is truly a life changing milestone. It not only enables you to gain a postgraduate qualification from a prestigious university along with

Continued on Page 04

## PM: Balochistan a neglected province

"This lop-sided development has a very negative impact on society," Imran Khan said

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday admitted that Pakistan's Balochistan province has been neglected for a long time and there is a lot of poverty in the province. PM Imran passed the observation while addressing the signing ceremony for the award of contracts by Universal Service Fund (USF) for the provision of voice and high speed mobile broadband data in Balochistan and Sindh.



He said that the area from where Sui gas was supplied to all over the country is itself extremely underdeveloped and is no better than one from the stone ages. "This lop-sided development has a very negative

impact on society," he said. The premier spoke of how poor nations become poorer when all of the nation's wealth is parked into rich countries and despite money laundering laws in place, only rich countries are protected, while the poor are not.

"The result is economic migrants [...] going by ship, drowning in the seas, carrying their children with them. Then these [rich countries] put up fences and walls to keep them out," he continued.

Continued on Page 04

## Sheikh Nawaf new Kuwait emir

Sheikh Nawaf was visibly emotional as he addressed the NA

DNA

KUWAIT CITY: Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on Wednesday swore in as Kuwait's new emir after the death of his half-brother, the late ruler Sheikh Sabah who died in the US at the age of 91.

Sheikh Nawaf was visibly emotional as he addressed the National Assembly a day after the death of the emir, an acclaimed diplomat and mediator who ruled for 14 years.

"The precious confidence that the people of Kuwait have entrusted in us will be guarded with our lives," the 83-year-old said after taking the oath of office.



He pledged to "serve the nation" in the address before lawmakers, who sat socially distanced and in masks, in line with coronavirus precautions.

The remains of Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah are expected to arrive in Kuwait City later Wednesday, on a flight from Minnesota where he had been undergoing treatment in hospital since July.

## Pedestrian movement resumed at Torkham

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Federal Ministry of Interior on Tuesday permitted resumption of cross-border pedestrian movement at Torkham for four days a week, allowing citizens of Pakistan and Afghanistan to travel to both the neighbouring countries on legal documents.

The ministry through a notification issued on September 28 directed the 'competent authorities' to open the Torkham border crossing for pedestrian traffic for four days a week i.e. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

The notifications said that pedestrian (cross border) movement through Torkham would only be permitted on 'valid passport and visa'.

## Somalian envoy welcomes Pakistan 'Look Africa' policy

Pakistan has a lot of goodwill in the region as the country always championed the cause of the African countries at UN and remained in the forefront of peacekeeping missions in Africa

EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Khadija Mohamed Al-Makhzoumi, Ambassador of Somalia has said a large number of Somali students are studying in Pakistan in various educational fields. 'We are thankful to the people and government of Pakistan for their continuing assistance to the Somali students and for your delight some students after graduating from Pakistan have established an Urdu speaking colony in Mogadishu, Somalia. We are also now thinking to cooperate in Higher Education and research field'. She expressed these views while giving an exclusive interview with Daily Islamabad POST. To a question about Pakistan's Look Africa policy the ambassador said, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan has done well by organizing a conference of the country's envoys in the African Continent with a view to deliberating on issues relating to enhanced cooperation with them. The move is timely in the sense other countries of the world especially the United States and China are focusing more on Africa as its economies are



considered as 'lions on the move'. African continent is a rising market of 1.26 billion people; it is rich in mineral resources and is an exporter of energy resources. Pakistan has a lot of goodwill in the region as the country always championed the cause of the African countries at UN and remained in the forefront of peacekeeping missions in Africa. In this backdrop, it is unfortunate that Pak-Africa trade is negligible and the country has diplomatic presence in a few countries alone – thirteen missions



to cover 54 countries (the rest are managed through concurrent accreditation). Apart from Africa being a huge potential market for Pakistani goods, the country's geo-strategic location and connectivity offers opportunity for African goods to reach Central Asia and South Asia. 'As Somali Ambassador to Pakistan, I consider my role is to facilitate the contacts between the players in the economic field, to get them to know each other better and also to interconnect in a better way'. She further said, in 1969, Pakistan and



Somalia were among the founding members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Somalia's relations with Pakistan remained strong in the following years and through the ensuing civil war period, when the Pakistani military contributed to a UN peacekeeping operation in southern Somalia. In 2010, Pakistan tabled a proposal for United Nations Security Council seats for OIC and Arab League states, the latter of which Somalia is also a member. She said, Pakistan and Somalia are active



commercial partners, trading a variety of commodities. In 2008-2009, Somalia exported \$34,822.059 million USD worth of goods to Pakistan, with Pakistan in return exporting \$17,781.883 million USD worth of goods to Somalia. Pakistan's exports to Somalia during the same year included \$53.254 million in rice, \$0.627 million in medicament mixtures, \$10.400 million in non-cocoa sugar confectionery, and \$0.20 million in shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas and similar garments, she added.

## Inside...

Italy, Pakistan have common vision on poverty reduction: Envoy – Page 02

Speakers urge world to take note of HR violations in IIOJK – Page 03

Woman entrepreneur Neelofar becomes President of IWCCI – Page 04

UK, Canada impose sanctions on Belarus's Lukashenko – Page 05

'Azerbaijan able to liberate occupied lands by itself' – Page 06

President Xi Jinping's China: An overview – Page 07

All 32 accused in Babri Masjid case acquitted – Page 08



## Briefs

## Power generation of Tarbala dam reduced to 2500 MW

TARBAILA: Tarbala dam reservoir Wednesday started a slight decrease in water level after a decrease in the temperatures and on Wednesday it remained 1547.14 feet while the power generation of the dam reached 2500 megawatts. According to the Tarbala dam officials, 13 out of 17 power generation units of the dam were producing 3297 megawatts electricity and four units were shut down. On Wednesday water inflow in the Tarbala reservoir was recorded 66800 cusecs feet while outflow remained 85000 cusecs feet. It was also disclosed that 850 cusecs feet water was released for Pehur High-Level Canal (PHLC) to supply water for some areas of KPK for irrigation. Glaciers in the northern areas of Pakistan are the main source of water for the Tarbala dam reservoir those start melting as temperature increase in June and lasts till August. The upper parts of Gilgit Baltistan and Hazara division have received the first snowfall of the year which decreased the temperatures in northern areas. — APP

## ATC extends interim bail of Safdar, Sanaullah

DNA

LAHORE: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore has extended interim bail of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leaders Rana Sanaullah and Capt (ret'd) Safdar in a case related to clash outside the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) office during the appearance of Maryam Nawaz. The ATC extended interim bail of Capt (ret'd) Safdar and Rana Sanaullah till October 6. The hearing was conducted by ATC Judge Arshad Hussain Bhutta. At the outset of the hearing, the investigation officer of PS Chohang presented his report in the case. The accused persons were involved in hurling stones at police teams and brawl outside the NAB office, the report said. On the other hand, the defence lawyers denied the charges of their clients' involvement in the clash. The judge extended the bail of the accused till October 6. It may be noted that on August 12, Lahore police had registered a case against 300 Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leaders including its Vice President Maryam Nawaz on the complaint of the National Accountability Bureau after violent clashes outside the NAB office. The case carried sections dealing with the attack on NAB office in Lahore, interference in official duty and other related sections pertaining to violent acts.

## SHC summons LG secretary, seeks roadmap for Karachi

DNA

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Wednesday heard a petition seeking an investigation into the collapse of civic infrastructure in the metropolis due to torrential rains and compensation for affectees of urban flooding. A two-judge bench, headed by Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, directed the provincial local government secretary to appear in personal capacity to explain the situation and summoned a roadmap to remedy the issues faced by the port city on a permanent basis from the government. The hearing was adjourned until October 28. During the course of the hearing, Justice Mazhar remarked that gutters are overflowing in the city while roads are in dilapidated condition. Can anybody not see Karachi's abysmal state of affairs, he asked. "Can the KMC and DMCs not carpet damaged roads," the judge further questioned. What steps are being taken to resolve the civic issues, he asked the additional secretary of the relief department, to which the latter replied that the provincial government in cooperation with the Centre will soon begin work on the Rs1100 billion uplift package and that all schemes part of it will see the light of day in three to four years.

## Italy, Pakistan have common vision on poverty reduction: Envoy

The aim of the Roundtable within the Festival was to listen, from PPAF and other key actors of the Italian-financed and co-promoted initiatives with the Pakistani government

SHUJAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Within the framework of the Sustainable Development Festival 2020, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) Office in Islamabad and the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) organized a zoom Roundtable chaired by the Ambassador of Italy in Pakistan, Andreas Ferrarese, to highlight how the Italy-Pakistan Development Cooperation Programme has worked on remote community development,

through a series of initiatives, e.g. PPAF's Poverty Reduction Programme and the Debt Swap. The Annual ASVIS Sustainable Development Festival goes from September 22 to October 8. ASVIS has been founded by Prof. Enrico Giovannini, former Labour Minister, SDGs proactive promoter in the Italian Government and Civil Society. The aim of the Festival is to mobilize societies and institutions in Italy and in partners countries on the urgency of implementing the SDGs identified through the Agenda 2030, signed in



2015 by 193 countries. The aim of the Roundtable within the Festival was to listen, from PPAF and other key actors of the Italian-fi-

nanced and co-promoted initiatives with the Pakistani government and its Provinces, which innovative methods were worth to analyse and share for fostering remote communities' self-development, for a better quality of livelihood. Such approach being multi-actor, the Roundtable reflected the teamwork imprinted by AICS Islamabad since its relaunching a year ago as the relators were well-balanced between the two countries, and gender-wise. They represented: PPAF as Pakistani Foundation, UNESCO, the Pakistan Italy Debt Swap, the Minis-

try of Food Security, Universities of both countries (Ca' Foscari, CUST) and the Italian Archaeological Mission in Swat, the Pakistan Italy Alumni Network, a Research & Development NGO (EvK2CNR), the Chitral Women Handicrafts Center. Ambassador Ferrarese highlighted that: "Italy and Pakistan continue sharing and update their common vision on poverty reduction and climate change towards prosperity and social change, acting through multi-actor schemes involving the State till remote Civil Society."

## Indian national arrested over crossing into Pakistan

DNA

SIALKOT: Police on Wednesday arrested an Indian who illegally crossed into Pakistan from India via working boundary in Sialkot. As per details, an Indian national named Harinder Singh was arrested over illegally crossing into Pakistan. He is said to be a resident of Kamipur. The case against the Indian national has been registered under the Foreigners' Act. Meanwhile, the police have begun its investigation from Harinder Singh from various aspects. In August, last year, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) personnel conducted an operation

near Lari Adda area of the city and arrested an Indian national residing in the area.

According to deputy director FIA Amir Nawaz, Pancham Tiwari is a resident of the Indian city of Banaras (Now known as Varanasi) and had entered Pakistan illegally ten years ago and had been residing in the country ever since. Amir Nawaz informed that Pancham Tiwari and Kamran, a resident of Gujranwala, became friends in 2009 after which Tiwari entered Pakistan illegally and managed to get a National Identity Card under a pseudonym. Kamran had helped Tiwari to obtain a CNIC under a false name, revealed to be, Bilal.

## Opposition trying to divert public attention from corruption: Gill



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communication Shahbaz Gill Wednesday criticizing the opposition parties said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was making hue and cry to divert the public attention from their corruption cases. Talking to a private news channel, he said the PML-N corrupt leadership was busy in dirty politics and spreading lies to mislead the people. He added that the court had convicted them for committing billions of corruption. The special assistant said that Nawaz Sharif was a convict and proclaimed offender who lied and fled and secure no right to give any instructions to his party members. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan reiterated his resolve

that no National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) would be given to any corrupt leader including the Sharif family. "We will not grant any NRO to Nawaz Sharif and national wealth looted by former rulers will be recovered at any cost," he added. "People were aware that the PML-N mafia and sugar thieves have been exposed and hire spokesmen to defend them at Media for getting sympathies of common people," he added. The Sharifs and former president Asif Ali Zardari's family have no political future and even their children acknowledge it, he added. He advised Nawaz Sharif to trust the national institutions and come back to face the cases against him. He said his government was busy in public service under the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan. The international community has acknowledged the Prime Minister Imran Khan's strategy for public services. He said that in the past 40 years only two families have fared well while the country kept on suffering. "No one will be allowed to conspire against the will of the state", Shahbaz Gill said.

## Chief Justice inaugurates e-Kiosk information system at PHC



PESHAWAR: Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court (PHC), Justice Waqar Ahmad Seth on Wednesday inaugurated the second phase of the e-Kiosk, self-service information system at Peshawar High Court.

To enhance the accessibility of the information about cases fixed for hearing and to assuage the sufferings of the litigants and lawyers, Peshawar High Court has developed a self-service customized

e-Kiosk. The first phase of e-Kiosk system was inaugurated on 15th November 2019 by the then Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Asif Saeed Khosa.

With the establishment of two more e-Kiosk systems, the Peshawar High Court has surmounted one more step towards efficient delivery of service by automation. The e-Kiosk system has an in-house developed App that is connected

with the database of the CFMIS, a user-friendly interface allowing visitors to access the required information at their convenience. The Chief Justice, Peshawar High Court desired that the e-Kiosk system shall also be extended to all Peshawar High Court benches and the districts where the CFMIS (online) system is already deployed. Besides, he directed that the orders should also be made available online. —APP

## Governor Punjab greets Iftikhar Malik for landslide victory in LCCI election

DNA

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Sarwar Ch on Wednesday greeted Veteran trade leader and chairman Founder Group Iftikhar Ali Malik for landslide victory in annual election of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Talking to Iftikhar Malik by telephone, Governor said here on Wednesday that PIAF Founder alliance candidates had a clean sweep on all seats which reflects its popularity in the business community. He said that Lahore after Karachi is second hub of economic activities and traders always played key role in national development and progress of the country. He said that Lahore chamber is the largest and the oldest in the country established in 1923 which produced eminent figures in Pakistan. He said that PTI government especially Prime Minister Imran always attached great importance to business community and had already issued directives



to all federal and provincial departments to address the genuine grievances of the business community on top priority. Muhammad Sarwar Ch said that "he is all the time available to them and always not only extend cooperation but also take up their legitimate issues to concerned quarters for their redressal" he said. Iftikhar Malik thanked Governor for his support and acknowledgment of

democratically conducted fair free and transparent elections in chamber. He said it is indeed important to increase our exports and for that purpose we need to reduce our cost of doing business so that our products can remain competitive in the world markets. He further said trade facilitation is the key to promote industries and we need to remove all the obstacles and create the culture of trade facilitation. "Our Country has tremendous potential as we have enormous talent. What we need is the consistency in the government policies and a clear roadmap to move forward," he said. Iftikhar Malik said Lahore Chamber always acts as a bridge between the government and the business community. It has always tried to ensure a business-friendly environment through sharing views with the government and by taking all the stakeholders onboard on all the economy related issues.

## Shikarpur bypass gears up economic development of Sindh: Imran Ismail

DNA

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Mr. Imran Ismail has said that upgradation and rehabilitation of Ratodero-Shikarpur section of Indus Highway at Shikarpur Bypass today. NHA's Member South Zone Mr. Tufail Ahmed Shaikh also addressed. Sen-

ior officers from Ministry of Communications, National Highway Authority, Provincial Government and local administration were also present. In his address, Governor Sindh Mr. Imran Ismail said, project for construction of 2-Lane additional carriageway is being

undertaken under Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) program and that Asian Development Bank is providing financial assistance for this project. Under this program, eight sections of Indus Highway will be upgraded in four phases which in-

clude Phase-I: Petaro-Sehwan Section (64KM), Ratodero-Shikarpur Section (43KM) & Dara Adam Khel-Peshawar Section (34KM), Phase-II: Shikarpur-Rajanpur Section (224KM), Phase III-IV: D.G.Khan-D.I.Khan Section (208 KM), Rajanpur-D.G. Khan Section (122 KM), Jamshoro-Sehwan Section (130 KM) & Ratodero-Shikarpur Section (43 KM). He further said, Ratodero-Shikarpur project possesses extraordinary significance for people of Interior Sindh as it will pave the way for the agricultural and industrial development. The project will not only provide better transportation facilities but agricultural produces of the area will easily be taken to big markets. Ratodero-Shikarpur will also generate new employment opportunities for the youth, he added.

NHA's Member South Zone Mr. Tufail Ahmed Shaikh in his address said 43.4 Km long Ratodero-Shikarpur section will be completed at the cost of Rs. 4.94 billion in 2 years period. Speaking about background of CAREC program he said that CAREC program is a partnership of eleven (11) countries and development partners working together to pro-

mote development through cooperation, leading to accelerated economic growth. Member countries include Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Pakistan road network is connected to CAREC Corridor 5 which connects Central Asian Nations and Arabian Sea, specifically Indus Highway N-55. He further said, Indus Highway in the country is an alternative shorter route between Karachi and Peshawar as compared to National Highway N-5. Upgradation and Rehabilitation of Indus Highway will reduce load of commercial traffic on N-5 and accelerate pace of economic activities. Furthermore, in line with directive of Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Imran Khan on reaching out to the public through holding Khuli Kachehris by organizations under the Federal Government, Member Planning NHA Muhammad Naveed Iqbal Wahla held E-Kachehri at headoffice of the Authority through NHA official Facebook Page and answered to the questions placed by the people all over the country.



## ‘Chinese experts working round the clock on BRT’

PESHAWAR: A team of Chinese experts from the company which provided buses for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Peshawar, was busy in detailed inspection of the buses and route after the service was halted in the wake of four fire incidents on BRT vehicles. Spokesman for Trans Peshawar, the company that runs BRT said experts from the bus company were taking round the clock detailed assessment of the buses from all aspects. After a complete checkup of the buses and rectification of the shortcomings, he said the BRT service will resume. He said all the buses of BRT were in warranty and to make them more travel worthy and reliable and avert recurrence of fire incidents, some state-of-the-art parts and gadgets were being installed in these buses. He said the team of Chinese experts was confident that the buses will show improved performance once rectified and made more reliable. — APP

## Sindh Cabinet refuses to use RLNG

KARACHI: A meeting of Sindh Cabinet on Wednesday turned down a proposal of the use of the Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) in the province.

The provincial cabinet session chaired by Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, in a consensus decision said Sindh should be given its rightful share of the natural gas of its gas-fields and not the RLNG as being recommended. Sindh Cabinet also approved granting the land to the gas company for laying pipeline in the province. It is to be mentioned here that the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) had sought government permission for laying a pipeline in Malir, Jamshoro and Thatta districts.

The opposition lawmakers of Sindh Assembly on Tuesday protested at the Chief Minister House in Karachi and submitted a memorandum, holding the PPP-led Sindh government responsible for the gas crisis and demanded the Right of Way for a new Sui Southern Gas Company pipeline. Meanwhile, PPP legislators protested outside the SSGC's office in Karachi on Tuesday and alleged that the Centre depriving Sindh of its rightful share of natural gas. Recently Federal Minister for Energy Omar Ayub Khan had criticized Sindh government for dragging feet on right-of-way approval to lay a new gas pipeline for re-gasified liquefied natural gas (RLNG). He also accused Sindh government for worsening gas crisis in Karachi, claiming that lack of co-operation from Sindh with the centre is causing shortage of gas in Karachi and held the provincial government responsible for gas crisis.

## KP govt extends health emergency

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government on Wednesday has extended health emergency for another two months till November 31. According to the notification, the provincial government has stressed on adopting protective measures to combat the spread of deadly coronavirus. The decision was taken as primary schools across the country including KP have been reopened with strict implementation on standard operating procedures (SOPs) to avoid contracting COVID-19. Earlier on September 29, Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mehmood along with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan had announced to reopen the primary level schools (Grade 1-5) from September 30. Since the re-opening up of educational institutions from September 15, a total of 1,71,436 students, teachers and administrative staff had been tested for COVID-19 across the country, out of which only 1284 were tested positive with the ratio of 0.8 per cent, he added.



## Briefs

### HEC, Huawei conclude 'Seeds for Future'

ISLAMABAD: Through the medium of a remote virtual event, Huawei Pakistan, working together with the Higher Education Commission, took part in the official closing ceremony for the 'Seeds for the Future programme 2020'.

The event was attended by Moin-ul-Haque, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Dr Fateh Marri, Executive Director HEC, Ma Libing, Deputy CEO Huawei Pakistan and the 32 students who participated in the programme, a press release on Wednesday said.

This is the 6th year seeds for the future is happening in Pakistan, unlike previous years, when a whole batch of nominated students could travel to China for the study trip, this was the first time that the programme was moved online due to the obvious restrictions of COVID-19. Out of a pool of 1,173 applicants, 32 engineering students from 27 universities all across Pakistan were nominated by the Higher Education Commission (HEC). The aim of the programme, which has been active in over 126 countries and regions since its inception in Thailand, has been to nurture upcoming STEM talent from around the world. As a global ICT market leader, Huawei has taken it upon itself to promote local ICT industries as part of development in their operational regions.

During the one week online learning programme from September 21 to 25, 2020, students from Kenya alongside students from Pakistan received technical training from Huawei and industry ICT experts, who shared their expertise on courses covering a wide range of topics like the Chinese language, strategic leadership, 5G, cloud computing, AI etc. Students were required to finish a number of compulsory courses and get a minimum of 60 marks on the test at the end of the course. — APP

## ITP resumes license services

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) have resumed driving license services after a hiatus of over six months with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) standard operating procedures (SOPs) to keep virus at the bay.

"We have been issuing 250 tokens each day from first come first-served basis since Monday, following one of the important virus containing guideline such as social distancing," the ITP spokesperson told media on Wednesday.

Other health guidelines including use of face-mask, gloves and hand sanitizer are being observed in true letter and spirit within the vicinity of ITP office, located in sector F-8 at the area dedicated for green belt.

He urged the senior citizens and children to avoid visiting the traffic office.

The services were suspended in the mid-March, following the announcement for imposition of the country-wide lockdown by the government to stem the COVID spread.

Public, whose licenses got expired and seeking new one, also felt relieved after the resumption of driving license operations in the Federal Capital. — APP

## Sajjad elected PCMEA Chairman

ISLAMABAD, Sep 30 (AP)-Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) on Wednesday elected all its office-bearers whereas Sajjad Pervez elected as Central Chairman and Riaz Ahmed as Senior Vice Chairman (Northern) while Zahid Nazir as Vice Chairman Southern in the annual elections 2020-21. The Chief Election Commissioner Akbar Malik announced the names of the successful candidates in the annual meeting, said a press release issued by PCMEA here. — APP

# Speakers urge world to take note of HR violations in IIOJK

Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad organized an Online International Conference on "Role of Human Rights Watch in Thwarting Indian Atrocities in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir

SAIFULLAH / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad organized an Online International Conference on "Role of Human Rights Watch in Thwarting Indian Atrocities in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir". The aim of the Conference was to stimulate the International Human Rights Organizations to accentuate the applicability of International Humanitarian Laws in Kashmir.

The Conference commenced with the opening remarks of Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI(M), (Retd), President CGSS who welcomed the participants of the session. He stated that the Kashmir conflict must

be addressed by the International community.

Sardar Masood Khan, President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir stated that the threefold responsibility of the charter of UN is to promote and protect peace, promote and protect human rights, and economic development and the wellbeing of the nations of the world. When we talk about human right instruments the core right is the right to self-determination which was recognized in 1945. However, the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir has been denied for the past 73 years despite the passage of a dozen of UNSC resolutions. Other instruments including the Universal declaration of human rights, the 2 covenants; the covenant on



civil and political rights; and the academic, social and cultural rights also refer to the right of self-determination. Then there are conventions against torture, against disappearance, discrimination against women or racial discrimination and so on. All

these instruments are being violated blatantly by the Indian forces in Jammu & Kashmir. In fact the Indian government has enforced laws like the Armed Forces Special Power Act or the Public Safety Act which give cover to all the crimes against hu-

manity which are committed by the occupational forces against the unarmed civilians in Kashmir. He mentioned that ethnic genocides, culture invasion & other crimes against humanity are being committed by India that require immediate action.

Ms. Shireen Mazari, Federal Minister of Human Rights, Government of Pakistan stated there are different aspects to the Kashmir Dispute, first is the conflict resolution through United Nations Security Council resolution through a plebiscite which will be a just solution for the people of Kashmir. In the contemporary times, human rights violation has become central to various countries across the globe than why India has never been questioned

for violating human rights in the Indian Occupied Kashmir which has been ongoing since 1948. India has also undermined the Simla agreement. The siege in IOK still continues, we must take this issue to the UN Forums more strongly. India is moving up the scale of the genocide. India has altered the administrative dynamics. In addition, the demographic changes is a proof that India aims to destroy Kashmiri identity and population by infiltrating Indian citizens to Jammu & Kashmir.

The Conference was attended by 100 participants and was also streamed live on Facebook. The Conference was moderated by Barrister Waqas Aziz Qureshi, Member Board of Experts, CGSS.

# Mayor distributes safety kits among sanitary workers



ISLAMABAD: Mayor Islamabad Sheikh Ansar Aziz addressing a function to distribute security kits among sanitary workers. — DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Mayor Sheikh Ansar Aziz has said that sanitary workers should take care of their health along with their work by using corona kit.

He expressed these views during distribution of protective kits by the Metropolitan Corporation in sanitary workers. He was accompanied by Deputy Mayor Syed Zeeshan Naqvi, Chairman

Union Council Sardar Mehtab Haider, Zaheer Shah, Malik Sajjad and PML-N's Islamabad Minority Wing while addressing a function to distribute security kits at G-9-3. Manzoor Masih was also present.

He said that the corona safety kit was distributed among the MCI sanitary workers even earlier when the corona virus epidemic

was rampant.

He said that apart from sanitary workers, I have already distributed safety kits in Islamabad media and other institutions. The mayor of Islamabad said that our sanitary workers performed their duties well in the days of pandemic.

Sanitary workers have to defeat this epidemic by implementing Corona SOPs

together. Take care of your health along with your work by using these Kits.

He said that he has worked for the Masih community of Islamabad before and will continue to do so. In the last few days, I visited Masih Cemetery and cleaned it.

He directed to improve the cleaning arrangements and to fix the bad lights there as soon as possible.

# NEPRA completes hearing into 98 paisa tariff hike

*CCPA officials told that expensive fuel plants were run due to shortage of gas. As many as 750 MMCFD gas was provided to the power plants against 800 MMCFD during August, they further said*

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Wednesday completed hearing on a petition filed by Central Power Purchase Agency (CPPA) on behalf of ex-WAPDA power distribution companies for 98 paisa per unit increase for August under monthly fuel adjust-

ment mechanisms.

The power regulator decided to give a decision after verification of data provided by CPPA. The decision would be issued after verification of cost of high speed diesel and furnace oil. It was told that electricity of over Rs 11 billion was generated through expensive furnace oil and diesel.

CCPA officials told that expensive fuel plants were run due

to shortage of gas. As many as 750 MMCFD gas was provided to the power plants against 800 MMCFD during August, they further said.

Chairman NEPRA Tauseef H Farooqi said that the authority would announce decision after reviewing all data. It is pertinent to mention here that CPPA sought 98 paisa per unit increase on account of the fuel cost adjustment for August 2020.

## PAL Chairman calls on Governor

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL), Dr Yousuf Khushk called on Amanullah Yasinzai, Governor of Balochistan. During the meeting, Amanullah Yasinzai said that the efforts of the PAL for the promotion and development of Pakistani languages and literature, their national and international recognition and the welfare of writers are commendable. The Governor of Balochistan assured the Pakistan Academy of Letters of all possible help for the promotion of literature and the welfare of the writers. — DNA

## 18 illegal bikes impounded from Police Lines

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Police on the directive of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younas on Wednesday launched an operation against improper and without number plate vehicles particularly motorcycles and impounded 18 bikes from Police Lines.

According to a police spokesman, Rawalpindi District Police started the operation from Police Lines as the CPO had directed the officers concerned to take action against the rules violators. The bikes of the police officials with improper and fancy number plates were impounded in Civil Lines Police Station, he added.

All the citizens are equal before the law and they are entitled to the equal protection of the law without discrimination, the CPO said directing the police officers to implement laws in letter and spirit. The police officials who are violating the rules should also be dealt with in accordance with the law, he added.

It is pertinent to mention here that several policemen are not only defying the rules and regulations by willfully avoiding a mandatory traffic rules, but are also compromising the security of the common man by using motorcycles lacking number plates.

Excise and Taxation Department officials have categorically stated that there was no room in the law for any improvised, temporary or fancy number plates to be used for any vehicle. The motorcycles lacking number plates being used by the police officials pose a great security risk and these personnel could also be seen violating traffic rules and regulations. — APP

## ‘Ground water Management Plan’ reports launched

*Report provides information on areas where groundwater is under stress*

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in partnership with Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), and in collaboration with The Asia Foundation, United States Agency for International Development and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) launched two reports here on Wednesday.

The reports aimed for the development of the "Groundwater Management Plan" for Pakistan. The consultation aims to help the government of Pakistan with the long-term management of groundwater resources.

The launching ceremony was followed by a stakeholder consultation, said a press release issued here.

The World Water Development Report 2020 sheds light on the impact of climate change on the availability, quality and quantity of water needed for basic

human needs, thus undermining the basic rights to safe drinking water and sanitation for billions of people. Such a situation will also hinder the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6, that ensures access to safe drinking water and sanitation for all. This presents a considerable challenge as 2.2 billion people currently do not have access to safely managed drinking water, and 4.2 billion, or 55% of the world's population, are without safely managed sanitation.

The report on Groundwater Investigations and Mapping in the Lower Indus Plain provides information on areas where groundwater is under stress due to water depletion and quality deterioration. The report also identifies areas where usable groundwater is available. This information will help the stakeholders in future groundwater management. — APP

## AGP office wins RIC Award 2020

ISLAMABAD: The Auditor General of Pakistan office has won the Right to Information Champion Award 2020 in the category of best performing public body at federal level.

Deputy Auditor General (FAO) Magbool Ahmed Gondal received the award on behalf of Auditor General of Pakistan, at an event organized here by Center for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) and Pakistan Information Commission (PIC), according to press statement issued here.

Since 2014, CPDI has been celebrating International Day on Access to Information through a public event that consists of panel discussions, report launches, and RTI Awards for best public body (federal level), journalist and citizen.

The Deputy Auditor General also participated in the event as a panelist during the panel discussion revolving around the topics of budget transparency and right to information.

CPDI established in 2005 is an independent civil society organization working on the issues of development and peace in Pakistan. — APP

## Rescue-1122 rescued 314 people from drowning

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Emergency Service, Rescue 1122 responded to 284 drowning emergencies and rescued 314 drowning victims since its commencement in seven tehsils of the district with average response time of 7.05 minutes.

District Emergency Officer (DEO), Ali Hussain while talking to APP said that dedicated Water Rescue Teams are deputed in all tehsils to provide a swift response to all emergencies, adding that these emergencies can be reduced by providing the swimmers dedicated places for swimming activities with necessary arrangements for Rescue Life Guards.

Citizens should avoid swimming at the most vulnerable/dangerous points and avoid going into deep water if they are not know swimming, he said adding that parents should never allow their children for swimming at high-risk areas to keep them safe from drowning emergencies.

He urged the citizens to call on 1122 in case of any emergency as the only time-lay call can ensure a timely response.

PES, Rawalpindi also rescued as many as 272,101 victims of different emergencies while conducting 252,327 rescue operations since its inception, DEO added. — APP

## 747 new virus cases reported

FIJAZ CHAUDHARY

ISLAMABAD: The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Wednesday were recorded 8,903 as 747 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours.

Five corona patients, who were under treatment in hospital died on Tuesday, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Centre (NCOC).

No COVID affected person was on ventilator in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Balochistan, while 93 ventilators elsewhere in Pakistan, out of 1,912 allocated for COVID-19 patients, were occupied.

Some 32,031 tests were conducted across the country on Tuesday, including 10,881 in Sindh, 11,239 in Punjab, 3,888 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 3,442 in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 1,617 in Balochistan, 533 in Gilgit Baltistan (GB), and 431 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

Around 296,881 people have recovered from the disease so far across Pakistan making it a significant count with over 90 percent recovery ratio of the affected patients.



## Briefs

Chairman  
PAL called  
on Governor  
Balochistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL), Dr. Yousuf Khushk called on Amanullah Yasinzaï, Governor of Balochistan. During the meeting, Amanullah Yasinzaï said that the efforts of the PAL for the promotion and development of Pakistani languages and literature, their national and international recognition and the welfare of writers are commendable. The Governor of Balochistan assured the Pakistan Academy of Letters of all possible help for the promotion of literature and the welfare of the writers. Dr. Yousuf Khushk, Chairman, PAL, apprised the Governor of Balochistan of the aims and objectives and performance of the PAL, and in particular the current initiatives and future plans of the PAL for Literature and Writers of Balochistan.

Distillery  
raided, huge  
cache of liquor  
recovered

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A distillery was raided in Ali pur area which led to the recovery of a huge quantity of liquor, wine, a police spokesman on Wednesday said. He said renewed efforts are underway to curb bootlegging and drug peddling activities in the city following the directions of IGP Aamir Zulfiqar Khan. DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed has conducted special meetings with heads of police stations and directed them to accelerate efforts against anti-social elements, the spokesman added. SP (Investigation) Malik Naem Iqbal constituted a team under the supervision of DSP Criminal Investigation Agency (CIA) Hakim Khan including Sub-Inspectors Ishtaiq Hussain, Muhammad Inam-Ullah and others. The team conducted a raid at a distillery in Ali Pur area of Shahzad Town police station and arrested bootlegger namely Ghulam Hussain S/o Hasnain Shah resident of Ali pur Islamabad and recovered 180 liters alcohol wine. Case has been registered against him and further investigation is underway. The DIG has appreciated the performance of personal and directed for further effective measures against those involved in bootlegging or anti-social activities.

Seafood exports  
gain momentum,  
increase by  
12.25%

ISLAMABAD: The exports of fish and fish preparations increased by 12.25 percent during first two months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year. The seafood exports during July-August (2020-21) were recorded at \$40.843 million against the exports of \$36.386 million in July-August (2019-20), showing growth of around 12.25 percent, according to Pakistan Bureau of statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, Pakistan exported 21,362 metric tons seafood during the period under review against the exports of 15,397 metric tons last year, showing increase of 38.74 percent. However on year-on-year basis, the fish exports from the country declined 26.62 percent by going down from \$18.811 million during August 2019 to \$13.804 million in July 2020. On month-on-month basis, the seafood exports decreased by 48.95 percent in August 2020 when compared to the exports of \$27.039 million in July 2020, the PBS data revealed. The overall food exports from the country decreased by 17.76 percent during the first two months of current year compared to last year. The food exports from the country were recorded at \$535.669 million during July-August (2020-21) against the exports of \$651.384 million during July-August (2019-20). It is pertinent to mention here that, the country's merchandise trade deficit witnessed reduction of 7.48 percent during the first two months of current fiscal year (2020-21) as compared to the deficit of the corresponding period of last year.

Woman entrepreneur Neelofar  
becomes President of IWCCI

Pakistan can only become a developed nation when women are encouraged to take part in economic activities and their skills properly utilized for the greater cause of national development: MPs

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Noted woman entrepreneur Neelofar Khan has been elected as President of the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI). Rozina Lahooti has been elected as Senior Vice President, Shumaila Naz has been elected as Vice President at 11th Annual General Meeting. The meeting was attended by a large number of businesswomen, former office-bearers and the newly-elected executive committee. Chief Guest Parliamentary Secretary for Commerce, Industries and Production Ms Aliya Hamza, Senator Seemi Ezdi and MNA Dr Nausheen Hamid also participated in the event and took an oath from the newly-elected office-bearers. Speaking on the occasion, Ms Aliya Hamza, Seemi Ezdi and Dr Nausheen Hamid, founder president IWCCI Samina Fazil, Farida Rashid and others said that entrepreneurship is one of the best ways to empower women and the government is trying its best to provide maximum support to businesswoman. They said that Pakistan can only become a developed nation when women are encouraged to take part in economic activities



and their skills properly utilized for the greater cause of national development. The speakers lauded the women empowerment initiatives by the government and stressed that more should be done for social and economic

development of women which will benefit the entire population of the country. The women leaders said that they will try to increase economic opportunities for women through different capacity building initiatives,

while safeguarding their rights and uplifting their status in the society. Samina Fazil paid tributes to the outgoing office-bearers of IWCCI and lauded their services and asked the newly-elected officials to try best

to serve the women. She said that gender equality is the key to progress as the majority of our population comprises of women but they are discouraged in some places. The newly-elected office-bearers said that govern

ment departments and private sector institutions can play a positive role in strengthening women's economic capacities which can guarantee accelerated social and economic growth of Pakistan.

COVID-19 cases  
climbs to 16,581 in  
ICT: NCOC

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) Wednesday said the Covid-19 cases had climbed to 16,581 in the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT). According to the NCOC official, total 182 deaths were reported from the ICT while 15,865 patients had recovered completely. Commenting on the situation, an official of Ministry of National Health Services said several local level administrative decisions were made to control the disease. He advised the citizens to continue following the social distancing, use of mask and other precautionary measures to stop increasing local transmission of the COVID-19 in the ICT. He said the government had adopted effective strategy to combat COVID-19 that had resulted reduction in the corona cases across the country. He said present facts and figures of the disease show declining trend of coronavirus

at all level due to prompt response of the government. Expressing satisfaction over current COVID-19 situation, he said all this was made possible due to team efforts and the efficient work of the NCOC. He said the main focus of the strategy was to control the disease and maintaining business activities of small and poor traders. He added such strategy was successfully implemented to get results. He said all federal and provincial and public and private institutions concerned played remarkable role under the NCOC against the disease. He said all possible measures were adopted to control COVID-19 to avoid further load on already burdened health system of the country. He said strategies were made to control coronavirus keeping in view the global information, focusing on data with integration of local data in a scientific way. — APP

'Deadline of Ehsaas  
payments extended'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation Dr Sania Nishtar has announced that Ehsaas Emergency Cash payments to those with biometric issues and families of dead beneficiaries will be continuing nationwide till October 30. However, the previously defined last date for filing applications till September 30, 2020 remains unchanged. Applications are closing today for beneficiaries facing biometric failures and families of dead. Formerly, September 30, 2020 was the last date for disbursements to eligible beneficiaries under Ehsaas Emergency Cash. But for now, aiming to facilitate smooth payments, the last date of cash disbursements has been extended till the end of October 2020 as long as the application is submitted till September 30, 2020. Two weeks ago, Ehsaas had opened online portal to re-

ceive applications from eligible beneficiaries with biometric verification issues. Likewise, Ehsaas had set out the application process for families of dead beneficiaries who had to despatch applications for facilitation in payments directly to Dr. Sania Nishtar along with the CNIC details of dead family member, death certificate verified by NADRA and CNIC details of eligible heir directly to Ehsaas offices at F-Block, Pak Secretariat, Islamabad. Ehsaas is closely monitoring the payments in field and is committed to supporting beneficiaries being confronted with issues throughout it. Expediting the payment process to remaining Ehsaas Emergency Cash beneficiaries, the listing and inspection procedures are underway and customized payment responses to all eligible applicants will be sent accordingly so that emergency cash transfer operations across the country get completed within due timeframe.

SAPM on  
Health calls  
on Federal  
Minister for IT

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr. Faisal Sultan called on Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque on Wednesday. Federal Minister for IT welcomed the SAPM on Health in his office, and during the meeting Federal Minister for IT and SAPM on Health discussed about Pakistan's first bloodless kidney dialysis machine developed by Byonyks, the medical devices company. Secretary IT Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui and CEO Ignite were also present. On the occasion Farukh Usman, founder Byonyks demonstrated the machine to SAPM. He briefed the SAPM that Byonyks' unique technology does not require extracting blood out of the human body to perform dialysis. Patients can perform dialysis at home without any supervision with protection from life threatening infections.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and members of Senate offering Fateha on sad demise of Sheikh Sabah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah the Emir of the State of Kuwait at embassy of Kuwait — DNA

## Afghan peace essential for region: President

President Arif Alvi noted that Pakistan's contribution to the peace process has been appreciated by the international community adding that commencement of Intra-Afghan Negotiations in Doha is a watershed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, High Council for National Reconciliation (HCNR) of Afghanistan, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi on Wednesday. Expressing satisfaction at the progress achieved in the Afghan peace process, the President conveyed his best wishes for success of

Dr. Abdullah Abdullah in his assignment as Chairman of the HCNR. President Dr. Alvi reaffirmed Pakistan's support to the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process. He emphasized that there was no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan and a politically negotiated settlement was the only way forward. President Arif Alvi noted that Pakistan's contribution to the peace process has

been appreciated by the international community adding that commencement of Intra-Afghan Negotiations in Doha is a watershed. He stressed that the Afghan leadership must seize this historic opportunity to work together constructively and secure an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement. President Alvi reaffirmed that Pakistan will stand-by the decisions made by the Af-

ghan nation with regard to the future of Afghanistan. The President emphasized the importance of patience and perseverance in the peace negotiations. The President also underlined the need for guarding against the 'spoilers', who do not wish to see return of peace in the region. President Dr. Arif Alvi further underscored that peace in Afghanistan is essential for Pakistan and Afghani-

stan, as well as the region, to realize their economic potential. He emphasized that Pakistan had opened border crossing-points to facilitate Afghan transit trade despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The two countries should work together to enhance trade, transit and people-to-people exchanges. The President underlined that Pakistan has completed a number of development projects in Afghanistan, in-

cluding hospitals, schools, hostels and road network. Pakistan would be willing to extend more opportunities for Afghan students in higher education. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah is on his first official visit to Pakistan as Chairman, High Council for National Reconciliation. During his three-day visit, he held meetings with leadership in Pakistan and interacted with the media.

Islamabad: 2  
impersonators  
held

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Tarnol police have arrested two persons during checking in it jurisdiction and recovered caps, police lights badged of police and other law enforcement agencies, weapons and vehicle use in crime, a police spokesman said. He said that SP (Saddar) Muhammad Sarfaraz Virk constituted a special team for checking in the area. This team headed by DSP Khalid Mehmood Awan included SHO Tarnol Police station Sub-Inspector Alamghir Khan and ASI Muhammad Ishaq was conducting checking at Chungi NO. 26 when it stopped a car (LEF-7989). They searched two car occupants later identified as Ali Ahmed and Jamal and recovered badged-caps of police and police light, weapons and vehicle use in crime. Case has been registered against them at Tarnol police station while DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed has appreciated this performance of police team.

'Hundreds  
nurseries run  
by women  
groups'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul Wednesday said hundreds of nurseries have been established across the country under 10 Billion Tree Tsunami Programme, many of which were being owned and run independently by the community women groups. In a statement here, Zartaj Gul said incumbent government has assigned the highest importance to the women's participation in tree plantation programmes and sustainable management of the forest resources. "Their involvement in such activities was now helping them build up their socio-economic lives but also motivating them to play their part in promotion of forestry among women community members". She achieving enhanced participation of the women in conservation and protection of the country's forest resources, an enabling environment was also being created under the Prime Minister's 10m Billion Tree Tsunami Programme. This would also help them raise their children's awareness about the need for conservation, increasing the chances of long-term sustainable management of forest resources, she added.

'Opposition  
narrative  
meant to  
seek NRO'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Parliamentary Secretary for commerce Shandana Gulzar Khan Wednesday said that opposition were criticizing the government for hiding its corruption and were following the fake ideology. Talking to PTV news, she said the narrative of PML-N and PPP was to hide their corruption and they were not concerned about problems faced by people, she added. She stated that both the parties should support legislation for national interests instead of protecting their personal interests, adding, supremacy of parliament was reflected through legislation on national issues that were not the "priority of opposition". She said opposition parties had only one agenda and they were just trying that the government should not succeed in resolving problems of the masses. She said now public money would be spent on welfare of the people, adding her leadership would continue public service without caring about the criticism. She said that all the corrupt elements, who had burdened the country with a whopping billion debt, would be brought to justice as the country could not make progress without holding the corrupt elements accountable. The top leadership of both parties are facing cases of criminal nature, she said, adding, opposition considers that parliament was just a place to blackmail the government. Replying to a question about oppositions threat for protest, she said it was not the time to put the whole nation in confusion and uncertainty but to make wise decisions and opposition should think beyond their personal interests.



## The big five of the tech world

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

The technology industry of the world has grown by leaps and bounds during the last couple of decades. We have now entered the digital age where almost all processes are being dealt online. If in the late 1990s when the world was introduced to the Internet, then in 2010 we are using the same Internet with unimaginable speeds to complete tasks. What began as a search engine as Google in the 1990s, is now a multinational technology company that specializes in Internet-related services and products, which include online advertising technologies, a search engine, cloud computing, software, and hardware. When talking about the tech industry of the world, we do mention five of its biggest companies. They are Apple, Google (Alphabet), Facebook, Amazon, and, Microsoft. Their combined market capitalization is estimated to be more than \$4 trillion. It is indeed unbelievable to see that these five companies that were mere dreams many decades ago are now a global phenomenon. These companies have been offering services to a global audience and have a strong online presence. With the advent of digital media, customers are just a click away from interacting with the customer support of these companies. Moreover, these companies have remained true to their niche, genre, and business objectives. What they were offering in the 1990s, they have evolved in the same domain. They have used innovation and market research to offer such services that fulfill the needs of individual customers and corporations. Moreover, with technology as the mainstay of these companies, they have been utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) to bring new products into their portfolio. These companies have also focused on identifying a problem and offer solutions as products and services to resolve such challenges. Indeed, their market worth and relationship with customers will only grow in the coming times.

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## Dubious returns

When the New York Times was able to secure President Trump's tax-return data for the last two decades—reportedly paying a meager sum of \$750 in total—many felt that this is why the President had been dodging the question since his first election campaign. He is the first president, in 47 years, who had refused to adhere to the established notions of transparency that a democratic nation requires. This phenomenon is one that we are all too familiar with in Pakistan, where the influential flout the rules and fail to lead by example. In the longer run, all this does is nurture a setup which tolerates deceit by leaders who neglect their democratic responsibilities. In principle, any country that adopts democracy as a system of governance requires its politicians to be law abiding citizens in order to inspire faith in their ability to create, discuss and implement law and policies. As such, it is imperative for prominent members of the government, especially presidents and prime ministers, to disclose information regarding any debt they may have, sources of income, tax payments and the like. The failure to do so can result in countless audits—like the one being led by the Internal Revenue Service on Trump's \$72.9 million tax refund—by authorities and, consequently, public backlash that diminishes confidence in governance. Pakistan, over the course of the last few years, has cracked down on officials who were suspected of unscrupulous dealings that went against the interests of the country. Countless cases of money laundering, tax avoidance, tax evasion and corruption were, and continue to be, initiated by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in order to enforce accountability and prevent instances of corruption that rob the state of valuable resources which can be used to aid the population. As soon as powerful individuals make dubious statements or refuse to prove their abidance of the law, the entire system threatens to crumble under the weight of underhanded works of self-interest.

# President Xi Jinping's China: An overview

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani



President Xi further mentioned that, spanning thousands of miles and years, the ancient silk routes embody the spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit

1st October 2020, the 71st Foundation Day of People's Republic of China, like national or foundations days of all other nations around globe, is of paramount significant. However, the Chinese President, Xi Jinping adds more value and significance to this already valuable and significant occasion for the Chinese people and its well-wisher throughout the world. Since 2012, President, Xi Jinping has initiated various mega projects, including Belt and Road Initiative for collective prosperity of the wider community of the global village. Owing to his achievements, his recent address to the United Nations General Assembly is worthwhile. Xi Jinping does not wish to engage in the new cold war, told United Nations General Assembly, "China is the largest developing country in the world, a country that is committed to peaceful, open, cooperative and common development". He expressed that China did not have any intention of fighting either cold or hot wars with any of the countries of this world. The President, being focused at the peace of the global village largely, vowed for peaceful existence of world countries, sharing businesses. This statement that came from the Chinese President is immensely important as it is indicative of China's preferences with regard to world development in general and the President's intentions in particular. His sublime speech-

highlights that how the President, Xi Jinping intends to support and favour multilateralism and safeguards international system with the United Nations at its core. He also mentioned that the world would never return to isolation and no one can sever the ties between countries. Ever since 2012, the hon'ble President, Xi Jinping has taken steps that amicably highlight his visionary zeal of developing the world. From BRI to every single step that he has taken for the strengthening of shared community values and its prosperity, China has played its leading role not only in small regions but larger world avenues. As China claimed its strength during the last year landmark celebrations of its 70th Founding Day, proved it by facing and fighting global challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic in a spic and span manner. This COVID-19 affected China firstly and then it attacked entire world, but the world community, later on, learned a lot from Chinese experience as how to handle this fatal virus. The credit for this, however, goes to the Chinese leadership & its determined nation for their resilience, perseverance and citizenship. It is, in actual, China who taught to the world as how to face any pandemic. Thus, China becomes a role model for other nations for which we must crown under President Xi and his dedicated nation driven by his hard-working team. Chinese President, Xi Jinping warned the assembled leaders and their nations of the "clash of civilizations" as the coronavirus pandemic ravages the world, while addressing the United Nations General Assembly. President mentioned that the world must "oppose politicization and stigmatization" over COVID-19, urging global leaders to embrace the "concept of a bigger family ... and avoid falling into the trap of a clash of civilizations." President Xi makes this clear to the world leaders that the China had no desire for "hegemony, expansion or sphere of influence" and further mentioned that "China has no intention to enter a Cold War with any country" he said, insisting China is instead a bulwark of international systems such as the World Trade Organization and a willing partner in the face of diplomatic spats. "We insist on dialogue to bridge differences and negotiation to resolve disputes," Xi added.

These most recent statements show that the Chinese President Xi's mindset that China and its leadership always prefer to work for peaceful coexistence of the world community and strictly implement non-interference policy: avoiding any indulgence in affairs of other and preferring to solve every conflict on a table through a talk. Surprisingly, the China's picture portrayed by the US is quite different from what China in real is and it nonetheless torn face of the US. It explicitly expresses that how the US wants to paint her own choice of colours in the picture which are not real. While, addressing the UN, President Xi Jinping recalled that Seventy-five years ago where China made historic contributions to winning the World Anti-Fascist War and supported the founding of the United Nations. He said, "the history of development of human society is a history of our struggles against all challenges and difficulties and our victories over them. At present, the world is battling the COVID-19 pandemic as it goes through profound changes never seen in a century. Yet, peace and development remain the underlying trend of the times, and people everywhere crave even more strongly for peace, development and win-win cooperation. COVID-19 will not be the last crisis to confront humanity, so we must join hands and be prepared to meet even more global challenges". President Xi Jinping few years ago while

speaking at BRI international summit mentioned, "Over 2,000 years ago, our ancestors, trekking across vast steppes and deserts, opened the transcontinental passage connecting Asia, Europe and Africa, known today as the Silk Road. Our ancestors, navigating rough seas, created sea routes linking the East with the West, namely, the maritime Silk Road. These ancient silk routes opened windows of friendly engagement among nations, adding a splendid chapter to the history of human progress. The thousand-year-old 'gilt bronze silkworm' displayed at China's Shaanxi History Museum and the Belitung shipwreck discovered in Indonesia bear witness to this exciting period of history. President Xi further mentioned that, spanning thousands of miles and years, the ancient silk routes embody the spirit of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit. The Silk Road spirit has become a great heritage of human civilization.

– Peace and cooperation.  
 – Openness and inclusiveness.  
 – Mutual learning.  
 – Mutual benefit.

History is our best teacher. The glory of the ancient silk routes shows that geographical distance is not insurmountable. If we take the first courageous step towards each other, we can embark on a path leading to friendship, shared development, peace, harmony and a better future. From the historical perspective, humankind has reached an age of great progress, great transformation and profound changes. In this increasingly multi-polar, economically globalized, digitized and culturally diversified world, the trend toward peace and development becomes stronger, and reform and innovation are gaining momentum. Never have we seen such close interdependence among countries as today, such fervent desire of people for a better life, and never have we had so many means to prevail over difficulties. No doubt since start 2020, the 1.4 billion Chinese, undaunted by the strike of COVID-19, and with the Chinese leadership & people united as one, have made

all-out efforts to control the virus and speedily restore life and economy to normalcy. Chinese Nation confidence to achieve our goals within the set time frame, that is, to finish the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, lift out of poverty all rural residents living below the current poverty line, and meet ten years ahead of schedule the poverty eradication target set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. China is the largest developing country in the world, a country that is committed to peaceful, open, cooperative and common development. We will never seek hegemony, expansion, or sphere of influence. We have no intention to fight either a Cold War or a hot war with any country. We will continue to narrow differences and resolve disputes with others through dialogue and negotiation. We do not seek to develop only ourselves or engage in a zero-sum game. We will not pursue development behind closed doors. Rather, we aim to foster, over time, a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other. This will create more space for China's economic development and add impetus to global economic recovery and growth.

Now, world community referred China due to landmark initiatives and steps taken by President Xi Jinping's China to further engraving its vital role in global stage. Apart from other challenges, China also faced internationally baseless propaganda through out 2020, but during all these times, China continued to work with the same speeding pace and proved to remain dedicated and devoted to overcome these crises in health sector and even economic sectors through all available means which shows that President Xi Jinping's China is now more young and energetic and will continue to work as a builder of global peace, a contributor to global development and a defender of international order.

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# United Nations' challenges and the way forward

Iqbal Khan

Prime Minister Imran Khan, highlighted the importance of the 75th anniversary of the UN. "This is also a time for us to reflect whether as the United Nations, we have been able to realize the promise we made collectively to our peoples," he asked. Amid multifaceted threats to the foundations of the world order, the only way forward is through cooperation and not confrontation, he said

With regard to its primary role—Peaceful World—the United Nations faces a multitude of challenges. In the absence of any meaningful effort to mitigate these challenges, the UN has incrementally been in a nose-dive posture with regard to its credibility, as an honest peace broker, and effective-

tiveness in term of its ability to implement its resolutions. Unless a meaningful strategy is adopted to mitigate the impact of these challenges, the role of the UN is likely to keep shifting from substance to nuance. Prime Minister Imran Khan, highlighted the importance of the 75th anniversary of the UN. "This is also a time for us to reflect whether as the United Nations, we have been able to realize the promise we made collectively to our peoples," he asked. Amid multifaceted threats to the foundations of the world order, the only way forward is through cooperation and not confrontation, he said. He informed the General Assembly of "smart lockdowns" employed by Pakistan in its fight against COVID-19. "We have not only managed to control the virus, stabilize our economy, but most importantly, we have been able to protect the poorest segment of our society from the worst fallout of the lockdown," he said, adding that in spite of the success, Pakistan is not out of the woods yet, like all other countries in the world. Reiterating the threats posed by climate change, Imran Khan called on world leaders to ensure that all commitments made in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change are fulfilled. He voiced deep concern over rising religious hatred, increased nationalism and worsening global tensions, factors that have accentuated 'Islamophobia', resulting in attacks against Muslims in many countries. He stressed that "wilful provocations" and "incitements to hate" must be universally outlawed, calling on the General Assembly to declare an "International Day to Combat Islamophobia." He referred to India's State-sponsored Islamophobia, pointing out that mosques have been destroyed, and at that Muslims have been killed and are at risk of losing their nationality due to discriminatory laws, noting that other religions are also at risk of being marginalized in India.

He underlined that for durable peace in the South Asian region, the Jammu and Kashmir dispute needs to be resolved, on the basis of international legitimacy. "The Security Council must prevent a disastrous conflict and secure the implementation of its own resolutions as it did in the case of East

Timor," he said, calling on the body to take "appropriate enforcement actions." Referring to the Intra-Afghan negotiations, he said that early return of Afghan refugees, sheltering in Pakistan, must be part of the political solution. Prime Minister called upon the UN SG to take the lead in preventing global conflicts. To that end, he urged the convening summit-level meetings to address regional hot-spots and resolve outstanding disputes. Four of the five, veto-power wielding permanent members of the UN SC, spoke in the opening session. Donald Trump, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin presented their widely divergent views of the world. Emmanuel Macron berated both the US and China for the diplomatic impasse at the UN. Boris Johnson, representing the fifth member of the permanent five, was given a speaking slot near the end of the general debate, a harsh measure of the UK's declining influence. Seeing the divergence, the UN's 75th General Assembly was worse than the world's worst Zoom meeting. Reservoir of hope was running low. Leaders of the world's two largest economies, China and the US, laid out their competing visions as relations between the two plunged to their worst level in decades as the coronavirus tensions are aggravating their trade and technology disputes. President Trump used the occasion to attack China's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, saying that Beijing must be held accountable for having "unleashed this plague onto the world". By contrast, President Xi Jinping struck a conciliatory tone, calling for enhanced cooperation over the pandemic and stressing that China had no intention of fighting "either a Cold War or a Hot War with any country". Trump, facing a November re-election with his country dealing with the world's highest death toll from the contagion, accused Beijing of allowing people to leave China in the early stages of the outbreak to infect the world while shutting down domestic travel. In an implicit rebuke to Trump, President Xi called for a global response to the coronavirus and giving a leading role to the World Health Organisation (WHO). "Facing the virus, we should enhance solidarity and get through this together," he added. There is wide spread Muslim perception of victimhood at the hands of UN dominant West on various counts, and rightly so. There have been recurrent failures to

deliver a fair deal to Muslims, examples are: Kashmir, Palestine and Cyprus conflicts. Muslims also feel that when non-Muslims are likely to be the beneficiaries of a conflictual settlement with Muslims, Western countries and their affiliate institutions manage a quick settlement, examples are: East Timor, Ireland, Sudan etc. On the other hand when Muslims are likely to be beneficiary of conflict settlement with a non-Muslim faction, conflict is assigned to cold storage and there is a never ending foot dragging. And whenever there is a solution, due benefit to Muslim faction is marred by creating conflictual political structures; example, post conflict Bosnian political arrangement. This has generated a perpetual sense of insecurity and injustice amongst the Muslim States and the Muslim people viz a viz the UN. Summary statement by Mr. Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary General about the matters of which the Security Council is seized, was issued on January 2, 2020; all 69 agenda items were identified "as matters of which Security Council was currently seized," including "The India-Pakistan Question." Some of these conflicts are almost as old as the UN itself. Most glaring are Kashmir and Palestine conflicts which have caused numerous wars.

Now more and more countries look towards other fora for settling interstate matters. Power is, slowly but continuously, shifting away from under the feed of the UN. UNSG aptly used the event of his inaugural addressed to sound a Clarion call: "Today, we face our own 1945 moment," António Guterres, said as he opened the annual UNGA debate. Guterres meant the historical reference as a call to action inspired by the generation who had survived the second world war and sought to build a new world. Year 1945 was also the starting point of the cold war, and he warned about a new standoff, with the rapidly escalating US-China rivalry taking the world in "a very dangerous direction". "Our world cannot afford a future where the two largest economies split the globe in a great fracture – each with its own trade and financial rules and internet and artificial intelligence capacities," Guterres added. Any one listening?

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## Briefs

Williams  
withdraws  
from French  
open

PARIS: Three-time champion Serena Williams has withdrawn from the French Open because of an Achilles injury. The 39-year-old had been scheduled to play her second-round match against Bulgaria's Tsvetana Pironkova on Wednesday. The American has won 23 Grand Slam singles titles and was aiming to equal Margaret Court's all-time record of 24. "I think I need four to six weeks of sitting and doing nothing," Williams told a news conference. "I have been struggling to walk so that's a telltale sign that I should try to recover. Achilles is an injury you don't want to play with - I think it was one of the worst, don't want to get to that point, I want it to get better." Williams picked up the Achilles problem during her US Open semi-final defeat by Victoria Azarenka earlier this month. On Monday, she beat fellow American Kristie Ahn 7-6 (7-2) 6-0 in the first round at Roland Garros, but said she was struggling physically. "In the second set I felt I needed to walk with a limp," Williams added. "I had to focus on walking straight so I wasn't limping. I tried and always give 100%, I take solace in that. I'm not sure I will play another tournament this year. It is not an acute injury, it is a nagging injury. I ran into bad timing and bad luck really." Williams won the French Open in 2002, 2013 and 2015 and is currently ranked ninth in the world. Unseeded Pironkova, 33, moves into the third round of the French Open for only the third time in her career and will play either 32nd seed Barbora Strýcová or Barbora Krejčíková from the Czech Republic.

UK beef to  
US resume  
after 24 years

LONDON: British beef is back on US menus for the first time in more than 20 years as exports restart on Wednesday. The beef was banned after the BSE outbreak in 1996 when cattle were infected by what became commonly known as Mad Cow Disease. Some UK beef was cleared for export in March after US inspections in 2019, and shipments from Northern Ireland's Foyle Food Group will be the first to leave. Ministers said the US market will be worth £66m to the UK over five years. The Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, a body funded by farmers and the supply chain, called the resumption of exports a "historic moment". Dr Phil Hadley, a director at the board, said: "The US represents an important potential market for our red meat exports and today's first shipment is the result of the hard work and persistence of industry and government to bring about this crucial next step. "This important milestone will bring a fantastic boost to the sector and we look forward to seeing more of our red meat served up on dinner tables across the US in the months and years to come."

Shell to cut  
up to 9,000  
jobs

HAGUE: Royal Dutch Shell has said it plans to cut 7,000 to 9,000 jobs as it responds to challenges including the slump in oil demand amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The oil giant said the cuts would be implemented by 2022 and included 1,500 people who were taking voluntary redundancy. It gave no indication of where the job losses would happen. The move comes five months after it cut its dividend for the first time since World War Two. Shell chief executive Ben van Beurden said the job cuts were "the right thing to do for the future of the company" as it strives to become a net-zero emissions energy business. Shell employs 83,000 people worldwide, including 6,000 in the UK. It has been hit by a substantial drop in profits since the pandemic struck. It saw a 46% fall in first-quarter net income to \$2.9bn (£2.3bn), while second-quarter income fell 82% to \$638m. The firm said third-quarter earnings were expected to be "at the lower end of the \$800m to \$875m range".

UK, Canada impose sanctions  
on Belarus's Lukashenko

UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said the sanctions were part of a coordinated approach with Canada "in a bid to uphold democratic values and put pressure on those responsible for repression"

## DNA

LONDON: The United Kingdom and Canada have imposed travel bans and asset freezes on Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, his son and other senior officials over accusations their government rigged an election and committed violence against protesters. Tuesday's sanctions were the first to be implemented by major Western powers over the crisis in Belarus, a close Russian ally. More than 12,000 people have been arrested in mass demonstrations since Lukashenko, who has dominated the country for 26 years, was named the landslide winner of an August 9 presidential election his opponents say was rigged. Lukashenko denies electoral fraud. UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said the sanctions were part of a coordinated approach with Canada "in a bid to uphold democratic values and put pressure on those responsible for repression". Raab called Lukashenko's rule



"violent and fraudulent" and said the sanctions are meant to send a clear message that "we don't accept the results of this rigged election". "We will hold those responsible for the thuggery deployed against the Belarusian people to account," he said. The British measures include a travel ban and asset freeze on eight officials from the Belarusian government, including Lukashenko, son Victor Lukashenko and Igor Sergeenko, the head of the presidential administration. Canada's

list includes Lukashenko and 10 others. Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne said Canada and the UK acted in concert to ensure the sanctions have a greater effect. "Canada stands in solidarity with the people of Belarus as they struggle to restore human rights and achieve democracy in their country," Champagne said. The British government says Lukashenko is the first leader sanctioned under Britain's new global human rights sanctions pro-

gramme, which was introduced in July. The West has so far sought to tread carefully, balancing sympathy for the pro-democracy movement in Belarus with caution not to provoke Russia. In addition to the UK and Canada, the United States and the European Union regard Lukashenko's presidency as illegitimate, but he has the backing of longtime ally and Russian President Vladimir Putin. The EU, which Britain quit in January, has said it will impose sanctions on a list of Belarusian officials but has yet to finalise the list. Some small EU countries near Belarus have announced sanctions without waiting for the bloc to act. Meanwhile, French President Emmanuel Macron pushed on Tuesday for European mediation in the Belarus political crisis after meeting the ex-Soviet republic's opposition leader, Svetlana Tikhonovskaya, during a visit to Lithuania. After the meeting, Tikhonovskaya told reporters that the French leader had "promised to do everything to help with negotiations, for this political crisis in our country" and had also pledged to

help secure the release of political prisoners in Belarus. Tikhonovskaya went into exile in Lithuania after the Belarusian presidential election. Macron hoped that EU sanctions against Belarus officials would be adopted at the next EU summit, according to Tikhonovskaya's adviser, Franak Vyachorko. Whether the bloc imposes sanctions will depend on whether member state Cyprus changes its position during the EU summit this week. Cyprus has so far insisted it will not agree to sanctions on Belarus unless the bloc also imposes sanctions on Turkey over a separate dispute. "We had a very good discussion. Now we need to be pragmatic and to support Belarus people and we will do all that," Macron told reporters. The French leader has previously said Putin was favourable to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) mediating in the Belarus crisis. But Putin on Tuesday said that Belarus was in a "difficult situation" and was facing "unprecedented external pressure".

Protests in India over  
Hathras gang rape

## DNA

NEW DELHI: Protests sparked in India after the family of a woman gang raped in the Indian district of Hathras revealed that the police cremated the body of the 19-year-old without their consent. Abhishek Mathur, an Indian journalist who had seen the cremation from a distance, told the media that the police kept the family and media away from the funeral pyre. The victim's brother was quoted by the media that police officials were pressurising the family to cremate the woman immediately. He added that the police took her body af-

ter the family refused to bow into the pressure. "We begged them to let us bring her body inside the house one last time, but they didn't listen to us," the woman's brother was quoted media. Police did not offer an explanation but multiple relatives protested against the 3 am cremation, saying they wanted the body to lie at the family home for a time so absent loved ones could return to pay their respects. Police chief Vikrant Vir said the cremation took place with the consent of the family. "The police provided the firewood and helped the family in the cremation. Most of the family members were present at the cremation.

Saleem Malik's  
appeal case  
adjourned

## DNA

Lahore: Former Lahore High Court (LHC) judge Justice (Retd) Fazale-Miran Chaudhary, in his capacity as an independent adjudicator has adjourned the hearing of former cricketer Saleem Malik's appeal till October 12. Saud Nasrullah, Saleem's lawyer is confident that the decision will be based on merit. "We have submitted a response to the appeal and the PCB submitted a reply today, a copy of which we received. I hope there will be a decision on merit." Former captain Saleem said that they have submitted all the things required for the case. "We have submitted what was required for the case.

Northern beat KPK in  
National T20 Cup opener

## DNA

MULTAN: Northern dominated throughout with a solid second-wicket partnership between Zeeshan Malik and Haider Ali. The duo powered Northern to 242-3 in 20 overs by scoring the highest second-wicket partnership in the history of the tournament's history. 180-runs partnership. Haider scored 90 off 51 balls whereas Zeeshan made 77 off 47 balls. Junaid Khan was the pick of the bowlers for KP, picking 2-44 in four overs. In reply, KP seemed under pressure as they lost

opener Fakhar Zaman for just six runs. Sahibzad Farhan resisted a bit as the right-handed batter scored 62 off 48 balls with the help of six fours and two sixes. Ifthikhar Ahmed was the second-highest scorer from KP with 28 runs off 15 balls laced with two fours and as many maximums. Shoaib Malik made 20 of 19 balls. Apart from Musa, Sohail Tanvir and Mohammad Nawaz bagged two wickets each while Haris Rauf and Shahdab Khan shared a wicket apiece. Haider Ali bagged the man-of-the-match award for his highlighting score of 90

runs. He scored his maiden National T20 Cup fifty. Earlier, Northern captain Shadab Khan won the toss and decided to bat first. Northern Zeeshan Malik, Ali Imran, Haider Ali, Umar Amin, Shadab Khan, (C), Asif Ali, Rohail Nazir, Rohail Nazir, Sohail Tanvir, Musa Khan, Muhammad Nawaz, Haris Rauf. KPK Fakhar Zaman, Sahibzad Farhan, Muhammad Rizwan, Muhammad Hafeez, Shoaib Malik, Ifthikhar Ahmed, Muhammad Mohsin, Wahab Riaz, Usman Shinwari, Shaheen Afridi, Junaid Khan.

UAE  
announces  
candidacy for  
UN Security  
Council seat

## DNA

DUBAI: The UAE announced its candidacy for a two-year term on the UN Security Council in 2022-2023, the state news agency WAM said. The announcement came in a statement made by the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed, at the annual UN General Assembly in New York. The Security Council is the only UN body that can make legally binding decisions like imposing sanctions and authorizing the use of force. It has five permanent, veto-wielding members - the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia - among 15 in all. "The UAE's campaign for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council will focus on efforts to advance inclusion, spur innovation, build resilience and secure peace," WAM said, adding that the Gulf state previously served on the Council in 1986-1987. Voting will take place in June 2021. To ensure global geographical representation, seats are allocated to regions for overlapping two-year terms. Candidates need to win the support of more than two-thirds of the UN General Assembly.

Balochistan  
been  
neglected,  
admits PM

From Page 01 PM Imran Khan said that the result of this kind of inequitable and unjust development is then borne by societies. Speaking of Pakistan, he highlighted how the general populace remained neglected due to the cropping up of English medium schools, who ran their affairs in a business-centric manner. "Unfortunately, the system has been such that a small section of society gets an English medium education and the rest of the society gets neglected. "The government's Urdu medium [schools] used to produce the best intellectuals of Pakistan but then slowly English medium schools started opening up everywhere with a view for money making and government schools were left behind," the prime minister said. Speaking of countries like Malaysia and South Korea, the premier said that there was a time when Pakistan was a role model for other countries. "We were left behind due to elite capture," PM Imran Khan said. Speaking of the signing of the memoranda of understanding today, he termed it a "very positive" development. "We thought of connecting the most backward areas with other areas. Connectivity is a great driving force to raise the standard of living of people from such areas.

British HC  
encourages  
women for  
scholarship

From Page 01 the enriching experience of life in the UK, but it also provides opportunity to access key networks and grow your career. It has proven to be extremely advantageous to my profile. I strongly encourage all capable professionals to apply for the scholarship that truly implements gender equality, and will serve as a huge leap in your career growth". As a result of the British High Commission's consistent efforts to ensure gender equality, this year the number of female scholars from Pakistan has increased by 20 points from 2018-19. The British High Commission is also organising a Chevening promotion webinar for candidates on Monday 5th October 2020 from 16:00 - 17:00. The webinar will feature Fouzia Younis, Head of Communication and Public Diplomacy at the British High Commission and will include top tips for the candidates considering the scheme. Interested professionals can join the webinar through the link, which will be mentioned on the British High Commission's social media platforms. The call for new applicants follows the selection of 53 scholars from Pakistan, who won an award to study at UK university this year. Successful applicants have been sharing their stories through the #ChosenForChevening hashtag on Twitter and Instagram.



BANGKOK: Asim Ifthikhar Ahmad in a meeting with Mr. Kalin Sarasin, Chairman Thai Chamber of Commerce and board of Trade of Thailand. - DNA

Biden tells Trump to 'shut up' calls him  
'clown' in first presidential debate

There was no handshake as the two men took the stage and while this was due to Covid-19 restrictions, the absence of the traditional greeting symbolized the bitterness engulfing the country in the final countdown to November 3

## DNA

CLEVELAND: Joe Biden and Donald Trump exchanged heated barbs Tuesday, attacking each other's competence and credibility, in a fiery first presidential debate 35 days ahead of the most tense US election in recent memory. There was no handshake as the two men took the stage and while this was due to Covid-19 restrictions, the absence of the traditional greeting symbolized the bitterness engulfing the country in the final countdown to November 3. Just minutes in, the debate turned into an all-out and personal brawl as they raced through issues from a Supreme Court vacancy to the coronavirus pandemic to the US health care system. "Everything he's saying so far is simply a lie. I'm not here to call out his lies. Everybody knows he's a liar," former vice president

Biden said. Biden - taking on a feisty, aggressive tone despite Trump's taunts that he had low energy - then told the US president: "Will you shut up, man?" "It's hard to get a word in with this clown," Biden snapped at one point. Biden, who is leading in polls, sought to tie Trump squarely to the Covid-19 pandemic that has claimed more than 200,000 lives in the United States, more than in any other country. "How many of you got up this morning and had an empty chair at the kitchen table because someone died of Covid?" Biden said. Mocking the 74-year-old Trump for one of his more notorious statements from the White House podium, Biden said: "Maybe you could inject bleach in your arm and that would take care of it." Trump hit back that his bleach remark had been in jest and quickly tried to land punches on Biden. He attacked both his track record

as Barack Obama's vice president and even questioned the 77-year-old's educational record. "Don't ever use the word smart with me. Don't ever use that word with me. There's nothing smart about you, Joe," Trump said. Trump at one point charged that the "radical left" has Biden "wrapped around their finger." He also attacked Biden's insistence on wearing a mask to prevent Covid, a decision in line with medical experts' advice. "You have to understand,

I have a mask right here. I put a mask on when I think I need it," Trump said. "I don't wear a mask like him, every time you see him, he's got a mask." Before they even appeared for the first of three 90-minute TV showdowns, barbs were flying. Biden, seeking to eat into Trump's crucial support among blue collar voters, capitalized on bombshell revelations that the billionaire Trump managed to avoid paying almost any federal income taxes for years. Trump

- who has broken longtime presidential transparency by refusing to publish his tax returns - reportedly used loopholes to pay just \$750 in federal tax during the first year of his presidency. He said at the debate that he has paid "millions" in taxes. Hours before the Cleveland showdown, Biden published his own tax returns - and at the debate demanded that Trump do likewise. Facing the threat of being made a one-term president, Trump has pushed a conspiracy theory suggesting his challenger needs performance enhancing drugs and might wear a mask to get answers during the debate. And his campaign communications director Tim Murtaugh amplified a new slur spread on social media that Biden was suspected of planning to cheat by wearing an earpiece. But right before the debate, Biden responded humorously, tweeting: "It's debate night, so I've got my

earpiece and performance enhancers ready." Underneath was a photo of standard headphones and a tub of ice cream. Trump went to Cleveland with what he hopes will be a silver bullet - his nomination of conservative Judge Amy Coney Barrett to replace the late liberal icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Supreme Court. If Barrett is quickly confirmed, as the Republican-led Senate expects, Trump will have tilted the highest court firmly to the right for years to come. "I will tell you very simply - we won the election, elections have consequences," Trump said. "The Democrats - they would not even think about not doing it. The only difference is, they'd try to do it faster." Biden countered that Americans were already voting and should have a say in the Supreme Court justice, raising liberals' fears that Barrett will vote to overturn the right to abortion.





## Briefs

## Israel passes law to limit protests

DNA

TEL AVIV: Israel's parliament has approved a law restricting demonstrations which critics say is aimed at silencing protests against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over alleged corruption and his handling of the coronavirus crisis. The legislation, which gives the government powers to declare a "special emergency caused by the coronavirus pandemic", was ratified early on Wednesday after an all-night debate in the Knesset. The law bans Israelis from holding demonstrations more than one km (0.6 miles) from their homes, a measure the government said was aimed at curbing COVID-19 infections. Critics of the new measure, which becomes part of Israel's second national lockdown that went into effect on September 18, said it was really intended to block protests near Netanyahu's official residence in Jerusalem. "What's the next step? Banning the opposition leader from addressing parliament?" Yair Lapid, who heads the opposition in the legislature, tweeted about the vote. Meir Cohen of main opposition party Yesh Atid-Telem condemned the new controls as a "slippery slope" while Yair Golan of the left-wing Meretz party warned the new law "won't stop the demonstrations".

## 'Migrants can be shot or gassed'

DNA

BERLIN: The former spokesperson of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD), Christian Luth, is alleged to have said that migrants can be "shot or gassed." According to German newspaper, he made the statements against immigrants in Germany at a dinner earlier this year with an influencer in Berlin. Asked if the arrival of more migrants was in the interest of AfD, Luth allegedly said: "Yes. Because then AfD will be better." "Still, we can shoot them all. This is no problem at all. Or, gassing, or whatever you want. It's the same to me." "The worse it gets for Germany, the better for the AfD," he added. The comments were later aired in a TV documentary by German channel. The AfD dismissed Luth as party spokesperson in April for reportedly describing himself as a fascist. With recent developments, he was also fired from the AfD, which is the largest opposition group in the German parliament known as the Bundestag, according to German media. "The comments attributed to Christian Luth are totally unacceptable and incompatible with the aims and policies of the AfD," co-leader of the AfD's parliamentary group, Alexander Gauland, was quoted as saying.

## France dismantles Calais migrants camp

DNA

PARIS: French police have dismantled a camp of about 800 migrants and refugees in the port city of Calais, the biggest such operation since the sprawling "Jungle" shantytown was broken up four years ago. Tuesday's operation started before dawn and had evacuated more than 600 people in 30 buses by the afternoon, according to local authorities, who added that 34 people were detained. "We want to avoid a concentration and a new gathering point in Calais," Louis Le Franc, the government's top official for the northern Pas-de-Calais department, said at the scene. According to Le Franc, it was the biggest dismantling of a Calais camp since the Jungle was cleared of some 9,000 migrants between 2015 and 2016. The Pas-de-Calais prefecture said there were about 500 tents at the site, with conditions posing "serious problems of security, health, and tranquility", particularly for staff and patients of a nearby health centre. The evacuated migrants will be brought to reception centres in Pas-de-Calais, other departments in northern France, and other regions of the country.

## 'Azerbaijan able to liberate occupied lands by itself'

Armenia illegally resettled ethnic Armenians from Middle Eastern countries to the Azerbaijani land it occupies in Upper Karabakh – also known as Nagorno-Karabakh – he added. Turkey continues to support Azerbaijan

DNA

ANKARA: Azerbaijan has the ability to liberate its occupied lands by itself, Turkey's top diplomat said Wednesday, amid Azerbaijan fighting off an offensive by Armenian forces in occupied Upper Karabakh. "Azerbaijan is fighting to protect its own lands. Where in the world are the occupied and occupier treated the same?" Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said at Anadolu Agency's Editors' Desk. Border clashes broke out early Sunday when Armenian forces targeted Azerbaijani civilian settlements and military positions, leading to multiple casualties. With these attacks Armenia ignored the international system and international law, Cavusoglu said, adding that this attitude deserves a response. Armenia illegally resettled ethnic Armenians

## Erdogan urges E. Med dialogue in letter to EU leaders

DNA

ANKARA: Turkey's president on Wednesday sent a letter to the leaders of EU countries, reiterating Ankara's call for dialogue with Greece amid tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean. "I would like to emphasize once again that we are ready for dialogue with Greece without any preconditions," Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in the letter addressed to the heads of EU institutions, as well as the leaders of member countries in the bloc except for Greece and the Greek Cypriot administration. Erdogan underlined that relations with Brussels have always been a priority for Turkey and that "significant progress has been achieved in this regard, especially during our term in office." He noted, however, that there have been "compelling challenges" in the six decades spanning the two sides' relations. "Recently, our relations stand in the face of another novel challenge due to the developments in the Eastern Mediterranean."

## Egypt hosts talks over Libyan reconciliation process

DNA

CAIRO: Talks aimed at paving the way for a political and economic solution to the conflict in Libya have been taking place in Egypt. The Red Sea coast city of Hurghada has been playing host to discussions over stabilizing a cease-fire in the country, securing oil fields and oil installations, and establishing government institutions and infrastructure. Officials taking part in the security meeting are working to set up military committees in the east and west of Libya with a view to them forming a unified force for

from Middle Eastern countries to the Azerbaijani land it occupies in Upper Karabakh – also known as Nagorno-Karabakh – he added. Turkey continues to support Azerbaijan, he added, saying: "We said that if Azerbaijan wants to solve [the Armenian occupation problem] on the ground, we will stand by Azerbaijan." Cavusoglu stressed "diplomacy hasn't worked for 30 years" to solve the conflict in Upper Karabakh, with no solution reached at the negotiating table since Armenia's illegal occupation began in 1991, and this failure served to "encourage" Armenia. "Despite all the warnings,

## UN urges end to fighting in Upper Karabakh

DNA

WASHINGTON: The UN Security Council threw its weight Tuesday behind Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' call to end fighting in the Upper Karabakh, or Nagorno-Karabakh region. The council's members "expressed concern over reports of large-scale military actions along the Line of Contact in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone," in a statement. "They strongly condemn the use of force and regret the loss of life and the toll on the civilian population," they added. "Security Council members expressed their full support for the central role of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and urge the

sides to work closely with them for an urgent resumption of dialogue without preconditions." Border clashes in Upper-Karabakh broke out early Sunday. Relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, two former Soviet nations, have been tense since 1991 when the Armenian military occupied the region, which is an internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan. Four UN Security Council and two UN General Assembly resolutions demand the withdrawal of occupying forces. The OSCE Minsk Group – co-chaired by France, Russia and the US – was formed in 1992 to find a peaceful solution to the conflict, but to no avail. A cease-fire, however, was agreed upon in 1994. France, Russia and NATO, among others, have called for an immediate halt to clashes in the occupied region.

conflict in Upper Karabakh, with no solution reached at the negotiating table since Armenia's illegal occupation began in 1991, and this failure served to "encourage" Armenia. "Despite all the warnings,

where does Armenia find its courage?" he asked. "If Armenia hadn't enjoyed support today from other countries, from the West, Russia, it wouldn't be able to muster up this courage." Cavusoglu slammed the international community for only urging a cease-fire but failing to call Armenia to leave the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. "This is not a proper approach," he added. French President Emmanuel Macron showing solidarity with Armenia, while showing no concern about occupied Azerbaijani lands, effectively means supporting occupation, says Cavusoglu. Noting that Azerbaijan is in the right both morally and legally, Cavusoglu said the international community should support Azerbaijan, just as it supports Ukraine, Georgia, and other countries which have lands under illegal occupation.

## "Two Armenian planes crashed into a mountain yesterday"



DNA

BAKU: "The allegations that the Su-25 fighter jet of the Armenian Armed Forces was allegedly shot down by an F-16 aircraft of the Turkish Armed

Forces are completely absurd and are another disinformation of Armenia," Assistant to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan-Head of the Department of Foreign Policy Affairs of the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan Hikmat Hajiyev

said, media reports.

Mr Hajiyev noted that according to the information on the Azerbaijani side, on September 29, two Su-25 aircraft took off in Armenia: "Both planes crashed into a mountain and exploded and were destroyed. This shows that the Armenian military leadership does not provide accurate information to its citizens and the public. It would be good if the Armenian military leadership would provide information about the second plane and its pilot, rather than accuse any other party." Statements by Armenia on the alleged involvement of a third party in the conflict are completely absurd and have no basis. This is nothing but an attempt by Armenia to divert attention from its aggressive policy. Therefore, we recommend them to investigate the purpose of the taking off of two Su-25 aircraft from the territory of Armenia and the circumstances under which they crashed into a mountain, and the death of the pilots and to inform the Armenian public in this regard."



ISLAMABAD: Malik Sohail Hussain senior business leader welcomes Head of Economic Section Embassy of Hungary at the ICCI dinner, at Islamabad Serena Hotel. – DNA

## UK financing the production of breathing devices in Pakistan through Karandaaz partnership with Mezaan Bank

"With more than 300,000 cases of COVID-19 in Pakistan and well over 25.6 million globally, the demand for breathing devices and ventilators has grown exponentially

DNA

ISLAMABAD: United Kingdom through Karandaaz's Risk Participation Facility with Meezan Bank, Pakistan's first and largest Islamic bank is financing the development and production of a High Flow Nasal Oxygen (HFNO) device, which can also be used as a Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) device, by Alsons Group, Pakistan's premier precision engineering company. Karandaaz, funded by the United Kingdom's Office of Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), has established a USD 50 million financing programme with Meezan Bank, which enables vendors and distributors of participating corporates and other eligible SMEs access to finance.

The HFNO device is very important for hospitals to treat Covid-19 patients with lung infections and also other serious respiratory diseases and has been approved by the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), to help manage oxygen levels. The device is currently in the prototype production phase and commercial production is expected to begin by the end of this month. Alsons is also working to indigenously design and develop a ventilator, which once approved, will be locally in production in the near future.

Annabel Gerry, Country Director Development, British High Commission in Pakistan, said, "Pakistan's response to the COVID-19 challenge has been commendable. The United Kingdom is pleased to be supporting Pakistan in its effort

to tackle the pandemic. Our financing assistance through Karandaaz to support breathing devices will be an important element in easing the burden of serious disease in the country." Ali Sarfraz, CEO Karandaaz, said, "With more than 300,000 cases of COVID-19 in Pakistan and well over 25.6 million globally, the demand for breathing devices and ventilators has grown exponentially. This pioneering capacity enhancement by Alsons, as they have started producing breathing devices will help Pakistan meet its domestic demand for critical medical equipment and will also open an avenue for exports in highly lucrative international markets."

Navid Goraya, CIO Karandaaz said, "PKR 50 million financing under the Risk Participa-

tion Agreement with Meezan Bank will support Alsons financial requirement for capacity enhancement to produce ventilators for both local and export markets. The financing is well aligned with Karandaaz's focus on the demonstration of sustainable investment models and job creation in Pakistan." Ariful Islam, Deputy CEO of Meezan Bank said, "Meezan Bank is committed to supporting organizations that are working to tackle the impact of Covid-19. We believe that this financing will help alleviate some of the pressures on the country's healthcare sector. We are thankful to Karandaaz Pakistan for enhancing their partnership so the Bank could materialise this as a priority."

Abdul Rehman Allana, Chairman Alsons Group said, "Alsons has over 65 years of

manufacturing experience in the machining of mechanical components from bars, plates, forgings and castings; and CNC plastic injection moulding, stamping, and assemblies in the fields of hi-tech engineering, aerospace, automotive, oil & gas, and power and energy. We already had capital from Karandaaz and Meezan Bank risk participation facility injected into our auto parts manufacturing unit. With this new investment we are able to diversify in the medical equipment domain and are proud that we are playing a role in helping battle the pandemic." According to GlobalData, a data and analytics company that specializes in medical transaction and clinical information, about 880,000 ventilators are required globally amid the COVID-19 pan-

demic. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the world has faced an acute shortage of essential medical supplies, especially ventilators that are used to pump oxygen into the lungs of patients experiencing breathing difficulties. To meet the financing gap in the medical supplies and equipment manufacturing sector in Pakistan, the State Bank of Pakistan has also expanded the scope of the Refinance Facility to Combat Covid-19 (RFCC) to manufacturing sector producing medical equipment and accessories. Karandaaz is also focusing to specifically mitigate the financing needs of medical, diagnostic, and pharmaceutical industries in the country and through direct investment in Excel Labs to carry out an estimated 500 tests daily and more than 10,000 tests a month.

## WHO probing sexual abuse allegations in DRC

DNA

GENEVA: The World Health Organization has said it was investigating allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse linked to efforts to fight Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The WHO said its leadership and staff were "outraged" by recent reports of sexual abuse by people saying they were working for the UN health agency in the Ebola fight. "The actions allegedly perpetrated by individuals identifying themselves as working for WHO are unacceptable and will be robustly investigated," it said in a statement on Tuesday. "The betrayal of people in the communities we serve is reprehensible," it said, stressing that "we do not tolerate such behaviour in any of our staff, contractors or partners." WHO stated that it has a "zero-tolerance policy with regard to sexual exploitation and abuse."

## Trump refuses to condemn white supremacy

DNA

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump was asked whether he would condemn white supremacists and militia groups during the first presidential debate in the US city of Cleveland on Tuesday. Instead of directly answering the question, Trump instead blamed the months of violence in US cities on "left-wing groups". "Are you willing tonight to condemn white supremacists and militia groups and to say that they need to stand down and not add to the violence or the number of these cities as we saw in Kenosha, and as we've seen in Portland?" moderator Chris Wallace asked Trump. "I would say almost everything I see is from the left-wing, not from the right," Trump responded.



## Briefs

## VA Amjad Khan Niazi appointed Naval Chief



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Vice Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi has been appointed as the new Chief of Naval Staff. He will replace Admiral Zaffar Abbas who retires on October 6. Zafar has been serving as Naval Chief since October 2017. The Change of Command ceremony will be held at PNS ZAFAR, Islamabad. President Dr Arif Alvi has approved the appointment of Vice Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi as Chief of the Naval Staff and promoted him to the rank of Admiral on the recommendations of Prime Minister Imran Khan. His promotion to the rank of Admiral will be effective from the date of assuming Command of Pakistan Navy. During his illustrious career, Vice Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi has served on various Command and Staff appointments. His Command appointments include command of two Type-21 ships PNS BADR and PNS TARIQ, Commander 18th Destroyer Squadron, Commandant PNS BAHADUR and Commandant Pakistan Navy War College/ Commander Central Punjab Lahore.

## Pakistani youths attend Int'l Chinese competition

DNA

BEIJING: Two Pakistani young men attended the first round of the final of the 19th "Chinese Bridge" Chinese Proficiency Competition for college students by taking online test and making vlogs. A total of 100 participants across the globe enter the final competition and 30 winners will be selected on October 4 to enter the second round, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. "Chinese Bridge" Chinese Proficiency Competition is the most influential annual event for Chinese language learners around the world. From the year of 2002, about 1.5 million college and middle school students from 154 countries have participated in the preliminaries, among which more than 6,500 have been invited to China for the finals. Furthermore, over 100 million TV viewers worldwide watch the competition each year. Affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's competition is held via Internet, and innovations have shown in the competition system. Currently, vlogging is definitely a 'thing'. In the last three years it has become a phenomenon that has really taken off.

## ECC approves increase in gas meter rent

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) has approved collection of Rs 22 billion from consumers in the name of gas development surcharge. The monthly rent of gas meters has also been increased from Rs 20 to Rs 40. The ECC meeting was held in Islamabad under the chairmanship of Finance Advisor Hafeez Sheikh on Wednesday. It brings bad news for domestic consumers of natural gas as the ECC has increased monthly rent of gas meters from Rs 20 to Rs 40 and also decided to collect remaining dues of gas infrastructure development cess from them. It was decided to collect one third of remaining GDC dues, Rs 22 billion to be exact. The Golden Handshake Plan for Steel Mills Employees was also approved, for which the ECC approved funds of Rs 19.65 billion.

## All 32 accused in Babri Masjid case acquitted

The verdict is likely to invite criticism and condemnation from impartial observers and create unrest among Indian Muslims. It will also be seen as another victory for India's new Hindutva leadership and what has been described as its anti-Muslim agenda

DNA

LUCKNOW: An Indian court on Wednesday acquitted all 32 accused in the Babri Masjid case after a judge controversially ruled that the demolition was not pre-planned. A special court of India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in Lucknow issued the verdict nearly thirty years after a mob of Hindu extremists razed the historic mosque to the ground. The verdict is likely to invite criticism and condemnation from impartial observers and create unrest among Indian Muslims. It will also be seen as another victory for India's new Hindutva leadership and what has been described as its anti-Muslim agenda.

According to AG Noorani, a lawyer and constitutional expert, India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) examined close to 850 wit-

## Pakistan strongly condemns Babri Masjid acquittal

SAIFULLAH\ DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has strongly condemned shameful acquittal of those responsible for demolishing the historic Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. Reacting strongly on the Indian court judgment, Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez, in a statement on Wednesday, said the Hindutva-inspired Indian judiciary miserably failed to deliver the justice again. He said if there was a semblance of justice in the so-called largest democracy, the individuals, who had boasted of the criminal act publicly, could not have been set free. The spokesperson said this is yet another manifestation of the pliant judiciary under

nesses and more than 7,000 documents, photographs and video tapes of the incident. Though the CBI's stance has always been that the destruction

was a planned event, Judge SK Yadav has ruled in his verdict on the case that the demolition was not pre-planned and that the BJP leaders accused – including BJP

the extremist BJP-RSS regime in which extremist Hindutva' ideology takes precedence over all principles of justice and international norms. Zahid Hafeez said a wrong direction was earlier set by the Indian Supreme Court's partisan verdict last year by handing over the Babri Masjid premises for building of Ram Mandir to the very Hindu parties which had demolished the historic mosque. The spokesperson said these reprehensible developments with state complicity, coupled with RSS-BJP's deep-rooted hatred against minorities, particularly Muslims, point to India's fast descent into a Hindu Rashtra, where minorities have been relegated as second class citizens. He said willful targeting of Muslims is rampant in today's India.

founder-members Lal Krishna Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi and Uma Bharti – tried to stop the demolition by "unlawful elements". All three had earlier been



ISLAMABAD: First Lady of Pakistan, Samina Alvi posing for a picture with members of the Islamabad Floral Art Society during the annual general meeting held at Islamabad Serena Hotel. – DNA

## Saleem Saifullah deplores Armenia for aggression



PESHAWAR: Former Federal Minister, Saleem Saifullah Khan and Honorary Consul General of Republic of Turkey showed their displeasure over the war that started between Armenia and Azerbaijan. In their joint statement issued here, Saleem Saifullah and Consul General of Turkey were of the view that starting a war easy but end to it was much difficult. They said that war was not a solution of dispute especially in such cases where the area for which they were

fighting is universally recognized as part of Azerbaijan. They urged Armenia should end this war without any further delay keeping in view peace of the region. Salim Saifullah Khan appealed to the United Nations to come forward and intervene for stopping the war besides showing solidarity with Azerbaijan as Armenia has wrongfully captured the area of Azerbaijan which is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was an ethnic and territorial conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts, which were de facto controlled by the self-declared Republic of Artsakh, but were internationally recognized as de jure part of Azerbaijan. – APP

## Pak envoy presents credentials to President of Austria

VIENNA: Ambassador Aftab Ahmed Khokher, presented his credentials to the Federal President of the Republic of Austria, Dr Alexander Van der Bellen, during an official ceremony held at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna Wednesday. Presenting his credentials, Ambassador Khokher conveyed to the Federal President the warm greetings of President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan. He pledged to further strengthen and expand the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Austria, a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here said. President Van der Bellen noted that there was immense potential for cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the field of renewable energy, green economy and higher education. He praised Prime Minister Imran Khan's commitment to combating climate change and recalled his recent virtual address at the Austrian World Summit. He also appreciated Pakistan's COVID-19 related policies and measures. Ambassador Khokher, whose last assignment at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad was Additional Secretary (Americas) has previously served as Pakistan's ambassador to Lebanon. He has also served at Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva and as Pakistan's Consul General in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Ambassador Khokher will also be Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the Vienna-based international organizations which include the International Atomic Energy Agency, UN Industrial Development Organization, UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the UN Commission on International Trade Law. – DNA



## M-3 an example for building green supply chain

DNA

BEIJING: Lahore to Karachi Motorway Section III: Lahore-Abdul Hakeem (M-3) project in Pakistan was taken as an example for international green supply chain management at the 2nd Belt and Road Green Development Forum for Infrastructure Supply Chain held in Beijing. Song Rongjun, Chief Executive of China Railway 20 Bureau Group Corporation (International) shared the project at the forum, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday. Addressing the symposium, Song Rongjun said the M-3 project implemented the administrative system of unified leadership, level-to-level management and different levels assuming different responsibilities. During the tendering process, the selection of domestic suppliers was all se-

lected from the list of qualified suppliers of CR20G, and the qualifications of foreign suppliers had been examined by methods such as recommendations by local partners, market surveys, and supply performance checks. In terms of purchase, the project adhered to the concept of environmental protection and resource conservation. The mechanical equipment and materials applied to the project met or exceeded the local environmental protection requirements. Additionally, new materials, new equipment, and new processes employed in the construction of the project had been also promoted in Pakistan. The Lahore-Abdul Hakeem Motorway (M-3) project was jointly constructed by CR20G and ZKB, the latter being Pakistan's second-largest construction company. In particular, ZKB was mainly in charge of 40% of the project site

construction. When commenting on cooperation with ZKB, Song Rongjun said that the project jointly contracted by Chinese and Pakistani enterprises can give full play to the comparative advantages of the two countries. Chinese enterprises can transfer management experience and construction technologies to the Pakistani side. Meanwhile, Pakistani enterprises can assure manpower and materi-



al support for the project. Besides, materials such as steel, cement, stones and sand, asphalt, heavy oil, and diesel required by the project were all purchased locally, which reduced the logistics cost and drove forward the development of local relevant industries. Regarding the environmental protection of the project, Song Rongjun told China Economic Net that CR20G had completed 70% of the designed greening within the scope of its responsibility, and the remaining work would be finished within two months after this year's rainy season. By that time, more than 150,000 trees and 1.4 million square meters of grass will be planted, symbolizing the practical implementation of the initiative of "Clean and Green Pakistan" proposed by Prime Minister Imran Khan. It is learned that since the commencement of the Lahore-Abdul

Hakeem Motorway project, more than 2,000 local skilled workers have been trained, more than 7,000 local workers have been engaged in the construction, and the number of Chinese management personnel is less than 500, which accounts for the lowest proportion among all the overseas projects of CR20G. Statistics show that 92 kilometers of asphalt pavement roads were built for areas along the motorway with funds raised during the construction of the Lahore-Abdul Hakeem Motorway. Desks and chairs were donated to local schools, and more than 30 kilometers of village roads were built, which substantially improved the local infrastructure and enhanced the living standards of residents. Barracks in the work areas including various facilities will be completely handed over to the local government upon the completion of the project.

## Indonesian CG for promoting bilateral ties

DNA

NAWABSHAH, The Indonesian Consul General at Karachi, Totok Priyanto, urged on promotion of bilateral relations with Pakistan so that people of both brethren Islamic countries could benefit from experiments of each other. The CG, in a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Abrar Ahmed Jaffar here Wednesday, highly praised rich culture of Sindh and its people's great passion for hospitality. The love and affection extended by the people of Shaheed Benazirabad and other districts of Sindh enriches the visitors with pleasure, Totok said. During deliberation, Deputy Commissioner said that Sindh having the distinction of being one of the ancient cultures and civilizations of the world is cradle peace and harmony due to Sufism. The DC said that District Shaheed Benazirabad has an archaeological site of Chanhyon-jo-Daro that was assumed contemporary to Moen-jo-Daro. He added that four universities, Pakistan's First Bakhtawar Girls Cadet College and scores of other educational institutions were functioning in the district.

## Nawaz's exit "mockery of the system"

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's exit from Pakistan is a "mockery of the system", said the Islamabad High Court (IHC) bench on Wednesday. The court passed the remarks after Additional Attorney General Tariq Khokhar presented a compliance report on Nawaz Sharif's arrest warrants issued by the high court. The report was submitted to the two-member bench, comprising Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani and Justice Aamer Farooq, hearing the petition filed by the former prime minister against his sentence in the Avenfield apartments. Khokhar, while briefing the court on the attempts made to arrest Nawaz Sharif, said that Rao Abdul Hanan, an officer of the Pakistani High Commission, had visited the residence of the PML-N chief in London. He added that Eddie, the person at the apartment, "refused" to receive the arrest warrant. "Every effort was made to enforce Nawaz Sharif's arrest warrant," the government's lawyer told the court. He also read Hanan's statements regarding the arrest warrant. After Khokhar's explanation, Additional Prosecutor General of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Jahanzaib Bharwana informed the court that they were aware of the attempts made to arrest Nawaz Sharif.

## Karachi witnesses spike in virus cases

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: Karachi seems to be witnessing another spike in COVID-19 infections, with the National Command and Operations Center reporting that 365 out of 747 new cases recorded on September 29 were detected in the metropolis. The unusual spike caught the attention of the national decision-making body and a meeting early on Wednesday discussed appropriate measures to contain the spike in cases. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan reportedly emphasised smart lockdown, contact tracing and a strict adherence to health protocols. Meanwhile, Secretary Health Sindh apprised the forum that civil administration is monitoring the situation and appropriate administrative actions will be taken after taking into account disease prevalence in consultation with all stakeholders.