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Saying goodbye to Ambassador Iwan S Amri of Indonesia

PM to reveal Karachi plan on Friday, says Shibli

EU supports Pak interfaith harmony efforts



Briefs

Japan's Shinzo Abe thanks PM Imran Khan



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Japan's former prime minister Shinzo Abe on Tuesday thanked Prime Minister Imran Khan for his "warm words of kindness", where he had acknowledged Abe's contributions for strengthening Pakistan-Japan ties. "Thank you, Prime Minister Imran Khan for your warm words of kindness. I sincerely hope that our bilateral relations will be further strengthened in the future," Abe tweeted. Abe Shinzo, Japan's longest serving prime minister since 2012, had resigned from his post due to health concerns. Imran Khan in his tweet a few days ago had said that "great progress had been made in Pakistan-Japan ties under PM Abe Shinzo, with relations being further strengthened under his leadership, leading to enhanced cooperation in all areas." Khan had also sent Abe "best wishes for health and future endeavours".

Asim Bajwa announces Orange Line jobs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting and Chairman China Pakistan Economic Corridor, Lt. Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa on Tuesday said 250 new jobs had been announced for Orange Line Train project. "As many as 250 new jobs of various categories for Orange Train Lahore have been announced by the operator," he tweeted. He advised the applicants to email their applications for the posts to "careers@olmrts.com.pk".

'Major milestone' for South Punjab

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi referred to the Punjab government's recent move to appoint high level bureaucrats to the South Punjab secretariat as a "major milestone" in the creation of the new province, on Tuesday. "This achievement is testament to our commitment to fulfil our promise to the people of Pakistan." - DNA

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Nawaz asked to appear before court

"We will provide a date on which Nawaz will have to surrender. Right now, we are not declaring him an absconder"

SAIFULLAH / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) granted former prime minister Nawaz Sharif the opportunity "to surrender" and present himself before the court by September 10. A two-member bench of the IHC comprising Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani was hearing appeals filed by NAB against the former prime minister's acquittal in the Flagship reference as well as appeals against his conviction in the Al-Azizia reference. "We are not declaring Nawaz Sharif an absconder," said Justice Amir Farooq. "We are giving him an opportunity to surrender before the court." The court directed the federal government to present a report on Nawaz's health and adjourned proceedings of the petition till September 10. Nawaz's attorney Khawaja Haris argued before the court that his client's bail had been approved after his sentence in the Avenfield Apartments reference had been suspended. He said that the PML-N supremo had been granted conditional bail in the Flagship reference. "Nawaz Sharif's current status is that he is not out on bail," said Haris. "This is the legal position that he is out on the basis of seeking medical treatment abroad and not

Nawaz to return upon recovery: Maryam

ISLAMABAD: PML-N Vice-President Maryam Nawaz has said her father, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif will return to the country as soon his treatment is completed and his health is out of danger. Maryam made the remarks after her appearance at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday to attend a hearing of the Avenfield Apartments review petition. "Everyone is equal in the eyes of the law," Maryam said, adding that they [the Sharif family] had been buried under accusations. - DNA

on bail." Justice Farooq responded by saying that Nawaz was granted conditional bail for a specific time. Haris replied that Nawaz's medical reports, which stated that he was ill, were provided to the Punjab government. Justice Farooq said that the court was not declaring Nawaz an absconder currently but wondered how the appeals can be heard without him present in court. "We will provide a date on which Nawaz will have to surrender. Right now, we are not declaring him an absconder," said Justice Farooq. "We are providing Nawaz an opportunity to surrender."

EU supports Pakistan interfaith harmony efforts

The EU ambassador said that the recent Corona epidemic has severely affected all human beings but life is slowly returning to the normal

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The European Union Ambassador to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara has said that the European Union is with Pakistan in its efforts to promote interfaith harmony. In a meeting with the Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Pir Noor-ul-Haq Qadri in Islamabad on Tuesday, the envoy said that the European Union (EU) will always continue to support Pakistan's efforts to promote interfaith harmony. During the meeting, relations between Pakistan and the European Union, Pakistan's emerging positive image at the international level, and matters of mutual



interest were discussed. The EU ambassador said that the recent Coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic has severely affected all human beings but life is slowly returning to the normal. The minister thanked the ambassador and said that Pakistan has always been vocal in protecting the rights of minorities around the world. Pir Noor-ul-Haq Qadri said that Pakistan is

prominent in its region in terms of providing freedom and rights to minorities. The religious affairs minister said that the present government's Kartarpur Corridor project is a prime example of interfaith harmony. The minister told that recently, a National Minorities Commission has been set up for the protection and welfare of the rights of minorities.



ISLAMABAD: Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan, Kuninori Matsuda calls on the Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue, Hafeez Shaikh. - DNA

PM to reveal Karachi plan on Friday, says Shibli

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz on Tuesday said Prime Minister Imran Khan would reveal details of Karachi's development plan on Friday during his visit to the metropolis. The announcement of a major plan for Karachi comes after torrential rainfalls lashed lower Sindh, devastating Karachi's infrastructure, causing prolonged power outages, disrupting communication, and leading to the deaths of at least 100 people in the province. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the minister said that the project - funded by the Centre, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and the Sindh government - would address several issues of the city.

Japan a time tested friend of Pakistan

The Japanese Ambassador said that his country would also assist Pakistan in facilitating the repayment of loans

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan Kuninori Matsuda called on the Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Hafeez Shaikh at the Ministry of Finance. The Adviser welcomed the Ambassador and said that Japan is a time tested friend of Pakistan and has always supported the country. He expressed confidence that Pakistan's relationship with Japan will continue to become stronger with every passing day. The Ambassador thanked the Adviser for

his support and good wishes. The Ambassador expressed condolences on the loss of lives and property during the recent rains in Pakistan. He offered to help Pakistan in this time of need. The Ambassador expressed hope that with the regional peace and stable political situation regional trade will flourish, offering better opportunities to Pakistan. The Adviser apprised the Ambassador on the state of the economy during the past year and how the government had made efforts to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Adviser apprised that

after Covid-19 pandemic, our economy had started to move in the right direction. We had been successful in increasing our tax revenues, controlling our current account deficit, have generated primary surplus, controlled our expenditures, put a ban on borrowing from central bank and had been successful in creating a conducive environment for exports. He said he is very hopeful that Pakistan would regain stability and equilibrium as the number of active cases of Covid-19 are declining. The Ambassador apprised that Japan intends to extend business relations with Pakistan.

Saudi King Salman sacks two royals

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's King Salman sacked two royals and referred them along with four military officers for an investigation into corruption at the defence ministry in a royal decree issued early on Tuesday and carried by state media. The decree said Prince Fahd bin Turki bin Abdulaziz Al Saud would be removed as commander of joint forces in the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen, and his son Prince Abdulaziz bin Fahd relieved of his post as deputy governor of al-Jouf region. It said the decision was based on Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's missive to the anti-corruption committee to investigate "suspicious financial transactions at the defence ministry". After becoming heir to the throne in 2017 in a palace coup that ousted his predecessor, Prince Mohammed launched an anti-corruption campaign that saw scores of royals, ministers and businessmen detained at Riyadh's Ritz-Carlton hotel. Most were released after reaching undisclosed settlements with the state.

The young prince has made fighting corruption a pillar of his reforms. Critics saw the purge as a power grab by the crown prince, who has moved to sideline any rivals to his eventual succession to the throne, take control of the country's security apparatus and crack down on dissent. Authorities wound down the Ritz campaign after 15 months but said the government would continue to go after graft by state employees. - DNA

Army Chief reaches Karachi

DNA

KARACHI: COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa reached Karachi on a two day long visit. On arrival at Karachi, COAS was flown over the city for aerial reconnaissance of the ground impact of urban flooding in Karachi. Later, COAS visited Karachi Corps Headquarters. COAS was briefed about worst urban flooding in the recent history of Karachi and Army's support to civil administration across Sindh and particularly Karachi. COAS was apprised that unprecedented rains combined with decades of urban congestion, unplanned population settlement.

Saying goodbye to Ambassador Iwan S Amri of Indonesia

I will remember the Ambassador also because he is the one who proposed name of my newspaper Daily Islamabad Post. So as long as this newspaper is there, Ambassador Amri shall remain an integral part of it

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: It is always hard to say goodbye to someone with whom you have spent memorable days. The painful aspect of diplomacy perhaps happens to be the time when one has to depart either after completing his or her term or retirement. And as it goes, pangs of parting are always unbearable. In P.B Shelly's words 'fairest things have fleetest end but their scent survives them'. During my 30 years of diplomatic journalism I have come across hundreds of ambassadors and diplomats however I can count on fingertips whom I still remember and maintain a contact. It would indeed be a privilege for me to be in touch with Ambassador Amri even after his retirement. Ambassador of Indonesia Iwan S Amri is leaving Pakistan after completing his eventful tenure in Pakistan. He happens to be the longest serving Indonesian ambassador in Pakistan staying here for more than four years. During these four years he put in his best efforts to bring peoples of both countries even closer. "Now when I am leaving Paki-



DNA

stan, let me speak out my heart. I have no regrets as I succeeded to achieve targets, which I set for myself when I arrived in Pakistan", Ambassador Amri Daily Islamabad Post during his last media interaction with any newspaper of Pakistan. The outgoing Ambassador said he wished he could stay more in Pakistan for Pakistan was indeed a great country to live and serve. He said during his four years and five months tenure he made all efforts to contribute towards further promoting and strengthening of bilateral relations.

Personally, I will remember the Ambassador also because he is the one who proposed name of my newspaper Daily Islamabad Post. We had an informal chat at the Indonesian embassy on the sidelines of a function and when I shared the news with the ambassador about the launching of daily newspaper, the ambassador abruptly said we have Jakarta Post so why don't name your newspaper as Islamabad Post. I picked the idea, worked on it and am glad that Islamabad Post became a reality during Mr. Amri's presence in Pakistan. So as long as this newspaper is there,



Ambassador Amri shall remain an integral part of it. During his four years term Ambassador Iwan S Amri not only focused on further cementing bilateral trade and economic relations but he tried to diversify these relations by identifying new avenues of cooperation. During his time, both Pakistan and Indonesia set the basis for cooperation in defence sector. Army to Army and air force to air force links established during his tenure have already started paying the dividends. "I am happy that I was able to



achieve this milestone of cooperation among our services and hope it will further strengthen bilateral ties", he told. Ambassador Amri finds people of Pakistan industrious; hospitable and full of warmth. "I and my wife received utmost love and affection from Pakistani people wherever we went either on a business trip or in private capacity". In a nostalgic mood, Ambassador said he will certainly miss hospitality of great people of Pakistan adding he would love to come back here. Ambassador Iwan is retiring from service and plans to spend

most of his time in his own country. "I have some proposals from Pakistan businessmen who are running businesses in Indonesia since long, to help and advise them on various matters. The proposal sounds good to me and I may opt for it", he further told. Summing up, we wish him best of luck and pray that all his future endeavors also prove a success. President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi rightly remarked, when Ambassador Amri went to say him goodbye that from now onwards he will serve as Pakistani's ambassador to Indonesia.

Briefs

Victims of illegal Housing schemes approach NAB

QUETTA: A large number of victims with their claims against the illegal housing schemes of Quetta have started approaching the National Accountability Bureau Balochistan.

The owner of the Mega City Kuchlak and Jan Town Kuchlak schemes including Sahibzada Mohammad Yusuf, Sahibzada Mohammad Sadiq and Shabir Ahmed had illegally established housing schemes on the government land in Kuchlak area of the provincial capital.

Taking action on the complaints received by NAB Balochistan, the investigation team of the bureau took the concerned record from the offices of such illegal housing schemes.

Later, on last Friday NAB also arrested three people involved in running illegal housing schemes set up on the government land.

The accused had illegally sold out plots to hundreds of people for counterfeit housing schemes namely Mega City Kuchlak and Jan Town Kuchlak. However, NAB Balochistan has asked their claims as soon as possible so that they could get their hard earned money back at earliest. — APP

DERC for efforts to minimize dengue cases

ATTOCK: The District Emergency Response Committee (DERC) on Tuesday has detected flaws in anti dengue measures and stressed the need for more arrangements to minimize the spread of dengue cases. The meeting of DERC which was held over the chair of deputy commissioner Ali Anwar Qammar was attended by all Assistant Commissioners, deputy district health officers, tehsil Officers of district education authority.

The meeting reviewed the progress regarding anti dengue indoor, outdoor surveillance activities, status of suspected, probable, confirmed cases in district.

The members have expressed their concern on low number of suspected cases reported from THQ Hospital Pindigheab and directed the relevant assistant commissioner to visit THQ Hospital.

The members also expressed their concern over poor performance of lady health workers (LHWs) in Hassanabad and directed concerned authorities to take appropriate action. — APP

HEC announces result of scholarships

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The result of Afghan students for academic year 2020 under the Project Award of Alama Iqbal Scholarships for Afghan Nationals has been announced and uploaded on HEC website. The result can be accessed through pakafghan.hec.gov.pk. More than 16000 students applied for the program against 800 undergraduate, 150 Masters and 50 PhD fully funded Scholarship in top Pakistani Universities. As many as 100 seats are reserved for female students under the scholarship program each year. The students are selected based on the screening test conducted by HEC in Afghanistan with the help and support of Pakistan Embassy Kabul and 4 Pakistan consulates in different cities of Afghanistan. The scholarship scheme was initiated in 2009 and more than 4500 students have benefited from the scholarship program. Students graduated under the program are working in different ministries and departments of Afghanistan. MBBS doctors graduated under the program were at the forefront fighting covid 19 in Afghanistan during the current pandemic.



ISLAMABAD: TDAP Islamabad office organized a meeting on handicraft and Gems Jewelry sector Headed by MR. Shahzad Ahmad Khan, DG TDAP. Meeting attended by MR. Fahad Barlas Chairman Handicraft Association of Pakistan and Mr. Fayyaz Qureshi onal Chairman. Gems and Jewelry Exporter Association in Islamabad. — DNA

Over 32 million children reached with polio vaccine

All vaccinators were trained on preventative measures, especially handling of children during vaccination in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, while they had been provided with face masks and hand sanitizer for added protection

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Polio Eradication Programme on Tuesday said that more than 32 million children under the age of five had been vaccinated in 130 districts across the country during the immunization campaign. According to the National Emergency Operations Centre for Polio Eradication, a total of 32,100,802 children had been vaccinated against poliovirus while in addition to polio drops,

children of age between 6-59 months also received Vitamin-A supplements during the campaign started on August 13.

A total of 225,000 trained vaccinators were deployed and went door-to-door for vaccination defying the harsh weather. All vaccinators were trained on preventative measures, especially handling of children during vaccination in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, while they had been provided with face masks and hand sanitizer for added protection.

"We have managed to achieve impressive coverage despite the challenging context of the COVID-19, hot weather and heavy rainfall. Our valiant trained frontline workers worked hard to reach eligible children across the country," Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre, Pakistan Polio Eradication programme, Dr Rana Muhammad Safdar said.

He said that children had also been administered Vitamin-A supplements to

strengthen their immune system for greater protection against diseases during the campaign. Celebrities, intellectuals and religious leaders had come forward to support the polio eradication efforts, he added. "Still, we have challenges to overcome. Data-driven analysis of challenges at the grassroots level helps us to identify the underlying issues associated with missed children, pockets of refusals as well as reservoirs of poliovirus circulation." He added strengthening

essential immunization was also important to facilitate the interruption of all polio virus transmission. The programme is prioritizing essential immunization as part of the national agenda. Dr Safdar said "I am confident that we will be able to bring positive changes and make Pakistan polio-free so that no child remains at risk of contracting polio disease and getting paralyzed for life." The polio vaccination campaign has been conducted successfully in all provinces at a larger scale follow-

ing an initial small-scale campaign in July.

Campaign activities were affected in a few districts due to heavy rainfall and smart lockdowns in some areas, and therefore catch up activities were carried out to reach the intended target. Following the successful resumption of campaign activities, the Pakistan Polio Eradication programme has planned to conduct other large scale national and sub-national campaigns between September and December.

LCCI Founder Group campaign in second phase

DNA

LAHORE: The "Founder Group" in the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday formally kicked off second phase of campaign for the annual election of the pioneer chamber to be held on September 25 and 26. Talking to a select representatives of city markets, Group Chairman Iftekhar Ali Malik said that he always firmly believed in rule of law, promotion of democratic system and strengthening of national economy by safeguarding the interests of traders. He said the PIAF-Founder alliance had decided to

introduce sector specialists as their candidates for the LCCI Executive Committee with the sole objective to forward solid proposals to the government for economic progress and prosperity. He said the names of alliance candidates would be finalized with the consultation of genuine market representatives. He said that despite unprecedented crisis at national level, all efforts were made to restore the confidence of business community.

Iftekhar Malik hoped the business community would repose confidence in the alliance candidates in the larger interests of country's economy. He said that a large number

of industrial associations and scores of local markets had announced to support the PIAF-Founders alliance for upcoming LCCI elections. He said the alliance would continue to serve the business community in the larger interest of economy and would urge government to form business friendly policies. The alliance leaders have pledged to continue to raise voice for the solution of problems being faced by the business community. He said, Founder had set up its election office at 16-3rd floor big city plaza, Liberty Chowk Gulberg.

DC reviews anti-dengue measures

DNA

KASUR: Deputy Commissioner Manzar Javed Ali said on Tuesday directed the officers concerned to inspect graveyards, tyre shops, ponds and other points to ensure the drainage of accumulated rain water as the persisting weather was conducive for dengue larva breeding. He directed this while reviewing anti-dengue measures and the performance of departments at a meeting here in his office.

The DC directed the medical superintendents of public sector hospitals to report suspected dengue and probable cases to the district administration as per SOPs and collect correct data as well.

Manzar Javed also directed the health and local departments to launch anti-dog operation in the district so that citizens could be saved from rabies. All officers of the departments concerned were also present in the meeting.

'Karachi admin to be posted after consultation'

DNA

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Imran Ismail on Tuesday said that to mitigate the infrastructural and urban flooding issues in Karachi, Prime Minister Imran Khan has devised a plan which will be shared with all the major stakeholders on his visit to the city. The governor, flanked by Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar, held a press conference in Karachi to address the pressing issues of the country, particularly the woes of the financial capital of Pakistan.

"Prime Minister Imran Khan finalised a plan for Karachi in yesterday's meeting," said the Sindh governor, adding that once all the stakeholders are on board, the premier will visit the city. The Sindh governor said that whatever the federal

government is doing is based on the divisions underlined by the National Finance Commission Award to provinces.

He said that an administrator for Karachi will be appointed after consultation with all stakeholders and the final say will rest with the Sindh government.

He said the Centre is cooperating with the Sindh government to resolve the issues in the province.

Ismail said that a working committee, comprising Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah and Sindh information minister Nasir Hussain Shah, has been established to devise a solution to end Karachi's problems.

The governor said more devastation occurred in other parts of Sindh than in Karachi due to the rains.

"We all are sensitive about Karachi because it is the central financial hub," he said, adding that the federation wants to help the province.

Emirates SkyCargo transports Pakistani mangoes

DNA

KARACHI: Emirates SkyCargo, the freight division of Emirates airline, has transported over 10 million mangoes from Pakistan this season to destinations around the world.

Pakistan is regarded as one of the most important producing markets in the world for mangoes of quality. Mango, also considered the 'king' of fruits, is a specialty export product and makes a major contribution to the overall economy of the country.

Despite challenges faced due to COVID-19 during the export season, Emirates SkyCargo continued to link local Pakistani businesses and traders to buyers all around the world.

Pakistani mangoes are popular in North America and Europe, with large quantities of the fruit transported to these regions every year. The main markets where Emirates SkyCargo transported mangoes from Pakistan this season included the UK, US, Canada, Australia, France, Singapore, Malaysia and the UAE.

In addition to mangoes, Emirates SkyCargo also supports Pakistani exports of meat, fish, vegetables and other perishables to markets in the Middle East and Europe. Into Pakistan, the air cargo operator has also been busy assisting customers in Pakistan fly in essential medical supplies such as pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, face masks, and lab test kits.

Punjab CM approves biometric verification system

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar on Tuesday gave a go-ahead to the launch of a biometric verification system for new registration and transfer of ownership of vehicles in the province.

The approval came during a high-level meeting presided over by the chief minister. An amendment will be brought to Punjab Vehicles Rules 1969 to pave the way for registration and transfer of ownership of vehicles through the biometric verification system. Speaking on the occasion, CM Buzdar said citizens will not have to visit the Excise and Taxation Department to have their cars registered for the government is going to upgrade the registration system on modern lines.

Denizens will now be able to get their vehicles registered after biometric verification at the offices of Nadra and the Excise and Taxation department as well as at authorised dealers' showrooms, he said. The CM said they can also keep a track of the verification process on their mobile phones. He said the government will also speed up the process of issuance of number plates of vehicles and added it faced hardships due to the non-availability of number plates but this issue will soon be sorted out.

Rs0.86 per unit increase in electricity tariff

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Tuesday approved Rs0.86 per unit increase in power tariff on account of fuel cost adjustment of electricity. The fuel adjustment charges for the month of July would be charged in consumer bills in next month. The power regulator gave its approval after hearing a request by the Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) that sought an increase of Rs0.86 in electricity rates.

This tariff hike will put an additional burden of Rs10 billion on power consumers. National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Monday had imposed a fine of Rs200 million on K-Electric over excessive load shedding in Karachi.

UK Pakistan Online Investment Forum on 3rd Sep, says Javed Malik

Overseas Pakistani businessmen are keen to actively support Pakistan and and the government should take advantage of this positive sentiment

DNA

DUBAI: Chairman UK Pakistan Business Council & Former Ambassador Javed Malik has said that UKPBC will be organizing the Pakistan Trade and Investment Forum on Zoom in an effort to highlight the business, trade and investment opportunities in Pakistan and to create opportunities for overseas Pakistanis to more effectively participate in the economic development of Pakistan, especially in the aftermath of the Corona Pandemic. Governor Punjab Chaudhary Sarwar, and Chairman Board of Investment and Trade Punjab, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas have confirmed their participation on the

online event which will be held on 3rd September. Javed Malik said that, overseas Pakistani businessmen are keen to actively support Pakistan and and the government should take advantage of this positive sentiment and develop a strategy that provides one window operation for Overseas Pakistanis who want to invest in Pakistan, and UK Pakistan Business Council will be pleased to support and assist in this initiative as it could contribute to further expand Pakistan's trade with UK and Europe. While highlighting the role of the UK Pakistan Business Council, Javed Malik said that UKPBC is an independent and non political organization that brings together overseas Pakistani



stanis from UK and other countries who are dedicated towards contributing in expanding and enhancing the economic, cultural and trade ties between UK and Pakistan. He said that successful British Pakistanis

are an asset which can be positively utilized and they can play a vital role in highlighting Pakistan's investment opportunities globally. He said UKPBC is keen to collaborate with the Pakistan Board of Investment as well as provincial boards of investments of all provinces to support them in their efforts to engage with international businessmen from UK and around the world. Javed Malik thanked Governor Punjab and Chairman Punjab Board of Investment and Trade for participating in the Forum on 3rd September, as well as Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan Chairman PBIT who will address the forum alongwith President UK Chapter of UKPBC, Mr Saleem Sheikh & Pres-

ident Pakistan Chapter, Mr. Khurshid Barlas. Overseas Pakistanis from UK, Europe and other countries will participate in the Forum which aims to further enhance the trade and investment opportunities between Pakistan and United Kingdom.

Javed Malik called upon the government to review its policy related to engaging with overseas Pakistanis and expand its scope to create a special mechanism that facilitates and assists Overseas Pakistanis who want to invest and do business in Pakistan, and to also address the problems that are faced by many overseas Pakistanis who want to do business or invest in Pakistan

Briefs

Gov't hopes Senate to pass FATF: Faisal Javed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senator, Faisal Javed Khan on Tuesday said government was optimistic that Financial Action Task Force (FATF) bill would be passed by Senate. Talking to a private news channel he said if FATF bill would not pass, the country would face serious financial problems. He said the government would take opposition into confidence to pass the bill and hoped that opposition would cooperate for national interest.

The Senator further said opposition should not mislead people of Pakistan as it was blackmailing the government on the FATF bill for its own benefits. Prime Minister Imran Khan has made it clear that no National Reconciliation Ordinance would be given as it was not in national interest, he added.

Opposition wanted 34-points to be changed in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law, based on money laundering, but the government's stance was that when the whole country was against money laundering, why not the opposition, the Senator said.

Railways retrieve 383 acres land in two years

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has retrieved around 383 acres precious land worth more than Rs 30 billion under its anti-encroachment operation across the country during last two years. "The encroachment operation has been launched with the assistance of railway police and district administrations," an official in the Ministry of Railways told media.

The official said Pakistan Railways owns 167,690 acres of land across the country, of which, 90,326-acre is in Punjab, 39,428-acre in Sindh, 28,228-acre in Balochistan and 9,708-acre in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said the Geographic Information System (GIS) survey had also been conducted under a project regarding computerization of railway land records, in which all the encroachments and leases had been recorded in the Pakistan Railways Land Management Information System (PRLMS) software. "Pakistan Railways has reserved 12,808 acres land in four provinces for future operational use including 4364 acres in Punjab, 1800 acres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 900 acres in Sindh and 5744 acres in Balochistan," he added. To a question, the official said the department had retrieved 38 km out of 43 km long Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) land from the land grabbers in the province. — APP

IHC seeks business visa policy from Ministry

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday sought business visa policy from Ministry of Interior on September 22, in a case seeking derogation of American blogger Cynthia D. Ritchie. Additional attorney general informed the court that the American blogger had stated before the ministry that she was not associated with any government institution of the country.

At this, Chief Justice Athar Minallah noted that previously the ministry had adopted the stance that the Cynthia had been serving to some government institutions in Pakistan. He said the ministry had not adopted a clear stance so far pertaining to the matter. Expressing displeasure with representative of interior ministry, the bench remarked that what order the ministry had passed. 'Is there any law or policy', the chief justice asked and questioned whether the ministry had any documents which tell the visa policy for foreigners. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Hamza Shafiqat leading a meeting to review flood situation in various areas of Islamabad. — DNA

NDC, UK Aid provide relief to flood-affectedees

One of the strong women, Halima, while explaining situation in her village, expressed - "Our lives have turned upside down due to these heavy rains, but the support from the UK through NDC and HANDS has been a beacon of hope"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Natural Disaster Consortium (NDC) under the Multi Year Humanitarian Programme (MYHP) funded by UK aid has initiated emergency response in the flood-affected districts of Pakistan's Sindh province providing 128 Hygiene Kits to 1,540 people in Hyderabad, Sindh. The British Deputy High Commissioner in Karachi, Mike Nithavrianakis said; "My heart goes out to those affected by these devastating floods. I'm pleased to see the emergency response that has provided

support to more than 1500 flood affected in Sindh.

"The Natural Disaster Consortium (NDC) continues to assess the immediate needs in the most critical areas to ensure relief those most affected in these difficult times." The emergency stock has been transported to four flood-affected districts of Sanghar, Mirpurkhas, Badin and Umerkot and distribution will start today (01-09).

The emergency stock includes 450 Tarpaulin sheet, 75 Tarpaulin roll, 5 Water Tanks, 900 Latrine Slabs and 900 hygiene kits some of which will be distributed in Hyderabad today. The



United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), an NDC partner, has committed to contribute additional stock as the response proceeds. As part of this immediate response, one of NDC partners, HANDS, distributed

220 hygiene kits among affected people in Hyderabad from 29 August through 1 September. This was much needed assistance, especially for women of the communities struggling with immediate aftermath of rain and

floods and looking for any sign of hope.

One of the strong women, Halima, hailing from the Mughalla Liaquat Ashraf Colony in district Hyderabad, while explaining situation in her village, expressed - "Our lives have turned upside down due to these heavy rains, but the support from the UK through NDC and HANDS has been a beacon of hope". There are multiple stories similar to Halima's of women who are continuing to support their families even in these testing times. As part of the on-going emergency response in the affected districts of Sindh, NDC partners have also

conducted rapid need assessments (RNAs) in the affected areas in Sindh and Balochistan. Results of these assessments will inform a more comprehensive plan of intervention that NDC will develop in the coming days, mobilizing additional resources for the response activities addressing the needs identified on the ground. The NDC, which is comprised of IOM, FAO, UNICEF, HANDS, WHO and ACTED was established in 2015 with the goal to assist at-risk and affected communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters in Pakistan.

Ten criminals held, narcotics and weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police has arrested 10 outlaws including two land grabbers and recovered wine, narcotics and weapons from them, a police spokesman said. He said federal capital police have launched effective crackdown against land grabbers following directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Amir Zulfiqar Khan. The operation was being conducted under the supervision of DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed and all Zonal SPs were making renewed efforts to ensure arrest of land mafia. Following these directions, SP (Rural) Farooq Amjad Bhattar constituted a police team under the supervision of DSP Rukhsar Medhi including SHO Sihala police station Inspector Muhammad Basheer along with others. The team succeeded to arrest two land grabbers namely Said Ullah and Abdullah Khan involved in occupying the land of DHA. While police team recovered one 30 bore pistol along with ammunition from their possession. Cases have been registered against them and further investigation was underway from them. Moreover Under the supervision of ASP Usman Tipu including SHO Khanna police Mirza Muhammad Gulfranz, ASI Haider Ali Shah along with others arrested a bootleggers namely Danish Masih and recovered 90 liters alcohol wine from him. Case has been registered against him. Meanwhile Aabpara police Shahzad and recovered 60 liters alcohol wine from him. Golra police arrested accused Safrash Ali and recovered one 30 bore pistol from him. Shalimar police arrested accused Zaheer Abbas and recovered 10 tin beers from him. Homicide Unit police arrested accused Muhammad Adill and recovered one 30 bore pistol from him. Noon police arrested accused Said Muhammad and recovered 230 gram hashish from him. Cases have been registered against these nabbed persons and further investigation was underway from them. During special checking in the whole city, police nabbed two proclaimed offenders. DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed has said that Islamabad Police was committed to eliminate Qabza-Mafia from the capital. He further directed all police officers to continue crackdown against land grabbers. He said it is prime responsibility of police to ensure protection to the lives and property of citizens and it would be ensured at every cost. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: Training College DIG Mehboob Aslam distributing saplings among motorists. — DNA

FJWU-Rozan sign MoU to address violence

According to WHO, there is a clear need to prevent the occurrence of violence and to provide necessary services for women experiencing violence

RAWALPINDI: Fatima Jinnah Women University and Rozan, a non-governmental organization on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly fight against gender injustice and violence against women. According to a FJWU spokesperson, gender based violence (GBV) is a serious and alarming phenomenon in the world that is why it is recognized under Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which focus on promotion of gender equality and women empowerment. She informed that the World Health Organization (WHO) has reported that 35 percent of the women worldwide had experienced either physical or sexual intimate partner violence. Notably

women also face other forms of violence and the actual proportion of women who face some forms of violence may be larger. According to WHO, there is a clear need to prevent the occurrence of violence and to provide necessary services for women experiencing violence. To address this phenomenon, FJWU in collaboration with Rozan would make efforts to fight the gender injustice with focus on youth, civil society organizations and academia, she added. According to different surveys, the COVID-19 has brought many significant changes in work, family routines and lifestyles. Due to the lockdown, there has been an increase in cases related to GBV globally.

Keeping in view these circumstances, FJWU and Rozan have decided to carry out joint research to explore the dimension of domestic violence in context of COVID 19. This mutual project will provide an overview of the dimensions of domestic violence in selected areas of Rawalpindi district. The findings of this project will also identify the future coordination and advocacy work to address these issues with reference to domestic violence. Working with women and youth is at the core of both the organizations. On similar lines, FJWU is also coordinating with Potohar Organization for Development and Advocacy (PODA), a women's rights non-governmental organization

working for the promotion and protection of human rights particularly in rural areas of Pakistan. The aim of this collaboration is to promote the vision of the Government of Pakistan to create a democratic society based on gender equity, economic justice and human rights, she said adding, both the organizations would also jointly work for the development and empowerment of young girls and women, focusing COVID-19 awareness, entrepreneurship, public health education, women's human rights and citizenship rights education. Both the organizations would also work for awareness and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the area of gender equality and health

communication in Pakistan. Vice Chancellor (VC), FJWU, Dr. Saima Hamid has always emphasized on community development as she believes that the universities should produce some impactful, solution orientated research to address local issues, she added. In addition to this collaboration, the VC has also inaugurated multiple community support programs including 'Mobile Physics lab' project to support the government school children's understanding of science concepts in the surrounding areas of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Under her leadership, FJWU has signed MoUs with multiple government and non-government organizations to accelerate the research activities in FJWU. — APP

PBC to air Defence Day programmes

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Broadcasting Association (PBC) has chalked out special programmes to highlight and pay tributes to armed forces and those national heroes who sacrificed their lives during September 6 war for the motherland.

A marathon transmission will be on aired by PBC News and Current Affairs Channel. Special talks, discussions, interviews of renowned personalities and national songs will be part of the transmission, said a news release issued here on Tuesday. Radio Pakistan Islamabad will broadcast impressions of the families of martyrs under the title "Ham Nai Bhulay" in programme Sukhi Ghar at 11:05 a.m in the transmission.

Special feature "Ay Waton Kay Sajeelay Janwano" presented by Radio Pakistan Multan at 03:10 p.m. while Radio Pakistan Lahore will broadcast special drama on national hookup "Sar Uthha Kay Chaly" at 09:10 p.m. Special reports based on activities held across the country regarding Defense Day celebrations will also be part of its news bulletin. — APP

Improper parking to be eliminated: Commissioner

RAWALPINDI: In order to protect the historic buildings inside Rawalpindi, the chaotic traffic congestion should be eliminated and public transport should be modernized along with improper parking and encroachments need to be eliminated.

Commissioner Rawalpindi Capt. (R) Muhammad Mahmood said this while presiding over a meeting on traffic management and safeguarding of historic buildings at his office.

He said that apart from using modern trends, we also need to promote the culture of walking and cycling which would restore the beauty of the inner city and promote tourism as per the vision of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Bazzar.

Commissioner said that comprehensive measures were urgently needed to preserve the historic buildings and the inner city which will also restore the beauty of the old city which was essential for the promotion of tourism. He said that viable solutions should be proposed to avoid traffic jams and protect historic buildings, and all the concerned departments should work in unison. — APP

CCTV cameras installed at Panahgahs

ISLAMABAD: The shelter homes management has installed Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras at all the 'Panahgahs' of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to ensure transparency in its affairs, besides safety of the dwellers.

"The move will not only provide secure environment to the residents of shelter homes but also help enhance monitoring of the establishments which will eventually lead to the better management and provision of all the required services to the daily wage earners," Prime Minister's Focal Person Naseem ur Rehman told media. He said hectic efforts were underway to transform shelter homes into places that could truly depict the vision of Prime Minister of Imran Khan for the betterment of downtrodden segments of the society. Naseem said prime focus of management was to improve the quality services at the shelter homes for the daily wage earners.

Fresh recruitment were being made at the 'Panahgahs' to transform their makeshift status into permanent one. To a query, he said there were six 'Panahgahs' operating across the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. The areas, where the 'Panahgahs' were functioning in the Federal Capital, included sector G-9, Mandi Morr, Bahara Kaho, Tara-mari and Ternoal. One 'Panahgah' had been serving the poor and needy at Fawara Chowk, Rawalpindi, he added. — APP

Briefs

ICT admin issues flood advisory

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration issued an advisory to all the relevant departments to avoid any eventuality during expected flood. "Heavy rains are expected in the upcoming days and all the hospitals in the federal capital are requested to keep at high alert, to avoid any untoward situation if caused", said a notification issued by district magistrate, Hamza Shafqaat. The city managers established flood control centers at three union councils, Tarlal, Bharakau and Sihala. Secretaries union councils concerned along with halka patwari and civil defence staff shall remain available round the clock to combat any emergency. Areas including Ghauri Town phase-5, Soan garden, few houses with basements in sector I-8 and I-9, Ghumrah Kass, low lying areas of Korang and Katchi Abadi in sectoral areas were also issued red alert. Some 11 schools were designated as relief camps during the possible flood. The schools included government high school Noorpur Shahan, government middle school for girls, Khanna Dak, govt. high school girls, Bharkau, federal government school Malpur, govt. girls school Nilore, govt. girls school Sihala, Islamabad model college for boys girls F-7/4, Islamabad fed govt. girl school no 4 G-7/2, Islamabad model school I-10/1, Islamabad f.g. high school I-9, Islamabad model school G-10/2. - APP

DC asks to make polio campaign successful

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock Ali Anan Qamar on Tuesday emphasized the public specially parents to cooperate with Health Department to make the forthcoming anti polio campaign a success. He was chairing a meeting in this context which was attended by Assistant Commissioners, DDHOs Health, Superintendent Vaccination, Incharge Polio Control Room and representatives of WHO (World Health Organization). DC said that for the forth coming polio campaign arrangements are being made which will be started from 21st Sep and will conclude on 25th September. The participants were informed that 953 teams will be constituted for this campaign to administer polio drops to 296662 children upto the age of five year. The teams will administer polio drops to door to door while this facility will also be provided at all the entry and exit points. Mobile teams will be provided adequate security. - APP

Urban slums' residents flock to UN handwashing stations

ISLAMABAD: United Nations-Habitat Pakistan has joined forces with Pakistan's Ministry of Climate Change to help prevent spread of COVID-19 in urban slums and ease economic impact on the vulnerable residents. A pilot "Pakistan COVID-19 Urban Slums Response Programme" was launched in two urban slums, Dhok Hassu and Dhok Mangtal, in Rawalpindi, a city adjacent to Federal Capital Islamabad, said a news release. Hand washing stations designed according to World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, were installed and are being used by over 800 people a day including children, sanitary workers and the business community. Amjad, a local shopkeeper said, "We had no place to wash hands in the markets before the pilot. We thank UN-Habitat for installing the handwashing stations in the markets. They help to protect us from COVID-19." To raise awareness on COVID-19 and disseminate information, a whatsapp group was created involving 10 percent of the target population. In addition disinfectant sprays are being used in hotspots, streets and markets and there are frequent temperature checks, distribution of sanitizers, masks and gloves and environmentally safe collection and disposal of solid and hazardous waste. - APP



ISLAMABAD: A beautiful view of the capital city after morning rain showers. - DNA

Government to tackle COVID-19 by protecting vulnerables

DG NCHD Hassan Baig said that, it is important to have situation analysed by conducting a comprehensive assessment which will help government in understating the overall impact

ISLAMABAD: Government was utilizing all its muscles to tackle with the pandemic COVID-19 and its impact especially providing essential health services to the vulnerable and needy and protecting health systems. In addition, the government had also launched multi-sectoral initiatives to mitigate the effects of this pandemic on economy, livelihoods and other sectors, said Director General National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) Hassan Baig on Tuesday.

Addressing in senior management meeting, he said that donors, UN agencies, International and national humanitarians actors/NGOs supported well to the government of Pakistan in the stern situation. DG NCHD Hassan Baig said that, it is important to have situation analysed by conducting a comprehensive assessment/analysis. It will help government and humanitarian in understating the overall impact and the proportion of population at risk, he added.

The assessment, he said, will provide the knowledge about the extent of vulnerability across geographics and various demographics. In addition it will give a look into the level at what humanitarian organizations and government authorities are responding to the pillars identified in National Action Plan for the pandemic, he informed. While elaborating the statistics he said report of IMF projects that 40 percent of Pakistanis were living below the poverty line in COVID-19's viral wake. Nearly 22 million children were now out of school, while 17 million children under five were missing routine vaccinations. An additional 2.45 million people beyond an existing 40 million now suffer food insecurity, the study finds. Real GDP growth was expected to slow due to downturns in services and manufacturing. Agriculture had also lagged down due to lockdowns and disrupted needed transportation, logistical support, labor, and access to inputs for the next planting season, he

briefed. The commission which is mandated with the role to support and augment human development across the country had inked an MOU with Islamic Rescue Committee (IRC-IVAP) to conduct Coordinated Gap Analysis (CGA) at national level in the four provinces and federal capital (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and ICT). This analysis will provide an understanding how, why and the context in which humans and communities respond allows to anticipate un-

wanted scenarios and initiate mitigating measures. Secondly, the analysis will generate information that will become evidence for strategic planning, program implementation and response monitoring during COVID-19 outbreak. NCHD being the implementer will conduct this analysis in 41 districts covering 16,400 households. Hassan Baig stressed that premeditated, strategic and joint efforts were required to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on social, economic and fiscal scenario.

ISLAMABAD: The Operation, Metering and Testing (M&T) and Surveillance teams of Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) detected 1,585 suspected meters during August in all five circles of the company. The spokesman said that around 1.72 million units were charged to the power pilferers besides imposing fine of over Rs32.1 million on them. He said out of total suspect meters, 1521 were found slow and 23 with holes/tempered while 41 were getting direct electricity. He said applications have also submitted to concerned police stations for legal proceeding. He said the IESCO detected 37,435 suspected connections so far during anti power theft drive launched since October 2018. Over 59.3 million units were charged to the power pilferers besides imposing fine of Rs 95.18 million on them, he said. The IESCO Chief Shahid Iqbal Chaudhry said on the direction of the federal government, and Ministry of Power Division, M&T and surveillance teams were working hard to eliminate the power theft. The IESCO Chief appreciated the efforts of all field formations and said that anti power theft campaign would continue till complete elimination of power pilferage. He also sought consumers help to eliminate power pilferage and requested them to lodge such complaints at helpline 118 or 0519252933-36. - APP

PMAS labs up-gradation project kicked off

RAWALPINDI: Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) has launched a project to up-grade computer laboratories of the University Institute of Information Technology (UIIT). According to PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar Zaman the research work is considered as the identity of any university. He said UIIT has made commendable progress in research work and the university students were engaged in their studies day and night. He hoped that the up-gradation of the laboratories would be beneficial for the students and these labs would produce the researchers who would be able to get jobs easily. -APP

IESCO detects 1,585 suspected power-theft cases

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Pulses travelling seminar begins at NARC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Spanning eight days long travelling seminar for "Kharif Pulses (Mash, Mungbean, Lobia)" in various ecological zones of Punjab and KP Provinces is being inaugurated by PARC. Organized under the PSDP project titled "Promotion Research for Productivity Enhancement in Pulses"

that is primarily, focusing on learning issues, new varieties appraisal, and develop new research ideas about pulses. According to a press release issued by PARC, these seminars provide an interactive platform to the participants to exchange outstanding ideas and learning from expert breeders and other senior scientists.

Such travelling seminars are organized in order to facilitate agri. scientists to get conversant with new technology, and specifically the adoption of advanced agricultural technologies in pulses production. The Chairman was also of the view that Pulses Travelling Seminars give us an opportunity to raise awareness about how pulses provide nutrition-

al development and are a very much a part of sustainable food production aimed at food security and nutrition. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mansoor Joyia, National Coordinator / Project Director (Pulses) said that this Seminar also incorporated to keep the positive momentum surrounding these healthy, nutritious, protein-rich, nitrogen-fix-

ing legumes. Keeping in view the importance of diseases in Kharif pulses and to adopt strategies for their control will also be discussed in these Seminars. The participants will discuss introduction of new varieties, sowing method, use of balance fertilizers, seed quantity, irrigation, weed control and seed storage method.

Around 499,466 calls on MoHR's helpline

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR) has enacted six laws and drafted seven legislations besides taking practical measure to implement the laws through monitoring, training, institutional development and sensitisation. According to Ministry of Human Rights helpline 1099 established for grievance-redressal mechanism through referral services to the victims of human rights violations and around 508 victims of human rights violations were given financial assistance of Rs. 6.52 million. The Ministry took up 6094 cases of human rights violations with the relevant authorities for redressal and 16924 complaints received on Pakistan Citizen Portal were processed, forwarded and referred in last two years. In past two years around 499,466 calls were received on ministry's Helpline and in response, 10,133 eligible callers were given legal services, 1265 cases of women were redressed by MoHR Women Shelter in Islamabad, 67 children were reunified with their parents whereas 185 children were provided non-formal education through National Child Protection Center and 84 cases of human rights victims were taken up personally by her which were followed up for redressal.



ISLAMABAD: Russian ambassador to Pakistan Danila V. Ganich attending a function in a Russian School in Islamabad. The School administration and children welcomed the Russian ambassador. DNA

"Rejuvenating spirit of 6th September a need of time"

The analyst said another lesson which needed to be learned on the defence day was that the army should be very well trained, have faith in their cause and enjoy complete support of the nation

ISLAMABAD: Defence Analyst, Lieutenant General (Retd) Amjad Shoaib, on Tuesday underlined the need for rejuvenating the spirit of September 6, 1965 among the nation to thwart existing threats, emanating from across the eastern and western borders. "6 September has great significance in our history as it was the day when our armed forces fought against a force which was quantitatively much bigger than

Pakistan army, and we were able to successfully defend our country," he said. Talking to agency, he said, "Their [India] Chief of Army Staff had claimed [at that time] that his force will get to Lahore immediately and early in the morning, he will be able to go to Lahore Gym-Khana and had his breakfast there. This was the dream he could not fulfill." The analyst said Pakistan army quickly moved from the cantonment areas and defended the motherland as

soon it learned that India had launched an attack on Pakistan without declaring a war. "At that time people of Lahore, Sialkot and of those areas which were closer to the international border came forward and helped in loading and unloading ammunition in army trucks." Amjad said it was a unique sort of unity demonstrated by the nation, adding, "This is the lesson we want to remember while celebrating 6th Sep-

tember that without unity and support of nation, no army can win any war." He said this lesson should be conveyed to people of Pakistan on the defence day as the country still, even today, needed similar spirit and unity amongst the nation and support for the armed forces to thwart the dangers, faced by the country on the eastern and western borders. The analyst said another lesson which needed to be learned on the defence day was that

the army should be very well trained, have faith in their cause and enjoy complete support of the nation. "There is need to understand that any penny, which is being spent on army, is not wasted," he said. He added that country's enemies had been using social media and other tools to create hatred and misunderstanding between people of Pakistan and the armed forces. "These are the things which we need to be guarded at this point of time." - APP

Petrol pumps fined

RAWALPINDI: The local administration Tuesday imposed a fine of Rs 30,000 on different petrol pumps in Kahuta for selling less fuel to people in violation of the weight and measurements laws. According to details, Assistant Commissioner, Rabia Siyal conducted surprise inspection of petrol pumps in different areas of the city and imposed fines amounting to Rs 30,000 for irregularities in scale. She directed the petrol pump owners to ensure accurate measuring and compliance with the laws failing which stern action would be taken against the violators. She directed to improve sanitation arrangements to eradicate dengue larvae. - APP

ITP devises traffic plan for 14th Muharram

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has devised a special traffic diversion plan for procession of 14th Muharram-ul-Haram (September 3) which would start from shrine of Sakhhi Mehmud Badshah and to culminate at the same point after passing through its various traditional routes. A total of 46 traffic policemen including one SP, two DSPs and three Inspectors would perform duties to manage traffic while special parking lots would be specified for the participants of the procession. Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Farrukh Rasheed said that a special traffic diversion plan has been chalked out for the convenience of road users who will be guided by traffic policemen on alternate routes. - APP

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Plan for Karachi

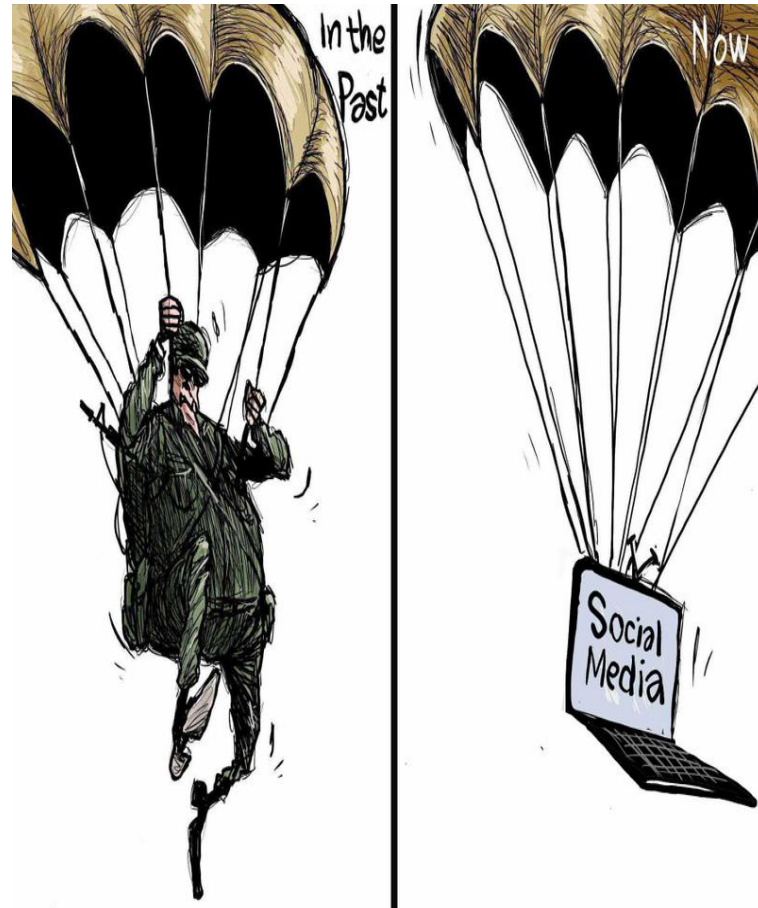
A FEW days after Karachi was lashed by record-breaking rains, there is a palpable feeling of rage amongst this hapless city's residents. This is not without reason, for in the face of a devastating calamity the people have been left to fend for themselves by those who wield power in this country.

Extreme weather events happen all over the globe, yet damage is mitigated by planning ahead and ensuring that all humanly possible measures are taken to protect lives and property. But in Karachi's case, these measures are mostly limited to press statements – or the distinct lack of them – and the federal, provincial and local governments seem far more interested in attacking each other's performance than in solving the city's problems.

However, in the wake of the latest disaster, there seems to be a change in tone, with the prime minister himself paying attention to the crisis in the country's commercial capital. On Monday, Imran Khan said he wanted a "Karachi Transformation Plan" finalised soon, while earlier he had stated that the centre would "not abandon" Karachi in times of crises. This resolve to prevent such disasters from happening again in Karachi is commendable, and to underscore his commitment Mr Khan should visit the metropolis as soon as he can to witness the devastation for himself. Under the prime minister's plan, the city's key issues – solid waste management, water shortage, matters related to water and sewerage as well as transport – will be focused on.

From here on, both the federal and Sindh governments need to put politics aside and combine forces to help bring Karachi into the 21st century. The neglect of this city has gone on for decades, and this sad fact was manifested most painfully last Thursday when Karachi's entire infrastructure collapsed and was seemingly washed away by the monsoon deluge.

Monday also marked the day when the tenure of local governments ended in Sindh. Along with coming up with a workable master plan for Karachi with the centre, the Sindh government must take the provincial local bodies law back to the drawing board. The SLGA 2013 has been a miserable failure, especially in Karachi, as the third tier has been eviscerated by a provincial government that has usurped all civic powers. If meaningful change is to come to Karachi, the Sindh administration must give back civic powers to an elected mayor, while maintaining checks and balances on the third tier.



Polio on the rise

NOW that Nigeria, the last country in Africa afflicted with the crippling poliovirus has successfully eradicated it, the continent has finally been declared polio-free. Despite the danger posed to health workers from violent militancy and difficulties faced in reaching remote places to carry out immunization campaigns in Nigeria, the country has persevered to contribute to the target of 95% immunity across the continent. This now leaves Pakistan and Afghanistan as the only countries in the world where the virus remains endemic. A recently released report by the IMB (Independent Monitoring Board) severely criticizes Pakistan's polio programme stating that, "there is every possibility that Pakistan will be the last place on Earth to harbour this terrible disease." With eight cases in 2017 and twelve in 2018, it seemed the country was finally settling into a position to eliminate the virus.

However, 2019 saw an astronomical rise with 147 wild poliovirus cases nationwide, while vaccine-derived cases that had all but disappeared in the previous two years rose by 22. So far this year at least 65 wild poliovirus cases have been recorded across the country. Vaccine-derived cases have soared to 52, which accounts for a third of all such cases in the world. These are dangerously high numbers for a country that has been running a state-level nationwide polio eradication programme for decades. The report notes that the virus has made its way to the North, with cases being reported in Southern parts of KP and Lahore, from its core reservations found in Karachi and Quetta.

While this year's uptick is attributable to the Coronavirus pandemic that disrupted planned vaccination campaigns, the bulk of the problems restricting Pakistan from making any meaningful progress, according to the report, are a lack of political unity, dysfunctional teamwork, mistrustful communities and poor technical performance. The report advises "transformational change" in the anti-polio strategy. The new civilian government under Imran Khan was supposedly going to bring about that sort of change but unfortunately the situation has significantly worsened in the past two years rather than improving. Pakistan must join hands with neighbouring Afghanistan to restrict cross-border spread in Balochistan. Nigeria, having similar problems as Pakistan in terms of vaccination drives, is a good case study for the country to consider. Cosmetic measures, such as the Prime Minister's periodic phone conversations with Mr. Bill Gates to discuss progress, are simply no longer going to cut it.

Xinjiang and peaceful regional connectivity

Hina Habib

Xinjiang's territorial linkage makes it a core of Eurasia and a gateway of China to Europe. Especially, it connectivity to Europe serves as a vital element for the success of BRI and Silk Road Economic Belt. Then there is also abundant oil and mineral reserves found in Xinjiang and it is currently China's largest natural gas-producing region. Xinjiang offers immense opportunities for regional trade and economy especially for Central Asian, South Asian and European Countries. The region's trade with Pakistan, Australia, Singapore, Britain, Vietnam and Argentina showed rapid growth

XINJIANG is an autonomous region of China largest of its all provinces and importantly borders with eight important countries in the region: India, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia and Pakistan. Historically, the entire Xinjiang was a model of international connectivity in China and also during contemporary time the areas is peacefully serving its people through regional trade. Yet, it is very unfortunate that we are deliberately being deprived from coming across anything positive from this area due to heavy propaganda of anti-China elements in foreign media forums especially in western countries.

Uyghur and other ethnic communities of Xinjiang are prospering and living peacefully it is opposite to the propaganda based of fake news. Chinese government's effective policy for the area is playing a huge role in the progress and development of the area. Abdulrick Tumyazi, President of the Xinjiang Islamic Association said during an interview that western media person should come and visit Xinjiang to see the real Xinjiang where people are living with religious harmony.

Xinjiang's territorial linkage makes it a core of Eurasia and a gateway of China to Europe. Especially, it connectivity to Europe serves as a vital element for the success of BRI and Silk Road Economic Belt. Then there is also abundant oil and mineral reserves found in Xinjiang and it is currently China's largest natural gas-producing region. Xinjiang offers immense opportunities for regional trade and economy especially for Central Asian, South Asian and European Countries. The region's trade with Pakistan, Australia, Singapore, Britain, Vietnam and Argentina showed rapid growth.

We know that Xinjiang is the nearest place of China to Pakistan. Quoting here the Chi-

nese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing who says that "Sino-Pakistan friendship is higher than mountains", it refers to the Karakoram Mountains between Xinjiang and Pakistan. The Karakoram Highway, the world's highest road, has been in operation to connect Pakistan and China since its opening in 1980s. Now the highway has already been upgraded significantly and is in the process of being further upgraded under CPEC. During the COVID-19 crisis we witness the fastest delivery of vital health logistics or goods from Khunjerab pass despite harsh weather. Coming to Central Asian countries, Kazakhstan topped the list of Xinjiang's major trade partners. Besides, on the southern border of Xinjiang, three ports, Turugart, Erkeshtan and Karasu, between China and Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, saw large quantities of goods cleared by customs every year.

According to the estimates of Urumqi customs the area also saw 197.2 billion yuan (about 28.31 billion U.S. dollars) of imports and exports to member states of the Eurasian Economic Union in the first 11 months of 2019, up 6.8 percent year on year. Before the onset of COVID-19, Xinjiang's exports to the EAEU member states reached 127 billion yuan, up 8.1 percent year on year, while its imports totaled 70.2 billion yuan, up 4.4 percent.

For trade in the region freight trains from China to Europe and especially from Urumqi to Central Asia are of great help. According to a report by the Xinhua News Agency, the train departs from Kashi, stopping at cities including Akesu and Kuerle, where the train will aggregate local cargo and arrive at Urumqi. The train then connects to the China Railway Express, eventually reaching destinations in Central Asia, West Asia and Europe. Local products from Xinjiang are getting space in in-

ternational market and sharing handsomely in the growth and development of the local population.

In June 2020, Urumqi International Land Port Area had launched freight trains on 21 routes linking 26 cities in 19 European and Asian countries. Tourism has become an important reason for high-quality development. During the year 2018, the number of domestic and international tourists in Xinjiang exceeded 150 million, an increase of more than 40 percent. Importantly, land port also received more than 3.19 million tourists in the first half of 2019, up 66.3 percent year on year.

Due to successful implementation of Chinese government's policies for the province during the last few years this region of the country recorded some considerable growth and development counting here the GDP of Xinjiang that increased from 3.9 billion Yuan to 1.15 trillion yuan (\$1686 billion) and the per capita GDP increased from 313 Yuan to 48,000 Yuan (\$7000), an increase of 294 times and 153 times respectively.

Even during the Corona virus pandemic restrictions the region growth estimated are 3.3 percent during the first half of the year 2020 which is a bright and promising sign not only for Xinjiang but also for the future of entire region. In this background, the instability of the Xinjiang is bad omen for the entire region as it would hurt Chinese and regional interests based on economic integration. It is not hard to comprehend who would like to achieve that end. The rhetoric built on the basis of human rights violations to target Chinese and regional interests must be seen in this context.

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Free falling of justice

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



The CJS in Pakistan comprises of five components i.e. the police, judiciary, prisons, prosecution, probation and parole. Investigation system comprising of investigation, law, and information technology departments/sections have not been instigating decisive actions against criminal elements in the society and it has its peak in Punjab especially in the metropolitan cities like, Lahore, Karachi, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi etc

WORSE policing system is one of the main hurdles in the supremacy of law and of course seeking justice in the country. Unprofessional approach, serious capacity building issue, compromised conduct and unfriendly dealings with the people vividly reflect its perpetual mediocre performance against criminals in the society. Society has been paying a heavy price for constant abjuration of circumstantial evidence doctrine, predisposed interpretation of non-verbal communication, candid study of optics and last but not least, violating basic concepts and SOPs of the criminal law/incident investigation.

There is an urgent need of rigorous structural and conceptual reforms in the policing system of Pakistan. Most recently, Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan stated pathetic performance of Punjab policing system which should be an eye opener for the policy makers. The prime minister always subjugated the issue of police reforms in his election campaign and now two years have been completed but police has not yet altered its overall outlook towards dealing with criminal or suspects elements in the country especially in the province of Punjab. The Criminal Justice System (CJS) in Pakistan comprises of five components i.e. the police, judiciary, prisons, prosecution, probation and parole. Investigation system comprising of investigation, law, and information technology departments/sections have not been instigating decisive actions against criminal elements in the society and it has its peak in Punjab especially in the metropolitan cities like, Lahore, Karachi, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi etc.

Law section of investigation of Punjab Police is the weakest and one of the most corrupt departments in the province. Laws are usually self-interpreted which use to give advantage culprits instead of assisting plaintiffs. Most of the reports are twisted and words are swallowed due to visible and invisible political or government ill designs and personal taboos.

Law officers in various police stations and especially controlling offices do not care about severity of the crime matters and always in the state of denial by not evaluating other valuable interconnected incidents/evidences, body language, physical posturing/signaling, and non-verbal traits of the targeted objects to draw an unpretentious conclusion and befitting proposition, good for the police department and of course, courts of the land to eradicate crimes in the society. Penning of routine reports have now become bleeding

wounds for the innocent people and rightful plaintiffs to protect their basic rights of association, free choice, assembly, property and last but not least, life. Law and constitution of the land are supreme but law officers and senior police officers are not holy popes to whom we should not differ. Punjab Safe Cities Authority is a value-addition in the policing system of the province but unfortunately, investigation officers do not take advantage of its technical assistance to probe heinous crimes/white-collar crimes against humanity and innocent people at large. It has vast network of crammers which provide first hand reference against criminality and are the real savior of people against physical assault.

The Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) prohibits causing hurt for extracting confessions. Article 14(2) of the Constitution of Pakistan prohibits torture in custody and states, "No person shall be subjected to torture for the purpose of extracting evidence." Article 10 of the Constitution forbids arbitrary arrest and detention. Section 176 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) demands a magisterial inquiry in most of the criminal cases but as is common knowledge, such inquiries seldom take place. Appropriate orders of the courts have been annulled because of incompetence of the law officers of police who do not care about all possible X-Factors in concurrence of crimes in the society.

Unfortunately, our police know only one method of investigation. Investigation more often than not means extraction of confession under physical pressure. True, the law does not accept confessions obtained under duress. Still the practice continues because the police officers know that once a confession, however secured, is substantiated with evidence uncovered by the accused, the latter will be much too concerned with the risk of conviction to complain of violence inflicted on him.

Even after 6 decades and a new generation of police officers/seniors later, informal and extralegal procedures and practices remain unchanged, and the philosophy of curtailing innocent people with biased reports, conceded internal mechanism, amateurish approach, glorification of self, gratification of official authority/power, unscientific methods, illiteracy of artificial intelligence apparatus and obsession of blind perusal especially badly ignoring institute of circumstantial evidence, dissemination of non-verbal communication and last but not least disavowal of rationality has become institutionalized. Political interference is on the peak in the Punjab Police System (PPS) many

MPAs, provincial ministers and officer bearers are alleging undue pressure on police administration to maneuver outcome of investigation procedures and law reports. There is an urgent need of depoliticizing of police in the province of Punjab.

Writ petition no. 4126/2020 of Muhammad Nashit Vs. Police Station Qilla Gujjar Singh, Lahore etc. remained pending in the office of SP Investigation Mughalpurah Lahore for so many months. The plaintiff filed an application in the court of Ex-Officio Justice of Peace/Additional: Sessions Judge Lahore to seek record of from Punjab Safe City Lahore. Subsequently, court ordered SP Investigation Mughalpurah Lahore to conduct inquiry of the serious family matter (theft of expensive items) after seeing all available record (audio & video) and submit the report. First letter was dispatched with bad intention and was not delivered to relevant office/section of the Punjab Safe City Authority (PSCA). Second letter was resent and received in the PSCA. A police inspector from Ghari Shahu was deputed to collect the desired record from the PSCA. He secured only two still pictures showing no sign of criminality with the high claim that there was no extra record available in the PSCA.

The plaintiff personally approached DIG PSCA and requested for the help which was provided and ultimately 15 pictures along with video of the said incident was retrieved from the back-up office of the same. It was delivered to law officer of the SP Investigation Mughalpurah Lahore who assured complete transparency and merit in the conclusion of the said writ petition of the plaintiff. So called meritorious report was submitted in the court indicating no act of violence and criminality. It was totally biased and partial by twisting the factual position and ignoring the basic injunctions of criminal law and basis of circumstantial evidence. When contacted by the plaintiff, the said law officer revealed political pressure for this. During the whole incident attitude of said investigation office and law officers has been unfriendly and not up the mark of civility. True spirits of justice, merit, truth, transparency, impartiality and even general decency was severely desecrated. It is an eye opener for Prime Minister of Pakistan, Chief Minister of the province, Home secretary, IG police and even CCPO. The plaintiff requests all the authorities to take appropriate action to safe a free falling of the deity of justice in the country.

Briefs

Hong Kong begins mass testing as Europe sees surge

DNA

HONG KONG: Hong Kong has started mass coronavirus testing, under a new scheme backed by the Chinese government. A health workers union says the voluntary programme is a waste of resources, while activists say it could be used to collect DNA samples.

In France, masks are being made "systematic" in all shared, enclosed workplaces as of today. But companies may be able to avoid the new regulation if rigorous social distancing measures are put in place instead. Millions of children across Europe have gone back to school - but social distancing rules widely differ across the continent.

In China, nearly 1.4 million children in Wuhan are also back in the classroom as the authorities have reopened every school and nursery in the city where the pandemic started late last year.

In Russia, the number of confirmed infections has now passed one million; more than 17,000 people have died. In Nigeria, doctors in the capital Abuja begin an "indefinite" strike over non-payment of "Covid-19 hazard and inducement allowance" since April.

Brazil's Bolsonaro to undergo surgery

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said Monday he had been diagnosed with a kidney stone and would undergo surgery in September to remove it. The far-right leader, 65, has had a series of health issues, including four surgeries stemming from an attack in which he was stabbed in the abdomen during his 2018 presidential campaign. "I felt a little pain, so I went for a checkup. But I'm fine. It's an age thing," Bolsonaro told CNN Brasil.

He said doctors had performed an ultrasound and told him the kidney stone was slightly larger than a bean. The president's office did not immediately respond to a request for further details. Bolsonaro is also coming off a bout with Covid-19 that put him in quarantine for nearly three weeks in July. -APP

Djokovic through to US Open second round



NEW YORK: World number one Novak Djokovic got his bid for an 18th Grand Slam off to a winning start with a straight-sets first-round victory at the US Open Monday. The Serbian superstar defeated unheralded Damiir Dzumhur of Bosnia-Herzegovina 6-1, 6-4, 6-1 in just under two hours at an eerily quiet Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York. Djokovic currently has 17, behind Nadal on 19 and Federer on 20. -APP

Over 300 road runners in anti-doping programme

PARIS: More than 300 professional road runners have signed up to new anti-doping programme, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) announced Tuesday as marathons resume in a season badly hit by the coronavirus pandemic. The AIU said there would be an overall "Registered Testing Pool" of 305 athletes, the vast majority coming from Kenya and Ethiopia. The top 40 runners (20 male and 20 female) will be tested in accordance with an advanced intelligence-led testing programme that is appropriate to their 2020 racing calendar, the AIU said. -APP



ISLAMABAD: Amjad Aziz Malik, senior journalist and administrator of China Window, called on President Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

UNSC urged to focus on Hindutva terrorism

While keeping focus on Al-Qaeda and Da'esh, it had "ignored terrorism by extremist and fascist organizations, including the Hindutva groups terrorizing Muslims"

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: A top Pakistani diplomat has called on the UN Security Council to shift some of its focus on combating Al-Qaeda and ISIS/Da'esh to Hindutva extremists in India terrorizing Muslims, as he stressed the need for the 15-member body to reform its counter-terrorism work. "Terrorism has proliferated across the world," Ambassador Munir Akram told a virtual meeting of the General Assembly which discussed the annual report of the Security Council on its actions to maintain

international peace and security. Pointing out deficiencies in the Council's work, the Pakistan envoy said that while keeping focus on Al-Qaeda and Da'esh, it had "ignored terrorism by extremist and fascist organizations, including the Hindutva groups terrorizing Muslims. "It has allowed the labels of terrorism to compromise the legitimate struggles of peoples under colonial and alien domination for self-determination. It has also ignored state terrorism which is used for oppressing and brutalizing peoples under occupation." The Council, Ambassador

Akram said, has also failed to implement its own resolutions and decisions, including on the decade-old Jammu and Kashmir dispute. "For over seventy years, India has illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir in blatant violation of the resolutions of the Security Council; it is perpetrating a reign of terror in a territory occupied with 900,000 troops; it has imposed a complete siege on 8 million Kashmiris in the valley and it is perpetrating massive violations of human rights against them and against its own minority communities, he told the council.

"In the wake of its illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019, the BJP-RSS government is putting in place what they have themselves called the 'final solution' for Jammu and Kashmir - demographic flooding of occupied Kashmir by settler communities to completely disempower and disenfranchise the Kashmiri people and to obliterate their Muslim identity and that of the occupied territory." In this regard, the Pakistani envoy said that the Council met thrice in one year on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, reaffirming its disputed status and that a final

settlement based on Security Council resolutions. In his comments, Ambassador Akram also underscored the need to improve transparency as much of the Council's real work and decision-making takes place behind closed doors. The role of the non-members, he said, has been reduced amid the coronavirus pandemic to the 'perfunctory' submission of written statements to the few open meetings held by the Council. The Pakistan envoy also called for a comprehensive reform of the Security Council to provide it greater legitimacy and credibility.

"Openness, transparency and inclusiveness should be introduced in the working modalities of the Security Council and its subsidiary bodies, especially the 'Sanctions Committees' and those dealing with generic issues, such as terrorism and non-proliferation." He added, "The international community cannot succeed in its efforts to strengthen conflict prevention and promote peaceful dispute settlement if the Security Council's own resolutions are held in abeyance willfully. What is, at stake is both the Council's credibility as well as the objective of durable peace in our region.

Inconsistency, a hurdle in becoming the best team'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Asian Bradman Zaheer Abbas believes the lack of consistency in performance, was a big hurdle for the Green-Shirts, in becoming one of the best teams in the world. "Pakistan team lacks consistency, which is a big hurdle on the way to becoming one of the best teams in the world. We don't want to be known as a team, which only performs well against weak opposition," cricketpakistand.com.pk quoted him as saying. Abbas, was disappointed to see Pakistan lose the Test series against England and especially the first match. "Pakistan should have won the first Test after taking a first innings lead of more than 100 runs. I was extremely disappointed to see Pakistan lose that match. I won't take names but Pakistan team made mistakes and had to pay for it in the end," he said.

The former International Cricket Council (ICC) President said that Pakistan team needs more players like Babar Azam in order to become a competitive side in world cricket. Abbas, who scored 5,062 runs in 78 Tests, was satisfied with Azam's performance in the recently concluded Test series against England. "Babar did fairly well in the Test series and looked confident while he was batting. I hope Pakistan produces more players like Babar Azam so that the pressure is not entirely on one player," he said. He also shared his thoughts on Azhar Ali's future as Test captain. "This is board's decision to continue Azhar as captain. After playing much cricket, Azhar should be mature by now and understand the importance of scoring runs and leading from front as it will have a positive impact on the entire team," he said.

Indonesia stages coffin parade for virus threat

JAKARTA: Officials in hazmat suits paraded empty coffins through the streets of Jakarta Tuesday to remind residents that coronavirus cases are still surging in one of Asia's worst-hit nations. A convoy of truck hearses and pallbearers snaked its way through crowded neighbourhoods, with some participants also donning headpieces depicting ghost-like figures known as pocong. "We're hoping this coffin parade will remind people to be more aware of the risk of disobeying health safety rules," said Mundari, the head of south Jakarta's Cilandak district, who like many Indonesians goes by one name. "They can picture how things would be if they died of Covid-19," he added. The mock coffins got the attention of Cilandak resident Ahmad Soleh Suzany. -APP

Czechs summon Chinese envoy over Taiwan

PRAGUE: The Czech foreign ministry said Monday it had summoned the Chinese envoy to Prague after Beijing threatened an opposition politician currently on a visit to Taiwan. A delegation led by Czech Senate speaker Milos Vystrcil arrived in Taipei on Sunday, angering China which is trying to keep the island isolated from the rest of the world.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Monday that China would make Vystrcil "pay a high price for his short-sighted behaviour and political speculation", calling the journey a "provocation". The Czech foreign ministry then said on its website that deputy minister Martin Tlapa had summoned the ambassador, expressing "fundamental disapproval"

of the statement. Czech Foreign Minister Tomas Petricek said earlier on Monday he expected China to explain Yi's words. "Of course the journey has an impact on our relationships with China, but I think this has gone too far," he told journalists. Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis has labelled the statement "impertinent and inappropriate". -APP

Barcelona and Real Madrid to meet in October

MADRID: Barcelona will play Real Madrid in the first Clásico of the season at Camp Nou on October 25, after the La Liga fixtures were announced on Monday. Barca and Madrid will then face each other at the Santiago Bernabeu on April 11, with Zinedine Zidane's side looking to defend the Spanish league title they won in July.

Whether Lionel Messi features in either match remains to be seen, with the Argentinian currently on strike and refusing to train as he tries to force his way out of the club this summer. Barcelona are scheduled to start at home to Elche and Madrid at home to Getafe but both games will be rearranged to allow more rest

for teams involved in last season's European competitions, which only ended in August. Atletico Madrid's opener at home to Sevilla will therefore also be postponed. Instead, Real Madrid are likely to begin at Real Sociedad on the weekend of September 20 before Barcelona are expected to start at home to Villarreal a week later. -APP

European schools reopening amid COVID-19

The vast majority plan to change break times and stagger start times, according to the survey by the National Association for Head Teachers

DNA

LONDON: Schools across Europe are reopening as summer break ends and governments insist that students return to the classroom after months of online learning due to the covid-19. Countries are taking different approaches to minimise contagion in schools, as outlined below.

UK
Primary schools reopened in England on June 1, starting with some year groups. Secondary school students aged 15 to 18 returned on June 15. All years are back full time for the new school year this week. Scotland's schools reopened on August 11. A recent survey of mostly English schools shows 96% of

schools are splitting classes into small groups or 'bubbles', with each group keeping a safe distance from the other groups to minimise contagion risk. The vast majority plan to change break times and stagger start times, according to the survey by the National Association for Head Teachers.

Rules on face masks and other protective equipment differ: secondary students in England need only wear face masks in communal spaces if lockdowns are imposed in their areas. In Scotland, they will be compulsory when moving about school.

France
Schools reopen on September 1. Students aged over 11 years must wear face masks at all times, including indoors. Schools must limit the mixing

of class groups, and ventilate and disinfect classrooms. School attendance is mandatory, though schools can adapt to a surge in local coronavirus infections by, for example, limiting attendance for a few days or weeks. In the event of a major regional outbreak, schools can close temporarily.

In kindergarten, children within the same class group need not observe social distancing. Primary schools can split up classes into groups of 8 to 15 pupils who alternate between half-days in class and learning from home. At secondary schools, all students attend school at least a few days a week.

Germany
Children have been returning to school full time since early August. In most states, children and teachers have to wear masks in-

doors except when at their desks. North Rhine Westphalia dropped a rule that older students wear masks in lessons after criticism from parents and doctors. Classes or year groups must keep to different parts of the school during breaks. Doors and windows are kept open as much as possible. Most teachers have returned to school, though campaigners are pushing for more protection for them. Some online lessons continue in special circumstances.

Greece
Schools are expected to reopen on September 7 but a delay may be deemed necessary. Teachers and students will be required to wear masks in class and other indoor spaces, with each being given one fabric mask. Class sizes will be limited

to 17 students. **Italy**
Schools in most regions are set to reopen on September 14. Measures to minimise contagion are still being finalised. To aid social distancing, entry times will be slightly staggered and new, single desks will be introduced in the coming weeks. Mask wearing will be obligatory for those arriving and leaving school, but they can be removed during lessons if there is a safe distance between desks.

Some secondary schools with larger class sizes say they will use a mix of distance learning and on-site teaching to prevent overcrowding. The government has agreed to provide more funds to increase public transport to allow for safe travel to schools.

Russian COVID-19 cases top 1 million

MOSCOW: Russia registered 4,729 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking its national caseload to more than one million, the country's COVID-19 response center said in a statement Tuesday.

The number of coronavirus cases reached 1,000,048, while 123 new deaths were reported, taking the death toll to 17,299. Moscow, the country's worst-hit region, reported 641 new cases, bringing its tally of infections to 263,059, the center said.

According to the statement, 815,705 patients have recovered so far, including 6,318 over the past day.

As of Monday, 211,248 people were still under medical observation, while over 36.9 million tests have been conducted across the country. - APP

Ivan Rakitic leaves Barcelona to rejoin Sevilla

DNA

BARCELONA: The Croatia midfielder rejoins the La Liga side where he played from 2011-2014, prior to his move to the Nou Camp. Barcelona said in a statement: "The Andalusian team will pay FC Barcelona 1.5m euros plus 9m in variables.

"FC Barcelona publicly expresses its gratitude to Rakitic for his commitment and dedication and wishes him good luck and success in the future."

Rakitic, 32, scored 35 goals in 310 games for Barcelona during his six years with the club, winning four league titles, four Copa del Rey trophies, plus the Champions League in that time. Rakitic captained Sevilla to Europa League success in 2014 before leaving to join Barcelona. The summer transfer window will run for 10 weeks from July 27 and close at 11pm on October 5.

Brazil resumes ethanol tariffs

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil reinstated a 20 percent tariff on US ethanol imports Monday in a setback for President Donald Trump's administration, which lobbied to retain an exemption for the politically important industry.

The South American country had previously exempted up to 750 million liters (198 million gallons) a year of imported ethanol from tariffs, but did not renew the benefit after it expired Sunday, an official said.

"It's a very sensitive issue," the official told AFP, adding it was possible the inter-ministerial committee that decides tariff questions could hold an extraordinary meeting "in the coming days" to revisit the matter.

The US ambassador in Brazil, Todd Chapman, had reportedly lobbied hard to retain the exemption.

Chapman now faces an inquiry before the US House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee over reports he violated a law barring federal officials from engaging in partisan activities by telling Brazilian counterparts that a renewal of the ethanol exemption would help Trump's re-election chances. - APP

Eurozone inflation turns to negative in August

BRUSSELS: Eurozone consumer prices fell in August, official data said on Tuesday, with inflation in negative territory for the first time since May 2016, a consequence of plummeting demand due to the coronavirus crisis. The EU's Eurostat data agency said inflation fell to negative 0.2 percent in August, a steep drop from positive 0.4 percent in July and way off the official target of near two percent. -APP

Briefs

Guinea
opposition
vows new
protests

CONAKRY: Guinea's opposition vowed Tuesday to return to the streets after the party of President Alpha Conde confirmed the octogenarian will seek a third term in office, a prospect that already sparked deadly mass protests.

"It is now clear even to the most sceptical that Mr. Alpha Conde who claims to have fought for decades for democracy in Guinea is none other than the biggest disappointment in the political history of our country," the National Front for the Defence of the Constitution (FNDC) said in a statement. Conde, now 82, this year pushed through a re-purposed constitution that opponents say was crafted to reset the term counter, enabling him to run again in the vote set for October 18 in the poor West African state of 13 million.

The televised statement by the ruling Rally of the Guinean People (RPG) on Monday ended months of speculation over Conde's candidacy, which the FNDC blasted as "outrageous and conflict-inducing". - APP

S.Korea
proposes
record-high
gov't budget

SEOUL: South Korea on Tuesday proposed a record-high government budget for 2021 to bolster economic recovery amid uncertainty over the COVID-19 pandemic.

Proposal for the 2021 fiscal budget was set at 555.8 trillion won (469.7 billion U.S. dollars), 8.5 percent higher than this year's budget, according to the Ministry of Economy and Finance. The record-high budget was unveiled to help reinvigorate the lackluster economy, caused by the COVID-19 outbreak across the world. In late August, the country's central bank expected real gross domestic product (GDP) to contract 1.3 percent this year. It was down from the estimate of a 0.2-percent fall announced in May. The growth rate of the 2021 fiscal budget was lower than hikes of 9.5 percent in 2019 and 9.1 percent in 2020 each.

Because of the record-high budget, the ratio of national debt to GDP was estimated to rise to 46.7 percent in 2021 from this year's 43.5 percent. The government will submit the 2021 budget proposal to the National Assembly Thursday for approval. - APP

Turkey
slams EU

DNA

ISTANBUL: Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay has slammed a recent threat by the European Union to slap Ankara with sanctions as "hypocritical" as his country prepares to carry out a military drill off the coast of Cyprus amid tensions in the eastern Mediterranean. Oktay's comments on Saturday came a day after Josep Borrell, the EU's foreign policy chief, said the bloc was preparing to impose sanctions on Turkey - including tough economic measures - unless progress is made in reducing soaring tensions with Greece and Cyprus in the eastern Mediterranean. "It is hypocritical for the European Union to call for dialogue and, simultaneously, make other plans regarding Turkey's activities within our continental shelf in the Eastern Mediterranean," Oktay said on Twitter.

Venezuela's
President
pardons
lawmakers

CARACAS: Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro on Monday pardoned more than 100 lawmakers and associates of opposition leader Juan Guaido "in the interests of promoting national reconciliation," the government said. Guaido's assistant Roberto Marrero and lawmakers Gilber Caro and Renzo Prieto were amongst the names read out by Communications Minister Jorge Rodriguez live on state television. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kuwait in a meeting with UAE Ambassador Hamad Alzaabi. - DNA

Lifting virus curbs too soon a
'recipe for disaster', WHO warns

"If countries are serious about opening, they must be serious about suppressing transmission and saving lives", WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

DNA

UNITED NATIONS: The World Health Organization (WHO) has urged States to continue implementing safety measures to control the spread of the coronavirus, such as limiting public gatherings and protecting vulnerable groups as they try to reopen businesses and services. "If countries are serious about opening, they must be serious about suppressing transmission and saving lives", WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters from the agency's Geneva headquarters on Monday. "Opening up without having control, is a recipe for disaster," he added. While this may seem an impossible balance, it can be done if countries are in con-

trol of transmission, Tedros said. The more control they have, the more they can open. The reality is that coronavirus spreads easily, he said. "It can be fatal for people of all ages and most people remain susceptible." To control transmission, WHO chief said it is essential to prevent events that lead to outbreaks. COVID-19 spreads efficiently among clusters of people, with explosive outbreaks linked to gatherings at places such as sports stadiums, nightclubs and places of worship. At the same time, there are ways to hold gatherings safely, Tedros said. Decisions about how and when must be made with a risk-based approach, tailored to local conditions. He said countries experiencing significant community transmission may need to postpone such



events. Those seeing sporadic cases or small clusters, on the other hand, can find creative ways to hold events while minimizing risk. He advocated a focus on reducing deaths by protecting the elderly, people with underlying conditions and essential workers. Countries that do this well may be able to cope with low levels of transmission as they open. Individuals must play their

part by staying at least one metre away from others, cleaning their hands regularly, practicing respiratory etiquette by wearing a mask and avoiding close-contact settings. For governments, widespread stay-at-home orders can be avoided if they take temporary, geographically targeted interventions. It is important to find, isolate, test and care for COVID-19 cases - and both trace

and quarantine contacts. The UN health agency chief said WHO has a range of evidence-based guidance that can be applied in different transmission scenarios, most recently for hotels, cargo ships and fishing vessels. Meanwhile, the agency is working with its partners through the ACT Accelerator and COVAX Global Vaccines Facility to ensure that a vaccine, once developed, is available equitably to all communities. He thanked the European Commission, which announced today it would join the COVAX Facility, for its 400 million contribution. To be sure, all countries are under extreme pressure, he declared. A WHO survey on the impact of COVID-19 on health systems in 105 countries found that 90 per cent of those surveyed have

experienced disruption to their health services, with low- and middle-income countries reporting the greatest difficulties. Most nations reported that routine and elective services have been suspended, while critical care - such as cancer screenings and treatment, and HIV therapies - have seen high-risk interruptions in low-income countries. While many countries are now implementing WHO-recommended strategies to mitigate service disruptions, only 14 per cent have reported the removal of user fees, which WHO recommends, offsetting potential financial difficulties for patients. He said WHO is also developing the COVID-19 Health Services Learning Hub, a web-based platform that will allow countries to share their experiences.

Macron meets Fairuz
amid Lebanon crisis

It came as no big surprise that Macron chose to meet Lebanon's No. 1 diva instead of its feuding politicians or civil society activists

DNA

BEIRUT: Who does not know Fairuz, Lebanon's "ambassador to the stars?" Who in Lebanon has never heard one of Fairuz's songs? The legend of the Arab world is in the limelight now but for a reason other than her music: French President Emmanuel Macron visited her at her home in Rabieh, north of Beirut, on Tuesday when he arrived in the Lebanese capital for the second time in a span of weeks.

It came as no big surprise that Macron chose to meet Lebanon's No. 1 diva instead of its feuding politicians or civil society activists. Many Lebanese still start their day listening to Fairuz's songs and see her as one of the rare figures beloved across the political spectrum, a symbol of unity in a culturally rich and refined country now riven by disagreements. Starting in the 1950s, Fairuz made her way, alongside the Rahbani brothers, Mansour and Assi (her husband), into every Lebanese household to sing for love, freedom and peace. Generations fell in love listening to her songs. The Lebanese people made it through the war with her patriotic tunes that were never too far away.

Fairuz was born in 1934 with the birth name of Nouhad Haddad. Her family had settled in Beirut's Zoukak El-Blat district. She took the first step of her career in 1947 by joining the choir of



Radio Beirut. Bowled over by her voice, the radio's director, Halim El-Roumi, gave her the nickname Fairuz (Arabic for emerald) and hired her. That was where she met the Rahbani brothers. While married to Assi, she gave birth to four children: Ziad, Rima, Loyal and Haali. Together, they revolutionized Lebanese folk and popular songs, making Fairuz, along with Egypt's Oum Kalthoum, the most famous voice of the Arab world. Fairuz's wide repertoire covers almost 3,000 songs, three movies and about 20 musicals. Her career took off after her first concerts during the Baalbeck International Festival, where "she shook the columns of the Roman temples," in the words of the former

French culture minister, Jack Lang. Despite being internationally renowned, Fairuz was little known by the general public. She voluntarily maintains this aura mystery, rarely giving interviews to the press. "Catherine Deneuve used to say that to be a star, one should always keep a bit of a mystery," said Georges Bechara, a person close to Fairuz and who is passionate about her and her art. "She does that by not being always accessible, which adds weight and sparkle to her presence. She does not take over television screens and magazine pages. The public adores her for her discretion and simplicity." Fairuz the artist is as complex as Nouhad the person. During her concerts, she adopts a fixed and cold posture.

London reviews
monuments
linked to slavery

It is seeking views from across Britain on plaques, statues and street names, which will then be considered by a committee

DNA

LONDON: The City of London Corporation, which runs the British capital's historic financial district, launched a public consultation Tuesday on whether to remove or re-label monuments with links to slavery. The corporation that runs the so-called Square Mile, which includes the Bank of England and St Paul's Cathedral, said it wanted people's views on "which landmarks they think are a problem and what action they would like to see taken". There have been nationwide calls to remove monuments linked to Britain's colonial past following the toppling of a statue of Bristol slave trader Edward Colston during an anti-racism protest in the southwestern city in June.

It was one of many demonstrations around the world against discrimination and social injustice, sparked by

the death in US police custody of an unarmed black man, George Floyd.

The City of London Corporation's three-month consultation is being promoted by its new Tackling Racism Taskforce, set up in June at the height of the Black Lives Matter protests.

It is seeking views from across Britain on landmarks, plaques, statues and street names, which will then be considered by a committee.

"We know that historical symbols continue to have an impact today and we want to understand how people feel about this aspect of our cultural history and whether such landmarks should be re-sited, reinterpreted or retained as they stand," said taskforce co-chairman Andrien Meyers. A campaign has already begun to remove the statue of William Beckford, an 18th-century politician, which stands in the Guildhall civic building.

More than 50 Sherpas will join the expedition, with helicopters used to minimise contact, said organiser Seven Summit Treks. Nepal reopened its mountains - including Everest - in late July for the autumn climbing season, in anticipation that international flights would resume in mid-August.

Iran
nuclear
deal
parties
meet

DNA

VIENNA: The signatories to the faltering Iran nuclear deal meet in Vienna on Tuesday as the US is urging international sanctions on the Islamic republic to be reimposed and an arms embargo to be extended. Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia are struggling to save the 2015 landmark accord with Iran, which has been progressively stepping up its nuclear activities since last year. Tehran insists it is entitled to do so under the deal - which swapped sanctions relief for Iran's agreement to scale back its nuclear programme - following the US withdrawal from the accord in 2018 and the re-imposition of sanctions. In a boost to Tuesday's talks, the Iranian atomic energy last week agreed with inspectors of the UN nuclear watchdog to visit two sites suspected of having hosted undeclared activity in the early 2000s.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) head Rafael Grossi had travelled to Iran on his first trip since taking up the top post last year and after months of calling for access. Results from any site visits are, however, expected to take three months, according to a diplomat familiar with the matter, so "it risks being a problem then with the Iranians" if anything undeclared and nuclear-related is found.

Nepal lifts
virus ban
for climbing
expedition

DNA

KATHMANDU: Nepal is making a royal exception to its coronavirus ban on foreign arrivals, with a mountaineering team including a Bahrain prince set to tackle two major peaks.

The Himalayan country shut its borders in March including grounding international flights just ahead of the busy spring season, devastating the local tourism sector. The 18-member party were given special permission to enter Nepal to climb the 8,163-metre (26,781-feet) Mount Manaslu and the 6,119-metre (20,075-feet) Loboche. "A 15-member Bahrain team including the prince of Bahrain and three British citizens will be allowed to come to Nepal in a chartered flight... following the health protocols," government spokesman Yuba Raj Khattiwada said late Monday.

The Bahrain team, due to arrive as early as mid-September, is also planning to climb Everest - the world's tallest mountain - next year. More than 50 Sherpas will join the expedition, with helicopters used to minimise contact, said organiser Seven Summit Treks. Nepal reopened its mountains - including Everest - in late July for the autumn climbing season, in anticipation that international flights would resume in mid-August.

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80 pct
Chinese do
not waste
food: survey

DNA

BEIJING: About 82.2 percent of Chinese do not waste food in daily life, the China Youth Daily reported citing a recent survey. The survey polled 2,004 people born between the 1960s and 2000s from both urban and rural areas. About 84.1 percent of respondents born in the 2000s said they are used to saving food, more than those born in the 1990s (82 percent) and those born in the 1980s (81.5 percent), the survey showed.

"Frugality is a traditional virtue of the Chinese nation, and we should still promote it even in an age of abundance," Zhu Yi, an associate professor at the China Agricultural University, was quoted by the newspaper as saying. On cultivating a habit of saving food, 70.5 percent of the respondents thought it will help children develop respect for the work of others, while 58 percent said it can help shape a reverence for nature and life.

Biden accuses President Trump of fanning unrest

The incumbent president is incapable of telling us the truth, incapable of facing the facts and incapable of healing, said Joe Biden

DNA

PITTSBURGH: Joe Biden on Monday accused President Donald Trump of stoking violence after a week of deadly unrest catapulted law and order to the top of the political agenda barely two months before the US election. The stakes for Biden's speech in Pittsburgh, in the swing state of Pennsylvania, could not have been higher a day before Trump heads to the city of Kenosha, Wisconsin, to deliver his dueling vision on the upheaval.

Emerging from months of Covid-19 travel restrictions, Biden finds himself suddenly on the defensive, mocked by Trump as weak in the face of events combining leftist anti-racism protests, riots, deadly shootings and right-wing vigilante actions in Kenosha and in Portland, Oregon. With Trump exalting in the shift of debate from his widely panned handling of the coronavirus pandemic to his favored theme of crime, Biden risks losing the momentum that has put him ahead in the polls for the November 3 vote. But



the 77-year-old Democrat punched back, branding Trump's presidency "a toxic presence in our nation."

"Fires are burning and we have a president who fans the flames rather than fighting the flames," Biden said.

"The incumbent president is incapable of telling us the truth, incapable of facing the facts and incapable of healing." While Trump has spent much of the past week warning voters they "won't be safe" in Biden's America, the Democrat sought to turn tables on the Republican in his 22-minute speech - delivered in a mostly empty hall due to coronavirus concerns - with the question: "Do you really feel safer under Donald Trump?" Trump "can't stop the violence, because for years he has fomented it," Biden

charged. Trump "may believe mouthing the words 'law and order' makes him strong, but his failure to call on his own supporters to stop acting as an armed militia in this country shows you how weak he is." Biden, who has been accused by Republicans of insufficiently denouncing violence by leftist anti-racism protesters, tried to set this to rest. "Looting is not protesting, setting fires is not protesting," he said. "None of this is protesting. It's lawlessness, plain and simple, and those who do it should be prosecuted."

