



# Islamabad *Daily* POST

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APC flimsy attempt to pressurize govt, says Shibli Faraz

Pakistan, Turkey trade cooperation need of the hour

World committed to Afghan sovereignty: Zalmay Khalilzad

## Briefs

### Fazl furious over PPP

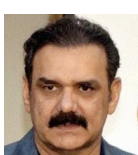
DNA



ISLAMABAD: The opposition's multi-party conference - hosted in Islamabad by the PPP and termed an 'All Parties Conference' - ran into an unpleasant situation on Sunday with JUI-F chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman complaining that his speech had been "censored". "The government stops our voice from reaching the public as it is, but today the APC also prevented our speech from airing," the JUI-F chief complained. "I wish to record a protest with the PPP," he said, adding: "This is highly unreasonable." At this, PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that it was "at the request of one of your MPs that we kept an in-camera session". "We will have a press conference after this," Bilawal added, in an attempt to soothe his outrage.

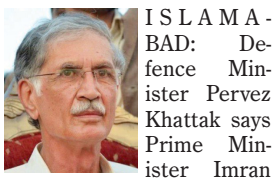
### All set to launch OLT: Asim Bajwa

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting Lt. Gen (ret'd) Asim Saleem Bajwa said on Saturday that the Orange Line Train project would be launched soon as all teething issues of the project had been removed. Asim who is also Chairman CPEC Authority said on twitter that the fare for the commuters had been decided and trial runs were underway. Further, he said operations and Management award for the project was given and hiring was also in progress.

### 'FATF' satisfied with our efforts



ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Pervez Khattak says Prime Minister Imran Khan is striving to pull the country out of Financial Action Task Force grey-list. Addressing a public gathering in Nowshera, he expressed hope that the FATF would remove Pakistan from grey-list in its upcoming review meeting. Pervez Khattak said the FATF is satisfied with Pakistan's efforts to crack down on terror funding and money laundering. Commenting on national issues, he said PM Imran Khan is ready to hold talks with the opposition on any issue except corruption.

## APC decides to give govt tough time

Opp for fresh elections; demands electoral reforms; calls for cut in fuel, daily use item prices; rejects proposals of Presidential form of govt

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The opposition parties on Sunday announced that a new alliance named Pakistan Democratic Movement would be formed under which the parties would unite to oust the incumbent government. JUI-F chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman read out the parties' 26-point charter of demands. The meeting declared that the "incumbent elected government has been granted artificial stability by the establishment that has imposed it on the people through rigged elections", said the JUI-F chief. He said that the forum demands transparent elections in the country and calls for electoral reforms. "The selected government has ruined the common man's life with record-high inflation, unemployment, and taxes [...] we demand that the prices of flour, sugar, ghee, electricity and gas be immediately brought down." Due to the "selected" government's failed policies, the crumbling economy is posing a serious danger to the country's atomic power and sovereignty, said Fazl. Addressing the conference through a

### 'PM allowed Nawaz speech'

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has stopped 'some government assistants and ministers' for taking legal action against the live broadcast of the former premier Nawaz Sharif's speech in the all parties conference (APC), citing sources. According to a private television channel report, PM Imran Khan stopped government assistants and ministers from taking any kind of legal action against the live broadcasting of the speech delivered by Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif from London.

video link, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif thanked former president and PPP co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari for his well wishes and expressed hope that "our efforts will surely come to fruition".

Continued on Page 04

## Two Hungarian diplomats rescued from Margallahs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police successfully traced two foreign diplomats who lost their way during hiking at Margallah way after efforts for hours, police said. According to details, Islamabad police got information through Control room that two diplomats including Second Secretary and Female Attache of Hungarian embassy went at trail VI at 7 am and did not return. IGP Islamabad Muhammad Amir Zulfiqar Khan constituted special team under



supervision of SSP (CTD) Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer including SP Sarfaraz Ahmed Virk and others. This team search the diplomats for hours in Margallah hills and succeeded to safely recover them.

## CPEC's drainage corridor completed

SK hydropower station is one of the priority projects under CPEC

SAIFULLAH/DNA

ISLAMABAD: The No.2 drainage corridor of SK Hydropower Station was successfully completed in the recent days with high-standards, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. According to China Gezhouba Group (CGGC), which has contracted to construct this project, a series of advanced technologies and

Continued on Page 04



ISLAMABAD: Leaders from the opposition attending All Parties Conference hosted by Pakistan Peoples Party. - DNA

## Vaccine clinical trials this week

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Prime Minister's Task Force on Science and Technology, Dr Atta-ur-Rahman has said that the clinical trials of the proposed COVID-19 vaccine produced by a well acclaimed international company will be started in Pakistan from this week. Talking to a news agency he said International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences based in University of Karachi has been approved for conducting clinical trials of the vaccine. He said after successful completion of all the trials the COVID-19 vaccine will be available in the country between the months of April and June coming year.

## Pak student found positive in Beijing

DNA

BEIJING: A student from Pakistan is found here positive for COVID-19, Gwadar Pro reported. The case is a male, 23 years old, from Gansu province, China, and he has been studying in Pakistan since 2017. On Sep 3rd -13th, he has appeared on campus with disposable mask. On Sep 15th, he had a diarrhea and got better after taking medicine. On Sep 17th, the student returned to China by flight CA946 and reached on 18th. Then China customs collected his respiratory specimens, and he was transported by bus to the central isolation site for medical observation. On the same day, his nucleic acid test result was diagnosed positive.

## APC flimsy attempt to pressurize govt: Shibli

Opposition leaders are allowed to organise APCs as many as they want, however, NRO will not be given to the corruption elements, says Shahbaz Gill

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Shibli Faraz has said that the joint opposition's All Parties Conference (APC) is a flimsy attempt to put pressure on the government to back off on accountability. In a tweet on Sunday soon after opposition leaders addressed the APC, Faraz stated: "Nation has witnessed that opposition has used politics for personal gains & used parliament to protect

their personal empires." He added that prime minister will never compromise his commitment on corruption and will not give NRO. Meanwhile, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Political Communication Shahbaz Gill said opposition leaders are allowed to organise APCs as many as they want, however, NRO will not be given to the corruption elements. Shahbaz Gill said that the accountability process will continue against corruption persons and such elements will be taken to task

by Prime Minister Imran Khan. He pointed out the huddle of the opposition parties as nexus of corrupt elites which brought Sharif family closer to the Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communication Shahbaz Gill slammed the opposition leaders, saying that they were allowed to organise all parties conferences (APCs) as many as they want, however, NRO will not be given to the corruption persons. Continued on Page 04

## APC a flop show: Chohan

ABID RAZA

LAHORE, " Punjab Information Minister Fayyazul Hassan Chohan has said that participation of Begum Safdar in the APC shows no-confidence over her uncle Shehbaz Sharif. "Shehbaz Sharif deceiving his elder brother and niece from many years", Fayyazul Hassan Chohan said in his statement issued here from Lahore Sunday. The only concern of the PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif is to get rid of the cases being faced by him and his son Hamza, the minister said, and added that he is not interested in return of Nawaz Sharif or departure of Maryam Nawaz to London. The minister said demand to shut the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) by opposition is just like demanding National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO). Fayyazul Hassan Chohan said



that All Pakistan Lootmaar Association gathered to save their corruption money. Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari is hosting the all parties conference (APC) in Islamabad today which would be addressed by co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif. The all parties conference (APC) would be attended by opposition parties for consulting over initiation of political movement against the incumbent government led by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

## Only one death reported in 24 hours

Out of 305671 total cases recorded so far, 292,303 people have fully recovered

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: 640 new cases of coronavirus have surfaced in the country after the tests of 34,544 people over the last twenty-four hours. According to the latest data shared by National Command and Operation Center, One death has also been reported from the Pandemic during this period. Out of 305671 total cases recorded so far, 292,303 people have fully recovered from the disease. There are now 6,952 active cases in the country. A total of 292,303 people have recovered from the infection and at least 562 are in critical condition, the ministry of national health services said.

## Opposition's APC: will it pose any threat to government?

Unfortunately, in two years the sitting government has not been able to set things in order. It still has three more years. It has to deliver if it really wants to stymie opposition criticism; court people and complete its five year term

THE hallmark of Sunday's All Parties Conference (APC) was ostensibly appearance of Nawaz Sharif on the national hook-up after a long time. Despite a ban from PEMRA, the TV channels telecast his speech live. Nawaz Sharif expectedly delivered a strong anti-establishment tirade asking masses and leaders of the allied political parties not to allow non-political forces to divide them and then drive them with same stick in order to keep them under control. Nawaz Sharif apparently wanted all political parties to stand up against this govt and 'promoters and supporters' of this govt with a view to sending a loud and clear message that the country can be run by political entities only.

Nawaz Sharif openly decided to defy the system and supporters of the system. He urged the APC leaders to wage joint struggle in order to bring true democracy back. Asif Zardari also made brief remarks and vowed to resist what he termed govt's anti-opposition tactics. Bilawal and Shahbaz Sharif too delivered their speeches and assured to make the APC a success. Apart from what transpired practically as a result of the APC, however the APC would surely serve as a morale booster for the workers of PPP, PML N and other allied parties. The political temperatures after this APC are likely to rise - a fact, which may prove a hard nut to crack for the government mainly because in last two years the govern-

ment has failed to live up to the expectations of its voters and supporters and general public as well. The Opposition, it appears, is playing pranks with its voters and people at large. It neither wants to dislodge government nor launch a full fledged anti-govt drive for the sake of its own ulterior political motives. And that is the point where its close ally Maulana Fazlur Rehman has serious problems. He wants the Opposition parties to take a clear cut stand when it comes to giving tough time to the government. The opposition presumably cannot afford to dislodge the federal government because then it will lose its nuisance value and relevance that is has as being the members of the parliament. The Opposition parties have complete knowledge of the fact that

they can be more effective and relevant as long as they are part of the system and that this system remains intact. The problem of Pakistan People's Party is that it cannot go beyond a certain point in its criticism of the government or when it comes to sending the feder-

al govt packing. The reason is obvious that if it happens, PPP will surely lose its government in Sindh also. And losing the Sindh govt means losing Sindh in fact. PPP can wield its control over Sindh and its people while remaining in power. Even Governor's rule in Sindh would badly harm PPP politics therefore it earnestly wants to avoid that eventuality also. Otherwise, the govt led by Imran Khan is surviving only with a razor-thin majority in case of mass resignations, way for early elections can easily be paved.

different approaches towards relations with the establishment. PML N patron Nawaz Sharif and his daughter are not ready to work with the establishment, which was quite evident from Nawaz speech, while PML N President Shabbaz Sharif and his like-minded group in the party think differently. In fact this confused situation is leading PML N nowhere. It has to come up with a unified stand if it really wants to regain its political strength and relevance. There is a wider consensus among opposition political leaders that it perhaps is the best time to get united and launch vigorous campaign against the government because public opinion is fast turning against the sitting government. Even die-hard PTI workers have started showing disen-

## COMMENT



ANSAR BHATTI

kistan People's Party is that it cannot go beyond a certain point in its criticism of the government or when it comes to sending the feder-

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## Briefs

## Meeting reviews anti-polio campaign

DNA

KARACHI: An anti-polio campaign will begin in Karachi from Monday (today), which will be continued for seven days in the city. A review meeting for the drive, chaired by Commissioner Karachi Suhail Rajput held today to overview the arrangements for the anti-polio drive. Karachi commissioner will launch the campaign tomorrow morning at a health centre. All preparations for the polio vaccination drive have been completed. It was decided in meeting to send special teams at eight sensitive union councils of the city. In the anti-polio campaign 2.2 million children will be administered polio vaccine drops in city, the Commissioner said. Over 6000 teams with more than 2000 supervisors will participate in the polio vaccination campaign. Strict adherence to the standard operating system (SOPs) would be ensured in the wake of the novel coronavirus outbreak under which it will be essential to wear face masks and use hand sanitizers. The meeting also decided to provide maximum security to vaccination teams. Federal government had earlier decided to launch an anti-polio campaign across the country from September 21 in all four provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan regions. Overall 39.6 million children would be administered polio drops during the campaign, in which 270,000 polio workers will take part.

## 27 accused involved in corruption arrested

DNA

KARACHI: The Anti-Corruption Establishment Sindh has received a total of 400 applications against corruption petitions till August 31, 2020. According to details 28 applications were received in Karachi South Zone, 69 in West Zone, 49 in East Zone, 43 in Hyderabad Zone, 18 in Jamshoro Zone, 17 in Mirpur Khas Zone, 116 in Shaheed Benazirabad Zone, 3 in Sukkur Zone and 57 in Larkana Zone. There are currently 504 open inquiries out of which 52 inquiries have been finalized. Meanwhile, a total of 84 FIRs were registered against those involved in corruption, as a result of which 27 accused were arrested. A total of 1487 challans were filed against those involved in corruption and the number of ongoing cases is 1480. The number of absconders involved in corruption is 969. This was stated in a report submitted to the Provincial Minister for Industries & Commerce and Anti-Corruption & Cooperative Department, Jam Ikramullah Dharejo. The report of Anti-Corruption Establishment Sindh further said that after receiving complaints of corruption, the offices of Local Government, Works and Services, Fisheries, Public Health Engineering, Health, Agriculture, Sindh Technical Education and Vocational Training, Irrigation, KDA etc were raided and relevant records were seized.

## Pakistani entrepreneurs must develop brands: SAARC Chamber President

Pakistani missions abroad should be duty bound to introduce Pakistani products there and ensure dissemination of trade-related information so that local entrepreneurs could avail trade opportunities to the maximum

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistani entrepreneurs urged to develop international standard brands products to capture open global markets by fully exploiting indigenous potentials, expertise and resources. Talking to a delegation of exporters and traders led by Mian Faiz Bukhsh Arain here Sunday President SAARC Chamber and Chairman United Business Group Iftikhar Ali Malik highlighted the significance of brands and said it was high time for Pakistani

entrepreneurs, corporate sector, especially younger business magnates, to focus on developing brands. He said vertical integration and institutional network were to be strengthened on modern scientific lines to meet the future challenges of global marketing. "By the grace of Allah, Pak entrepreneurs have full potential to compete the international markets but unfortunately they do not develop their own brand like KFC, McDonald's, Guard, Bata, Chenone etc. He said that private sector

had to come forward to develop their own brands on war footings for their survival otherwise the neighbouring countries would continue to dominate and sweep international markets. He said Pakistan was producing some of the best products in the world in sports, textile, fruits, vegetables, handicrafts and in several other sectors but not exporting them under its own brands. Iftikhar Ali Malik said we must not only develop but promote brands through manufacturing the best quality products which is

the need of the hour. He urged the government to conduct market research in an attempt to search new export destinations for Pakistani products, which were considered the best in the world as far as quality and prices were concerned. "Pakistani missions abroad should be duty bound to introduce Pakistani products there and ensure dissemination of trade-related information so that local entrepreneurs could avail trade opportunities to the maximum," he said. He said he always encourages

genuine exhibitors and facilitate them at optimum level. He urged the private sector to restore consumer faith and trust by manufacturing best quality products on competitive prices for the promotion of brands. Iftikhar Malik also called upon the government, private sector, academia and civil society to put efforts together to mentor, guide and support youth to unleash immense economic and social potential. We need a national and sub-national policy framework and develop institutions to assist these young entrepreneurs

to grow." He said that youth accounts for over 60 percent of Pakistan's population and it is essential to encourage them in entrepreneurship so that they could become more productive and contribute positively to the growth of the national economy. Iftikhar Malik who is also founder chairman Pak US Business Council said they would also try to ensure a business-friendly environment by sharing views with the government and by taking all the stakeholders on board on all economy-related issues.

## Strategy devised for AOTS

DNA

KARACHI: A strategy was developed to make the best use of AOTS Japan training facilities in developing requisite skills. In the Meeting of the Executive Council of EFP AOTS Alumni Society was held to discuss the changing need for skills for the workforce and challenges of the future of work. Zaki Ahmed Khan VP Employers Federation, Feroz Alam president EFP -AOTS Alumni Society, Jamil Bajwa, VP AOTS Alumni Society, Ather Iqbal, director EFP board, Nazam Ali, director EFP board and Shahana Kaukab, member AOTS executive council were present in the meeting.

## Govt to provide better facilities: DC

DNA

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock Ali Anam Qamar has said that the current government is doing everything possible to provide better safety facilities to the people and special steps are being taken in this consideration. He expressed these thoughts at the Railway Station Attock. On the occasion of inauguration of Express and Jand Express. Along with them, S Jameel and Company's co-chairman Tahreem Abbas, Director Amin Haider Tirmidhi and members of Board of Dir Actors were also included. DC Attock has also included. On the occasion, these trains are running under a public, private partnership with commercial operator S Jameel & Company. All buggies are new and adorned with all kinds of modern equipment. He said that these trains are for passengers. All travel facilities have been provided and their rent is in the reach of the public. This will help the people of Attock reach their destination on time and provide ease. DC Attock said that this is the move of the government. Friendship is a proof that the people of the area will be able to benefit from it and it will have a prominent place in the history of Attock.

## 'Turkey, Pakistan to explore new avenues of collaboration'

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan and Turkey to explore new avenues for promotion of bilateral trade, economic relations and other socio-economic sectors particularly education, health and tourism this was stated by Sheikh Sultan, Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) in a meeting with Consul General of Turkey Tolga Uçak accompanied by Trade Attache Eyyup Yildirim. During the course of meeting, wide range of discussion and views were exchanged on various issues and matter of mutual interest. Sheikh Sultan, Vice President FPCCI particularly emphasized on the need of collaboration in education institutions. Pakistan should make use of Turkish education sector which in terms of technology and knowledge are well advanced he added. He urged that there is also scope of joint ventures possible in education sector. Pakistani students are getting higher education from UK and USA while same education of such standard is provided by Turkey. He also emphasized that Pakistan and Turkey should join hands in exploration of tourism prospects. Turkey is earning substantial foreign exchange through tourism and it is considered the six popular tourist destinations

in the world. He also invited the Turkish investors for the development of infrastructure at tourist places of Pakistan. Turkish Consul General Tolga Uçak welcome the proposals and assured that the office of Consul General would do utmost best to take up all recommendations with Concerned Ministries and potential investors. He also emphasized on the need of intensive interaction between business community of both countries so that new avenues could be explored. Both sides also discussed in detail the potential of bilateral trade which is currently stood at US\$ 803 million and is in favor of Turkey. FPCCI also showed its concern over the imposition of counter-vailing duties and additional regulatory duties by Turkish Government on imports which has badly hurt Pakistan's export to Turkey. The meeting also discussed the signing of FTA between both countries and implementation of Strategic Economic Framework. Both sides also exchanged views on infrastructure development, railway, low housing schemes etc. The meeting was attended by Mr. Amjad Rafi, Chairman Turkey Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Forum and Pakistan Turkey Business Council of FPCCI, Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo Senior Vice Chairman Turkey Pakistan Business Council and Secretary General FPCCI Iqbal Tabish.

## Sindh's minister Imtiaz Shaikh contracts coronavirus

DNA

KARACHI: Minister of Sindh for Energy Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh on Saturday said that he has contracted the coronavirus, as the country begins to ease the last remaining restrictions imposed to curb the spread of the highly contagious disease. "During the past few days, I had a fever and a sore throat after that I got myself tested," he said. The minister said that he had gone into self-isolation after the report came positive and urged his friends to pray for his health. Shaikh is the latest among several mainstream politicians to have contracted the virus. Governor Sindh Imran Ismail, Sindh education minister Saeed Ghani, and Mutahida Majlis-e-Amal MPA Syed Abdul Rasheed tested earlier this year. The province has registered over 133,000 coronavirus infections, with 2,459 deaths from the pandemic.

## Pakistan refutes Indian leaking misleading information

A just and lasting solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is critical for durable peace and stability in South Asia

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Responding to media queries, the Spokesperson said that leaking misleading information and twisting facts is not only contrary to diplomatic norms but is also not helpful in the conduct of diplomatic relations. The news in certain sections of Indian media, quoting sources in the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, regarding assignment visa for senior Indian diplomat Jayant Khobragade proposed as Charge d' Affaires at the Indian High Commission in Islamabad, is misleading. It may be recalled that following India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir

(IOJK), Pakistan took a number of steps, including the downgrading of diplomatic relations with India. The purpose of downgrading the relations was to register Pakistan's strong protest and condemnation of India's illegal, inhuman and unacceptable actions in IOJK. Pakistan believes that by proposing a senior diplomat, who has already served as Ambassador in another post, India is trying to circumvent the effect of downgrading of diplomatic relations, which is obviously not in line with Pakistan's decision. However, keeping in view the diplomatic norms, Pakistan has counselled India to nominate an officer with seniority commensurate with Pakistan's decision of downgrading the dip-

lomatic relations. As for the veiled threats in Indian media reports that the issue of grant of assignment visa to Mr. Khobragade will "further destabilize" India-Pakistan relations, it must be clear that the relations between India and Pakistan are inextricably linked to the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. A just and lasting solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is critical for durable peace and stability in South Asia. Accordingly, India is once again reminded of its international obligations with regard to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. India must listen to the voices of the Kashmiri people and the world community.

## One killed, 8 injured in several incidents

DNA

ATTOCK: One person on Sunday was killed and eight other injured, six of them critical in different incidents in various parts of the district. In first incident, a man was shot and killed while another was injured when a rival group attacked other in Sheenbagh area in limits of Attock police station. Due to firing one man identified as 33 years Waqar received bullet injury and died on the way to hospital while another man identified as 30 years Asghar was injured critically. In second incident, in same police station limits, a man opened indiscriminate firing at his father in law and his brother over domestic dispute in Beryar village. The police said that accused had developed some differences with his wife and when his father in

law 55 years old Munawar Dad along with his brother 50 years old Mohammad Ashraf came to settle the dispute, he in out of rage opened fire at them. In a result, they received bullet injuries. In third incident, in same police station limits, a car knocked two persons riding on a motorcycle on Kamra road near Railway Bridge, resultantly they received multiple injuries. The car driver managed to escape from the scene successfully. Meanwhile, in Fatehjang police station limits, a tractor rammed in to a car coming from opposite direction near Darsagi on Rawalpindi-Kohat road, resultantly three persons including two women were injured. The injured were shifted to Rawalpindi by rescue 1122 due to their critical conditions. The police registered separate cases and started investigations.



LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Political Communication Shahbaz Gill talking to media. – DNA

## 'Pakistan reduces Ozone depleting substances'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has achieved another milestone in its environment friendly ambitions to protect the entire region and globe from man-induced climate change and ecological degradation by reducing Ozone layer depleting hazardous chemicals import to 50 percent. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam said that Pakistan had surpassed its pledged target under Montreal Protocol to contain 35 percent import of HCFC causing Ozone layer to deplete and controlled 50 percent of the total hazardous material import. In his message on the World Ozone Day, he said: "Today marks the 35 years of Montreal Protocol formation which Pakistan signed in 1992. World Ozone Day 2020 is being celebrated today worldwide including Pakistan. The day reminds us



that the only thing that stops the earth from getting fried is the ozone layer. Lets act together to protect [Ozone Layer] it and protect ourself. Happy World Ozone Day." Amin said the main purpose of this protocol was that the world was getting affected due to Ozone layer depletion that protects harmful ultraviolet rays from reaching the earth. "Due to breaching of Ozone layer the life

itself was getting affected due to harmful ultraviolet rays," he added. Amin noted that this was one of the success stories as Montreal Protocol had become a success internationally which was implemented with a clear target, plan and financing available for conversion. In Pakistan, he said, we did two things one that we converted all the technologies using Ozone depleting substances and second we contained the input of HCFCs also Hydro-chloro-fluoro-carbon that cause ozone layer to deplete. The SAPM told that in 1992 agreement Pakistan pledged to control 35 percent import of the HCFC where it had achieved 50 percent and maintained over targeted performance in compliance of the protocol. Pakistan, he said, remained committed to all internationally committed agreements and was a responsible partner among all international protocols especially Montreal Protocol in which it had exceeded its performance.

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## Options for the opposition

**N**EVER except under Martial Law have so many opposition leaders been in jail or faced trials in malleable accountability courts. Even under the Martial Law they did not face the sort of media trials that are common now. The accountability process continues despite a recognition by the superior judiciary of its being one-sided and the NAB law being used to arm-twist and pressurise political opponents. A team of uncouth spokespersons has been unleashed to make unsavoury remarks against opposition leaders on a daily basis and the media pressured to publicise these. The Prime Minister has accused his opponents of working against the country's interest. Offers by the opposition for cooperation in lawmaking have been rejected out of hand as attempts at seeking an NRO.

It is in this situation that the opposition parties are holding a moot to review the two-year performance of the PTI government and formulate a joint action plan. The JUI(F) has been pressing other parties to resign from the Assemblies and to go for a 'dharna' in Islamabad till the fall of the government. Some of the parties want to let the Imran Khan-led government complete its tenure while others would like to remove it through parliamentary means that include a vote of no confidence, leading someone else from the ruling party take over as PM.

There is a need on the part of the opposition to respond to the situation with maturity, giving priority to national interest over political expediencies. Continuing a dharna over a long period is rife with unpredictable circumstances. So are en masse resignations. Change of regime through a vote of no-confidence is no more feasible after what happened at the joint sitting of Parliament. That leaves the opposition with the option to continue the struggle inside Parliament while gradually increasing pressure from the street so that the government either changes course or is removed in the next election in 2023.

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## Policy and priorities

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

**A**NY political party that has come into power has to accomplish four basic tasks. First, it needs to pursue the manifesto based on which it has been elected. Second, it needs to identify the problems the country has been facing. Third, it needs to provide solutions to bring the nation out of its socio-economic and political challenges. Fourth, it needs to provide a roadmap of the future while keeping the current scenario in mind. In this regard, presenting a public policy that ensures a better tomorrow is of utmost significance. The current government of Pakistan – that took office in 2018 – needs to become organized. Special emphasis must be given on bringing reforms to the sectors that need immediate attention.

Economy, education, health, and justice are perhaps the most important. Where the construction of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in Peshawar was essential for the people, it was not a priority. Instead of investing billions of Rupees on the BRT project, the precedence should have been given to providing the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province free education, healthcare facilities, and a speedy justice system. The same is the case with the rest of Pakistan. In Karachi, people need clean drinking water, fresh food to eat, and infrastructure where their homes are not inundated when it rains. In interior parts of the provinces, people need better healthcare facilities and an education system that provides every child an opportunity to learn. Investments must be made to projects that provide results that flourish the economy. Capital must be directed at activities that bring fruitful results to enhance the evolve the social mindset and lifestyle. Therefore, policies must be carefully deliberated upon and implemented on time to make a positive impact on the people. The problem is not how to tackle the challenges, the dilemma is not knowing which problems to address first.

## Running with the hare and hunting with the hounds

Jawad Falak

Russia and China are not the only countries who bear the brunt of Indian strategic confusion but the USA does as well. While India clamors for USA military assistance, it continues buying Russian military equipment like Su30s. Mig 29s and the S400 air defense system by the dozens. These purchases trigger the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act which could lead to sanctions on the Indian military and inevitably drive the USA and India apart. While initially it gave waivers to India in the past, now the US has signaled that it would not dole out anymore favors to the South Asian nation

**I**NDIA recently withdrew from Kavkaz 2020 multinational exercise to be held in Russia in the third week of September, citing logistics difficulties due to covid-19 pandemic as the reason for its withdrawal. However, in reality India has backed out of the multinational exercise while conflict between the two Asian nations simmers across LAC in Ladakh. Apparently this symbolic has been taken by the BJP government in order to show that it is "resisting" China on the world stage. In reality it shows that Indian Strategic Confusion is increasing day by day with its tendency of running with the hare and hunting with hounds.

The KavKaz 2020 also referred to as Causasus-2020 is a strategic command and staff exercise including combat, air defence, naval, special forces and support elements. Which will be held at Dongus training ranges in Russian Southern Military district. The invitation for participation has been extended to at least 18 countries including China, Iran, Pakistan, India and Turkey apart from other Central Asian Republic part of the SCO.

Withdrawal from the exercise puts India on a collision course with Russia which places great importance to such exercises as these highlight its strategic outreach and relevance across the world. By withdrawing from the exercise, India has played into US campaign to weaken Russian influence in the wake of the Ukraine crisis.

In an attempt to mollify the Russians, Indian Navy on Sep 4-5 has conducted merely a "Non-contact, at sea only" passage exercise under the title 'Indra 2020' with Russian Navy Ships which were on transit to their home port Vladivostok

from Hambantota, Sri Lanka.

Russia is not the only foreign power India is trying to woo but also the USA which has become Moscow's greatest tormentor in the recent times. Ever since the continuous military setbacks at the hands of the Chinese in occupied Ladakh, India has been counting the so-called QUAD, a purported military alliance of Japan, Australia, US and India with the aim of containing China.

This not only upsets Russia which views any American backed military endeavor as dangerous but also flies in the face of BRICS a group of nations including Brazil, Russia India, China and South Africa that seek to replace the current US Led unipolar world order which is sabotaged by Indian attempts to climb into US camp against China.

Russia and China are not the only countries who bear the brunt of Indian strategic confusion but the USA does as well. While India clamors for USA military assistance, it continues buying Russian military equipment like Su30s. Mig 29s and the S400 air defense system by the dozens. These purchases trigger the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act or CAATSA which could lead to sanctions on the Indian military and inevitably drive the USA and India apart. While initially it gave waivers to India in the past, now the US has signaled that it would not dole out anymore favors to the South Asian nation. The United States government has already hinted India to reconsider its military acquisition from Russia warning that such purchases could trigger sanctions under CAATSA.

It is not only big power relations that are

stymied by Indian strategic confusion but also its regional relations. SAARC which was formulated with the aim of promoting cooperation among South Asian nations has been hamstrung due to Indian vendetta against Pakistan as well as bullying its other neighbors. Its own initiated regional programs like BIMSTEC have similarly been sabotaged by its grandiose claims and unreasonable demands from other nations. India's strategic confusion arises from its perception of itself as a great power and eternal civilization whose friendship is indispensable to the world.

This delusion was bolstered by the exceptional treatment it received at the hands of the USA and USSR during the Cold War and later on US favors such as a nuclear deal despite non conformation of several parameters. This strategic confusion has manifested itself in other domains as well such as the military capability which has been hampered by what scholars Stephen Cohen and Sunil Dasgupta have termed as "arming without aiming."

In the end, India's prevalent strategic confusion is rapidly eroding its standing amongst the nations of the world. The time of favors to India is rapidly coming to an end due to dynamic geopolitical changes and the redrawing of alliances which make the Indian government's approach "to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds" obsolete in the modern world. Pakistan can exploit this scenario in order to cement ties with countries like Russia and also fortify its position in the emerging world order.

– *The writer is an MPhil student at National Defence University, Islamabad and is a resident research associate at Maritime Study Forum.*

## Swelling public pensions adding a peril to Pakistan's finances

Javed Hassan



The changes are likely to face resistance from entrenched interests, and require political will and deftness to gain acceptance from a diverse set of stakeholders. In order to withstand judicial scrutiny, the implementation process will have to be supported by regulatory and legislative amendments, and will have to be equitably applied across the public sector

**O**NE of the more positive postwar global trends has been the fact that on average people are living longer. Pakistan is no different, where average life expectancy has increased from 45 years in 1960 to 67 years presently, and it continues to improve. While this is undeniably good news, it has also contributed to the exponential growth of public sector pension expenses.

The consolidated federal and provincial governments' pension bills have grown over sixfold, from Rs164 billion in FY2011 to almost Rs1 trillion in FY2021, even before accounting for state-owned enterprises' (SOEs) retirement liabilities. In the same period, consolidated revenues have increased less than three times. Consequently, retirement payments as a percentage of the consolidated revenues have grown from 7 percent in FY2011 to around 17 percent presently. The pension system is designed as a defined benefit scheme, where payout is not directly linked to the contributions or taxes paid by individual beneficiaries as would be the case in a pay-as-you-go plan. At the same time there is virtually no provision by the state toward contributing into a pool of funds in order to finance future pension payments, and the unfunded liability is paid from annual budgetary allocations. An actuarial evaluation by the Punjab government in FY2015 estimated that the present value of liabilities (i.e. current value of a future sum stream of payments) was over 30 times the annual pension expenditure by the provincial government. While it is important to caution that the projections are highly sensitive to actuarial assumptions, if a similar multiple is applied today to estimate the present value of consolidated provincial and federal liabilities, it would range between Rs30 trillion and

Rs35 trillion. While an actuarial study needs to be undertaken to get an accurate appraisal, it is safe to assume that the future liabilities are many multiples of the annual budgetary resources currently available, and growing at a faster pace than tax revenues.

As well as increased life expectancy, various other government policy measures have contributed to the growth of the pension time bomb. Generous increments awarded to government employees between FY2010 and FY2019 almost doubled individual pension payments for those retiring recently. Effectively some retirees receive more as monthly pension payments than their last basic salary, thereby incentivizing early retirements.

Consequently, the number of retirees as a percentage of government employees in Punjab has increased from 32.5 percent in 2010 to 48.3 percent in 2019. In 1980 they were less than 4 percent. To varying degrees the same behavior is observed among other provincial and federal government employees. Early retirements not only accelerate the growth in the overall number of pensioners, but their replacement on the payroll effectively continues to grow the pension pool. Adding to the ballooning liability is the fact that the pension schemes allow children and grandchildren to draw 75 percent of the entitlement after the demise of the pensioner and his spouse. The multigenerational nature of the scheme implies that annuities can continue over several decades.

A scheme that was designed for life expectancies that were on average lower than the retirement age and assumed that few would retire early is now not only unviable, but also crowding out fiscal space. After accounting for public servant salaries, debt servicing and pension

payments, less than 45 percent of the consolidated federal and provincial budget is available for national security, provision of basic services, and investment in human development.

Reform is therefore required to move pension schemes toward a self-sustaining model that should look into instituting more fundamental changes than simply financial structuring of products such as pension funds and bonds. It will have to address the employee-retiree ratio by considering proposals that raise the retirement age in line with global trends, initially to, say, 65 years and then gradually to 67, as well as amend employment rules to preclude early retirement.

The state must also look to reduce its obligations by shifting from defined benefit to defined contribution pension plans, especially for new entrants. Non-monetary emoluments should be monetized such that they can be accounted for in the overall retirement package. The strategy should consider rationalizing existing pension benefits, for example, limiting beneficiary entitlement to the spouse and dependent children only. Finally, the state must generate additional resources for making investments for future pension payments.

The changes are likely to face resistance from entrenched interests, and require political will and deftness to gain acceptance from a diverse set of stakeholders. In order to withstand judicial scrutiny, the implementation process will have to be supported by regulatory and legislative amendments, and will have to be equitably applied across the public sector. The challenges are significant, but the risks posed to national finances by the pension pile up in absence of reform are acute, and therefore cannot be deferred any further.

– *Courtesy: Arab News*

## Briefs

Italy  
impounds  
migrant  
rescue ship

DNA

ROME: Italian port authorities have impounded the German-flagged NGO ship Sea-Watch 4 in Palermo after an 11-hour inspection, aid organizations who operate the vessel said on Sunday.

According to the organizations, which include Germany's Protestant Church (EKD) and Doctors Without Borders (MSF), officials had justified the measure by saying saving people was not in accordance with the ship's registration. Among other things, the Italian authorities objected that the vessel had too many life jackets on board and that the sewage system was not adequate for the number of people rescued. "These flimsy excuses show once more that it is not a matter of checking the ship's safety, but a deliberate measure to prevent civilians carrying out sea rescues in the central Mediterranean," said Philipp Hahn, head of operations on the Sea-Watch 4.

Another of the groups operating the ship, United4Rescue, said that German authorities had confirmed to the Sea-Watch NGO in July that the ship met all safety requirements. The Sea-Watch 4 has been in the Sicilian port of Palermo since early September, when it brought rescued refugees and migrants to a quarantine vessel there. The crew has gone through two weeks of quarantine because of the coronavirus pandemic.

G20  
commerce  
ministers to  
discuss trade

DNA

RIYADH: The G20 commerce and investment ministers will hold a meeting on Tuesday. The meeting aims to strengthen cooperation in commerce and investment policies. The minister will discuss ways to help boost growth and promote an inclusive and sustainable economy. They will also discuss steps to prop up the economy that has been badly affected by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The meeting will discuss G20 measures to support international commerce and investment in response to the pandemic and means to support reforms for a multi-lateral trading system.

Following the meeting, Saudi Commerce Minister Dr. Majid bin Abdullah Al-Qasabi and Minister of Investment Khalid Al-Falih will hold a press conference to brief the media about the meeting.

Saudi Arabia, the chair of the G20 presidency this year, has pledged its commitment to tackling the devastating impact of the pandemic on developing countries and some of society's most vulnerable groups. To achieve a quick economic response, specifically targeting developing countries, the G20 countries have coordinated with international financial institutions to provide the necessary liquidity to needy countries around the world.

Protesters  
urged EU  
to take in  
refugees

DNA

BERLIN: Thousands of people demonstrated Sunday in Berlin and other German cities, urging the European Union to take in migrants left without shelter after a fire destroyed their biggest camp in Greece. The mask-clad protesters armed with "leave no one behind" posters were joined in the German capital by the aunt of Alan Kurdi, the Syrian boy whose image became a tragic symbol of the 2015 refugee crisis after his body was washed up on a Turkish beach.

"I decided to speak up and speak for those who can't speak for themselves... If I can't save my own family, then let's save the others," said Tima Kurdi, urging people to write to politicians to push for action.

"We can't close our eyes and turn our backs and walk away from them. People are people, no matter where we come from," she added. Sonya Bobrik of the activist group Seebroecke also stressed that "we have space" to take in more than the 1,500 refugees now in Greece that Germany has so far promised to welcome. Police said around 5,000 people turned up at the Berlin rally.



LONDON: Arsenal players celebrating after scoring a goal against West Ham United in a Premier League game. — DNA

India passes farm bills amid uproar  
by opposition in parliament

Farmers in India, where agriculture supports more than half of the country's 1.3 billion people, have seen their economic clout diminish over the last three decades

DNA

NEW DELHI: India's parliament has passed new bills the government says will make it easier for farmers to sell their produce directly to big buyers, despite growing protest from opposition parties and a longtime ally of the governing party. Opposition legislators raised slogans, tore documents and tried to grab the speaker's microphone in the upper house of India's parliament before two controversial bills were passed by a voice

vote on Sunday. "The passage of both the bills in parliament is indeed a landmark day for Indian agriculture," one of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's senior cabinet ministers, Rajnath Singh, said on Twitter.

But India's main opposition Congress party criticised the government over the bills, calling them "black law" and "pro-corporate".

Rahul Gandhi, a top Congress leader, said in a tweet that Modi "is making farmers 'slaves' of the capitalists, which the country will never

allow to succeed". Modi has said the new laws will reform antiquated legislation and remove middlemen from the agriculture trade, allowing farmers to sell to institutional buyers and large retailers such as Walmart.

The bills also make contract farming easier by providing a new set of rules.

But Modi's Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal, who comes from an alliance party, resigned on Thursday in protest, calling the bills "anti-farmer". Badal is from a regional party

with a strong base in the northern state of Punjab and believes the bills will increase farmer suffering in the bread-basket state.

Her party believes the laws will destroy wholesale markets that ensure fair and timely payments to farmers and weaken the state's farmers and the overall state economy.

Opposition parties say the farmers' bargaining power will be diminished by allowing retailers to have tighter control over them. Many farmer organisations have in recent days held street protests in

Punjab and neighbouring Haryana states against the farm bills. Farmers in India, where agriculture supports more than half of the country's 1.3 billion people, have seen their economic clout diminish over the last three decades.

Once accounting for a third of India's gross domestic product, farmers now account for only 15 percent of the country's \$2.9 trillion economy. Farmers frequently hold protests to demand better crop prices, more loan waivers and even water delivery systems to guarantee irrigation during

dry spells. Sometimes they stage sit-ins or dump truckloads of vegetables onto highways to disrupt traffic. More than half of India's farmers are in debt, with 20,638 killing themselves in 2018 and 2019, according to India's National Crime Records Bureau. "We will make sure that the government will have to step down on its knees before the farming community of this country," said Randeep Surjewala, a Congress party spokesman. "It will be farmers on one side and big businesses on the other side. How will they fight?"

India:  
92,605 new  
virus cases

NEW DELHI: Coronavirus cases in India continue to surge at an alarming rate as 92,605 new infections were reported in the last 24 hours, the Health Ministry's tally showed on Sunday. The country's COVID-19 cases have now crossed 5.4 million. According to the latest data, 1,133 new deaths were reported in the last 24 hours taking the total death count to 86,752. The ministry tweeted on Sunday that the country has scaled another peak in testing as 1.2 million tests were conducted in the past 24 hours. "#IndiaFightsCorona India has scaled yet another peak! More than 12 lakh samples tested in the past 24 hours. Cumulative tests in the country have crossed the landmark figure of 6 crore [60 million]," the ministry tweeted. The Times of India reported that dozens of parliamentarians were found to be COVID-19 positive as parliament session began amid the massive spike in cases this week. The situation led to an agreement between the government and the opposition to curtail the scheduled session after passing important bills. For the past several days, India has witnessed a daily increase of around 90,000 cases. This week, the country's coronavirus cases crossed the 5 million mark. Experts say that India is likely to surpass the US - the worst-affected country in the world - in the severity of the pandemic due to lack of health care facilities. — APP

Iraq captures  
2 Daesh  
militants

DNA

BAGHDAD: Iraqi security forces arrested two militants from the Daesh/ISIS terrorist group in raids in the capital Baghdad, according to the Defense Ministry on Sunday. A ministry statement said the two militants were captured upon an intelligence tip-off.

According to the ministry, one of the militants was planning attacks against the Arbaeen ceremony by Shia pilgrims on Oct. 19. In 2017, Iraq declared victory over Daesh/ISIS by reclaiming all of its territory - about a third of the country's area - invaded by the terrorist group in 2014. However, the terrorist group still maintains sleeper cells in large areas of Iraq and periodically launches attacks.

The Iraqi army continues to carry out frequent operations against the group in these parts of the country. — APP

UK:  
Possibility  
of second  
national  
lockdown

DNA

LONDON: Britain is at a tipping point on Covid-19, Health Minister Matt Hancock says warning that a second national lockdown could be imposed if people don't follow government rules designed to stop the spread of the virus.

Covid-19 cases have risen sharply in recent weeks to more than 4,000 per day, with Prime Minister Boris Johnson calling it a second wave and stricter lockdown measures being introduced in areas across the country. "The nation faces a tipping point and we have a choice," Hancock told media.

"The choice is either that everybody follows the rules... or we will have to take more measures." Hancock later told media that a second national lockdown was possible option. "I don't rule it out, I don't want to see it," he said.

KSA: 5  
wounded in  
Houthi's attack

DNA

RIYADH: At least five people were injured in a rocket attack in southwestern Saudi Arabia, local media said Sunday.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported that the rocket in Jazan was launched by Houthis in Yemen. Three vehicles were damaged in addition to the five casualties, who were taken to a hospital. No statement has been made by the Houthis about the attack.

The Houthis regularly fire ballistic missiles and drones toward Saudi Arabia in response to coalition airstrikes on areas held by rebels. Yemen has been beset by violence and chaos since 2014, when Houthis rebels overran much of the country, including the capital, Sanaa.

Envelope of ricin intercepted  
on way to White House

DNA

WASHINGTON: Federal officials have intercepted an envelope addressed to the White House that contained the poison ricin.

The letter was intercepted at a government facility that screens mail addressed to the White House and President Donald Trump, a law

enforcement official said. A preliminary investigation indicated it tested positive for ricin, a poison found naturally in castor beans, the official said.

The official was not authorised to discuss the ongoing investigation publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Federal investigators were working to determine where the

enveloped originated and who mailed it. The FBI, the Secret Service and the US Postal Inspection Service were leading the investigation.

In a statement, the FBI said agents were working to investigate "a suspicious letter received at a US government mail facility" and that there is "no known threat to public safety."

US judge blocks  
Trump's WeChat ban

DNA

NEW YORK: A California judge on Sunday blocked the US Department of Commerce from enforcing President Donald Trump's executive order that requires the Chinese messenger WeChat to be removed from app stores in the US. The

Trump administration says that WeChat is a national security threat, as it allegedly sends massive amounts of data to the Chinese government. The Commerce Department had ordered for the messenger to be removed from Apple and Google's app stores in the US. However, hours before the ban was set to come into effect,

US Magistrate Judge Laurel Beeler of the Northern California District Court issued an injunction on Sunday blocking the removal, saying that the move raised "serious questions" about free speech. The lawsuit was brought by a group of WeChat users, who argued that there is no alternative app for Chinese Americans.

German artists rally for Belarus  
opposition's Kolesnikova

DNA

MINSK: Stuttgart-based director Jasmin Schädler knows Maria Kolesnikova well. She describes the Belarusian government critic as "very involved, ambitious and highly talented." Kolesnikova once lived in Stuttgart.

There, Schädler and Kolesnikova set up InterAKT, an initiative that promotes experimental art. The two last crossed paths in February, when they attended



Stuttgart's ECLAT festival. Kolesnikova then returned to Minsk, where she heads the

city's OK16 culture center. Despite living in Stuttgart for over a decade, Kolesnikova

regularly returned to Belarus to stage art projects. Kolesnikova's Stuttgart friends and colleagues closely follow the events unfolding in Belarus. "It is so odd to feel such a strong connection, despite being so far away," says Schädler. She says she is proud of her friend, and that "she and other women in Belarus are showing the world how to stage a peaceful revolution." That is why they want to do whatever is in their power to get Kolesnikova out of jail.

## Belarus police crackdown at women's protest

The number was about three times as high as at the protests a week ago, when masked uniformed men used brutal violence against the peaceful demonstrators for the first time

DNA

MINSK: Riot police detained hundreds of women as opposition protesters marched through the Belarusian capital Minsk demanding an end to President Alexander Lukashenko's rule. Approximately 2,000 women took part in the "Sparky March" on Saturday, wear-

ing shiny accessories and carrying red-and-white flags of the protest movement. Police blocked the women and began dragging them into police vans as they stood with linked hands, swiftly detaining several hundred, an journalist saw. The human rights group Viasna published the names of 314 people detained during the protests on its website. The number was about three times as

high as at the protests a week ago, when masked uniformed men used brutal violence against the peaceful demonstrators for the first time. The march was the latest in a series of all-women protests calling for the strongman president to leave following his disputed victory in elections last month. His opposition rival Svetlana Tikhanovskaya also claimed the victory. In a statement released in

advance of the march, Tikhanovskaya, who has taken refuge in Lithuania, praised the "brave women of Belarus". "They are marching despite being constantly menaced and put under pressure," she said.

Among those detained on Saturday was Nina Baginskaya, a 73-year-old activist who has become one of the best-known faces of the protest movement. Police re-

leased her outside a police station shortly afterwards. Police detained so many protesters that they ran out of room in vans, releasing approximately 10 women. Ambulances were called after several women became unwell during their detention. One female protester was taken away in an ambulance after lying on the ground, apparently unconscious.



Briefs

World committed to Afghan sovereignty: Zalmay

DNA

KABUL: US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad said that the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) issued a statement on Afghanistan peace negotiations that underscores the international commitment to Afghanistan's "sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity." In a tweet, Khalilzad said that the statement "supports the path the parties are currently on, which is to find a political settlement that accommodates all Afghans, one the region and international community can endorse in spirit and in action."

Rape incident key suspect still at large

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Police's special teams have failed to arrest the key suspect, Abid Ali, even after more than 10 days have passed since two armed men allegedly gang-raped a woman stranded on the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway with her children before robbing her. The deputy inspector-general (DIG) of police for investigations, Shahzada Sultan, however, seems hopeful, saying Sunday the fugitive, Abid Ali, would also be arrested soon like his accomplice, Shafiqat Ali, was apprehended earlier this week.

Nation stands with govt rhetoric, says Ch Sarwar

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Sarwar has said that the nation is supporting the rhetoric of the incumbent government and opponents will face failure. Chaudhry Sarwar expressed his thoughts while meeting with Sindh Governor Imran Ismail where they discussed the current political scenario and matters related to government affairs. Ismail thanked Sarwar over relief package to the affected citizens in flood-hit areas of Sindh.

Pak calls for inquiry of extra-judicial killings of Kashmiris

The Indian occupation forces had martyred three youth in so-called "cordon and search" operation in Shopian on 18 July 2020

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Saturday called for a transparent judicial inquiry, under international scrutiny, into the extra-judicial killing of three innocent Kashmiris in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) on July 18 this year, as the Indian occupation forces had admitted the crime.

ation in Shopian on 18 July 2020. The young Kashmiri boys had come from Rajouri to work in apple orchard as labourers, Foreign office spokesperson in a press release said. Two months after the killing, the Indian occupation Army itself had admitted that the three innocent Kashmiri labourers were killed extra-judicially — a hallmark of Indian occupation forces' state-terrorism in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

OIC urges probe into fake encounters

JEDDAH: The Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-IPHR) has strongly condemned the extrajudicial killing of three innocent Kashmiri labourers by Indian troops in Shopian district of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on July 18. The OIC-IPHR in a twitter message said, "Admission of this heinous act [by Indian forces] reinforces IPHR's repeated concerns on intensity & frequency of such crimes committed by Indian forces in IIOJK with impunity under (draconian law) Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) supported by the [Indian] State apparatus under the Hindutva ideology and widely condemned by UN, OHCHR and OIC."

Special Powers Act (AFSPA) were exceeded. "The international community must take immediate cognizance of the 18 July 2020 episode in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir as well as other acts indicative of the RSS-BJP regime's genocidal tendencies and hold it accountable for continuing crimes against the Kashmiri people," the spokesperson said.

crime, instead of handing over the human remains to the families of the victims, the occupation forces had buried them in a graveyard marked for "foreign terrorists."



SWABI: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser along with federal minister Omar Ayub Khan inaugurating gas scheme. — DNA

Imran mulls reducing perks of PM, President

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has decided to reduce the perks and privileges of the president and premier by amending the rules through a bill. While showing his commitment for cutting down the expenditures of the national exchequer, PM Imran Khan decided to reduce perks and privileges of the president and prime minister.

US magazine spotlights Pakistan response

DNA

NEW YORK: A report in Newsweek, an American weekly magazine, has drawn attention to Pakistan's rebuttal of the recent Indian allegations about what New Delhi called "unprovoked ceasefire violations" by Pakistani army along the Line of Control sector in the disputed Kashmir region. Quoting a Pakistani official, the report said that Islamabad, in turn, blamed New Delhi for both the incidents. "The Indian Army resorted to unprovoked fire in Nekrun Sector, targeting military posts and civilians alike across the Line of Control with automatic weapons, rockets and heavy mortars," the Pakistani official was quoted as saying by Newsweek.

China's inactivated vaccines available by year 2020 end

Yang Xiaoming, President of CNBG said at 2020 Zhongguancun Forum that novel coronavirus inactivated vaccines developed by the company have covered more than 40,000 people in clinical trials so far

DNA

BEIJING: The Chinese-made COVID-19 inactivated vaccines may be available on the market by the end of 2020, according to China National Biotech Group (CNBG), a subsidiary of China National Pharmaceutical Group Corporation, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday. Yang Xiaoming, President of CNBG said at 2020 Zhongguancun Forum that novel coronavirus inactivated vaccines developed by the company have covered more than 40,000 people in clinical trials so far.

has set up its production workshops in just two months. The workshops' actual capacity can reach 300 million doses of inactivated COVID-19 vaccines a year. CNBG is also expanding its capacity, trying to make 600 to 800 million doses annually. Vaccination is regarded as the most important way to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. China has been leading the world in the research and development of COVID-19 vaccines.

care group. Sinopharm has a full chain in the industry covering R&D, manufacturing, logistics and distribution, retail chains, healthcare, engineering services, exhibitions and conferences, international business and financial services.

Preventive measures to reduce disaster's hazards discussed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An interactive session on Disaster Risk Reduction encompassing basic definitions, concepts and protocols for graduate engineers was held here under the auspices of Institution of Engineers, Islamabad Centre.

continuing professional development program (CPD) for the young engineers. Brig (r) Engr Fiaz Hussain Shah, Ex-DG National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was the resource person who highlighted the preventive measures that could be taken to reduce or minimize the disaster's hazards.



Rashakai SEZ: Growing opportunity for the region

It will create around 200,000 job opportunities and will bring different industries that can-do import substitution and bring new technologies" CEO KP-BOIT said in an interview

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Rashakai Special Economic Zone (RSEZ), is considered a land of opportunity that would not only bring employment opportunities for common people but also will change the destiny of the region, said Mr. Hassan Daud Butt, CEO, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment & Trade (KP-BOIT).

the rest of the world. Therefore, this is a great milestone that has been achieved by both governments. A signing ceremony of the development agreement of the Rashakai SEZ was held on 14 September 2020 in Islamabad and Mr. Hassan Daud Butt signed the treaty from the Pakistani side.

I think many similar special economic zones will follow. The other important aspect is the location of the special economic zone that is near to Peshawar and also not too far from the Pak-Afghan Torkham border, he added.

tunkhwa is not just cheap but is also extremely efficient. Daud specified that they had a discussion with Chinese and other potential investors that showed interest in consumer products, light engineering products, textile, food processing and even mobile phones which can be not just used to Pakistan but also exported to China and other part of the world.

and will be increased to 4000 Acre after the completion of all phases. After the merger of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) With Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province more and more youngsters are now getting a higher education and employed in not just from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but in entire Pakistan.

'Hard decisions on cards if virus resurges'

DNA

HYDERABAD: Sindh Education Minister Saeed Ghani has said that the provincial government can revisit its decisions on opening of businesses and educational institutions if coronavirus resurges and can even take "hard" decisions. He told a press conference at Shahbaz Hall on Saturday after visiting several colleges and schools that the government preferred children's life and health.