

# Samaha

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**APC** flimsy attempt to pressurize govt, says Shibli Faraz

Pakistan, Turkey trade cooperation need of the hour

A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency** 



World committed to Afghan sovereignty: Zalmay Khalilzad

20th September, 2020



### **Briefs**

### **Fazl furious over PPP**

DNA



 hosted in Islamabad by the PPP and termed an 'All Parties Conference' - ran into an unpleasant situation on Sunday with IUI-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 MPAs 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** 



 $I\;S\;L\;A\;M\;A$ BAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting

Lt. Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa said on Saturday that the Orange Line Train proiect 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'



BAD: fence Min ister Pervez Khattak says Prime Min ister 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 greylist 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

Two Hungarian diplomats

rescued from Margallahs

supervision of SSP (CTD)

Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer

Ahmed Virk and others.

CPEC's drainage

corridor completed

SK hydropower station is one of the

priority projects under CPEC

SP Sarfaraz

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 selected 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

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad

Police successfully traced

two foreign diplomats who

lost their way during hiking

at Margallah way after ef-

forts for hours, police said. According to details, Islam-

abad police got information

through Control room that

two diplomats including

Second Secretary and Fe-

male Attache of Hungarian

embassy went at trail VI at

7 am and did not return.

IGP Islamabad Muhammad

Aamir Zulfiqar Khan con-

stituted special team under

SAIFULLAH/DNA

ISLAMABAD: The No.2 drainage corridor

of SK Hydropower Station was successfully

completed in the recent days with high-stand-

ards, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. Ac-

cording to China Gezhouba Group (CGGC),

which has contracted to construct this pro-

ject, a series of advanced technologies and

day's All Parties

Conference (APC)

was ostensibly appearance

of Nawaz Sharif on the na-

tional 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-es-

masses and leaders of the

allied political parties not

to allow non-political forc-

es to divide them and then

drive them with same stick

in order to keep them un-

der control. Nawaz Sharif

apparently wanted all po-

litical parties to stand up

against this govt and 'pro-

moters and supporters'

of this govt with a view to

sending a loud and clear

message that the country

can be run by political en-

tities only.

Continued on Page 04

### 'PM allowed Nawaz speech'

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

### News Desk Vaccine clinical

this week

trials

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 COV-ID-19 vaccine produced by a well acclaimed international company will be started in Pakistan from this week.

Talking to a news agency he 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 diag-

## APC flimsy attempt to pressurize govt: Shibli

ISLAMABAD: Leaders from the opposition attending All Parties Conference

hosted by Pakistan Peoples Party. - DNA

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 politics for personal gains & used parliament to protect ments will be taken to task

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 eleby 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, NKO will not be given

to the corruption persons. Continued on Page 04

## APC a flop show: Chohan

ABID RAZA LAHORE, " Punjab Infor-

mation 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 Reconcilation 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-

### 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 cas-

es 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

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.

chantment and disappoint-

the country.

## 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 HE hallmark of Sun-

they can be more effective

and relevant as long as they

### Inside...

Pakistani entrepreneurs must develop brands: SAARC Chamber President - Page 02

businessmen mull over joint cooperation Page 03 SCO to play central

Pak, Kazakhstan

role in regional economic prosperity Page 04 Running with the

hare and hunting with the hounds Page 05 India passes farm

opposition in parliament – Page 06 Europe rejects US call to return Iran sanctions

bills amid uproar by

- Page 07 Pak calls for inquiry of extra-judicial killings of Kashmiris - Page 08

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 tablishment tirade asking 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

This team search the diplo-

mats for hours in Margallah

hills and succeeded to safe-

voters and people at large. It neither wants to dislodge government nor launch a full fledge 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

are part of the system and that this system remains intact. The problem of Pa-



kistan People's Party is that

it cannot go beyond a cer-

tain 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. PML-N's predicament is

that it has to make inroads into Pakistani politics while maintaining a hardliner stance about Pakistani establishment. PML N is now known as an anti-establishment party and so is the PPP albeit both have 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 Shahbaz Sharif and his like-mined 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-

ment. According to them the government has failed to deliver. And no moment can be more opportune for the opposition parties to gird up their loins against the incumbent government than this that govt's own supporters seem to have started speaking against it. Summing up, if anything happens to the govt and it has to depart, it would be primarily because of its own shortcomings and governance issues. Unfortunately, in two years the sitting government has not been able to set things in order as per the wishes of people and its own manifesto. 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, which it should as it has a mandate for that.

Strategy

devised for **AOTS** 

DNA KARACHI: A strategy was

developed to make the best

use of AOTS Japan training

facilities in developing requi-

site skills. In the Meeting of

the Executive Council of EFP AOTS Alumni Society was held to discuss the changing

need for skills for the work-

force and challenges of the

Zaki Ahmed Khan VP Em-

ployers Federation, Feroz

Alam president EFP -AOTS

Alumni Society, Jamil Bajwa,

VP AOTS Alumni Society,

Ather Iqbal, director EFP

board, Nazar Ali, director

EFP board and Shahana Kau-

future of work.

### Briefs

### **Meeting** reviews anti-polio campaign

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 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

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

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 corona-

virus, as the country begins

to ease the last remaining

restrictions imposed to curb

the spread of the highly con-

"During the past few days,

I had a fever and a soar

throat after that I got my-

The minister said that he

had gone into self-isolation

after the report came pos-

itive and urged his friends

Shaikh is the latest among

several mainstream poli-

ticians to have contract-

ed the virus. Governor

Sindh education minister

Saeed Ghani, and Mutta-

hida Majlis-e-Amal MPA

Syed Abdul Rasheed test-

ed positive and recovered

The province has regis-

tered over 133,000 corona-

earlier this year.

Ismail,

Imran

to pray for his health.

Sindh

self tested," he said.

tagious disease.

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 sec-

tor, 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-na-

tional 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.

#### kab, member AOTS executive council were present in the meeting. Govt to provide better

DNA

facilities: DC

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock Ali Annan 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.

expressed 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

### '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 Yildrim. During the course of meeting, wide range of discussion and views were exchanged on various issues and matter of mutual interest. Sheikh Sultan, Vice Pres-

ident 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 Ucak welcome the proposals and assured that the office of Consul General would to 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 countervailing 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.

### 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 condi-

tions. The police registered

separate cases and started

### 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 lomatic relations.

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 with Pakistan's decision

(IIOJK), 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 IIOJK. 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

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 thatthe 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.



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 laver. 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 ultraviolent rays from

reaching the earth. "Due to breaching of Ozone layer the life

itself was getting affected due to harmful ultraviolent 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.

## **SEPTEMBER 2020**

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### **Briefs**

### Government allocates Rs 50 mln for railway **stations**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The government has allocated around Rs 50 million in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), 2020-21 for the up-gradation and renovation of railway stations across the country.

The renovation of the railway stations had been approved by the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) in 2018 and the department had already upgraded six railway stations in different parts of the country, an official in the Ministry of Railways told media.

He said the names of the upgraded railway stations were Bahawalpur, Raiwind, Narowal, Okara, Sahiwal and Gujranwala. The upgradation works of the five railway stations including Hassan Abdal, Nakana Sahib, Peshawar Cantonment, Karachi Cantonment and Lahore were in progress and would completed soon. The official said the basic aim of the upgradation was to facilitate the passengers and improve the outlook and modernize the railway stations. Pakistan Railways had upgraded the passenger waiting halls, prayer area, operation offices, water filtration plant, toilets, passenger shelter, platforms, ticket counters, parking area and external development work. About the two major railway stations of Rawalpindi and Rohri, he said the tenders had been floated and under process of final approval.

### Police arrested four bike lifters

ATTOCK: The police have arrested four bike lifters from jurisdiction of Fatehjang police station and recovered four motorbikes from their possession. The accused identified as

Mumtaz Ali alias Khata r/o Arang , Sajid alias Don r/o Dhok Keer , Kamran r/o Mohmand and Abdul Majeed r/o Dhok Keer. DSP Fatehjang Zulfiqan Gillani told media persons that all the criminals had

been booked under the relevant act and were sent behind the bars. He said that during initial

interrogation, the bike lifters had confessed that they had stolen motorbikes from areas of Hazro and Attock.

Meanwhile, the police arrested 12 gamblers during a raid at two different gambling dens at Injra and Jand Police stations' limits. The police said, on a tip off, a police party raided at a gambling den in Injra and arrested seven gamblers. The police recovered gambling tools and bet money worth Rs 61 thousand.

Separately, Jand Police raided a gambling den and arrested five gamblers. The police also recovered

gambling tools and bet money worth Rs 0.265 million. Cases have been registered against the accused.

## Pak, Kazakhstan businessmen mull over joint cooperation

Zahid Latif Khan briefs Kazakh counterparts abut Pakistan's potential; both sides agree to sign MoU

SHUJAT HAMZA/DNA

ISLAMABAD: Meeting between representatives of AIFC, AIE Kazakhstan and Representatives of ISE RME and PSX, Pakistan in Islamabad. Zahid Latif Khan Chairman ISE Towers REIT Management Co. (ISE RMC), Vice Chairman Pakistan Stock Exchange Broker Association, Chairman Zahid Latif Khan Securities, Corporate Brokerage Firm PSX welcomed the participants.

Mr. James Martin, CEO of Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) Business Connect (the business development arm of AIFC), Mr. Renat Bekturov

CFO of the Astana International Exchange (AIE), Mr. Sagheer Mushtaq Chief Executive Officer, ISE Towers REIT Management Company (ISE RMC) formerly Islamabad Stock Exchange, Mr. Asghar Abbas Regional Head -Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX)



also attended the meeting. He apprised that ISE RMC was formerly operating as Islamabad Exchange. Consequent upon integration of all the three stock exchanges in Pakistan, ISE RMC granted the license to launch REIT Schemes. On the other side, PSX has been expanding

and it is one of the best perform-

ing market in the region. Both the

institutions have rich experience of capital market and ISE RMC /  $PS\bar{X}$  platform can be useful to tap the businesses in Pakistan. Reciprocally, business community of Kazakhstan can also avail business potential in Pakistan.

AIFC and AIE representatives briefed that AIFC has been established on the international standards / laws with the objective to



provide business friendly environment. Already a number of UK / Europe based companies are listed on AIE, side by side foreign brokerage firms have also their respective business setup. AIFC also interested to invite investment from Asia region.

Participants of the meeting after discussion agreed to extend mutu-

al cooperation initially in following major areas: Cross border listings on securities exchange; Estab lishment of brokerage business cross border; to explore avenues for investment under REIT umbrella; Sharing of expertise relating to capital market. Participants also agreed to sign the Memorandum of Understanding soon to for

### Mehfil-e-Mushaira on Oct 3

ISLAMABAD: In memory of prominent poet Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Theater Wallay, an arts school, will hold Mehfil-e-Mushaira entitled" Gar Mujhe Iska Yaqeen Ho" on 3rd October at a farm house in Bani Gala. According to an official, well-known poets, scholars and literary figures would shed light on great Faiz's poetry and prose as well. He said that the local literary circle arranged Mehfil-e-Mushaira to pay tribute to outstanding work of Faiz in the field of literature. He said that he was best-known for his progressive writings which were as popular in pre-Partition India as he was appreciated across the world for his ghazals and shers. From translations to vari-

can delve into with Faiz's beautiful poetry, he said. His compositions of poetry included Naqsh-e-faryadi, Dast-e-saba, Zindaan Naama, Dast-e- Tah-e-Sang, Sare-Wadi-e-Seena. Sham-e-She-her-e-Yaaran, Mere Dil Mere

ous pop culture references,

there's a lot of depth one

Musafir, he said. Strict SOPs would be followed during Mehfil-e-Mus-

haira with social distancing, he stated. – APP

### 3 booked on violation of marriage laws

RAWALPINDI: Police have booked three persons for defying marriage laws in the jurisdiction of Pirwadhi area. Police spokesman here on Sunday said, Pirwadhi Police held three persons identified as Rahat Ullah, Ihtasham Ullah and Javed Khan who were using fireworks and playing music in loud voice. Police have registered separate cases against all of them and started investigation.Meanwhile, city police have arrested 11 other outlaws and recovered drugs, weapons and bottles of liquor from their possession. - APP

### President lauds Feeney for his charity donation

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Sunday lauded Chuck Feeney, an Irish-American business tycoon, who had given away his entire US \$ 8 billion fortune in charity. On his twitter account, the president also quoted words of

his father late Dr Habibur Rehman Alvi about charity work

and prayed for the high ranks of the departed soul. He posted, "What a great man is Chuck Feeney! My late father Dr Habibur Rehman Elahi Alvi used to say, 'What I give in charity is what I take to the hereafter' & 'Giving is living in both worlds'. May his soul rest in peace, he was similar in spirit and action.'

ALSO READ US mogul gives all US \$ 8bln fortune to charity; PM Imran calls it "true richness" The president also tagged yesterday's tweet of Prime Minister Imran Khan who had named Feeney's act as a "true richness." "This is what I call true richness - a liberated soul," the prime minister said on twitter while referring to American billionaire's achieving his mission of donating all his wealth during his life. For the past 38 years, Feeney, an Irish American who made billions from a duty-free shopping empire, had been making endowments to charities and universities across the world. Feeney, who gave most of his money away in secret, hoped that more billionaires would follow his example and use their money to help address the world's biggest problems.

Feeney, 89, achieved goal of his life by giving away his entire wealth. He had set up the Atlantic Philanthropies foundation during 1982. Feeney was quoted by Forbes Magazine "We learned a lot. We would do some things

#### culture at differently, but I am very satisfied. I feel very good about completing this on my watch." – DNA all levels ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Na-People to cooperate tional Council of the Arts

District Commissioner Attock, appealed people of the district to cooperate fully with the Attock Health Department

in polio campaign: DC

ATTOCK: Deputy Commissioner Attock, has said people should administer polio drops to their children to save them from deadly diseases from polio.

He made these remarks while addressing a meeting to check arrangements for polio campaign held at THQ Hospital Fateh Jang. Assistant Commissioner

Fateh Jang, Malik Azeem Awan, DHO Dr. Jawad Elahi, DDHO Fateh Jang, MS THQ Hospital Fateh Jang, District Population Welfare Officer, Zafar Iqbal, World Health Organization representatives, and other officers were also present.The campaign will run from September 21 to September 25. Under the drive almost 2,96,662 children would be vaccinated under the age of five with the help of 953 teams.

Polio teams would also vaccinate children under the age of five on all entrances and exit points of the district. Apart from this, mobile teams have also been formed so that no child would be left unattended. He informed that foolproof security would be provided to the vaccination teams. Performance of all the

teams will be reviewed on a daily basis and the concerned officers will visit all the tehsils.Control rooms have been set up at district and tehsil level to monitor the drive."We will oversee this important campaign ourselves", he stated.

On the occasion, District Commissioner Attock, appealed people of the district to cooperate fully with the Attock Health Department.

### 'Universities should foster entrepreneurship in students' In this regard HEC should are proud to be a nucle-

DNA

FPCCI's ISLAMABAD: Businessmen Panel on Sunday stressed the importance of strong industry-academia linkages for commercialisation of innovative business ideas of students in order to improve economic growth of the country.

Secretary General (Federal) of the Businessmen Panel Ch. Ahmad Jawad said that in recent times industries have been increasingly relying on technology based solutions to solve various problems. He said that universities being the hub of research and development activities should play an en-

(PNCA) has committed to

promote artistic activity

and focused on all forms

of arts including visual and

PNCA has mandated for the

promotion and preservation

of the intangible cultural

heritage at national and in-

According to an official, it

is engaged in organizing dif-

ferent shows/ programmes

representing provincial/ re-

The aims and objectives to

organize these programmes

are to explore hidden talent

among the students/youth.

PNCA provided opportuni-

ties for the young talent as

well as for the children, he

said. PNCA developed artis-

tic talent, the Council pro-

vides total support through

grants, training, arts hous-

ing, commissioning of work

Major festivals and arts

shows are organized to

showcase the best of local

He said that new talents are

identified and developed

through music and writing

competition and annual

awards are given to artists

in recognition of their

achievements. - APP

and international artists.

and overseas touring.

gional cultures/ heritage.

performing arts.

ternational levels.

hanced role in suggesting innovative solutions to problems faced by industries and the society at large.

He emphasised that universities should focus on applied research to accelerate industrial development. He said that over 60 per cent of the population of Pakistan comprises of youth adding that universities should focus on fostering entrepreneurship in students to make them job creators instead of job seekers.

Jawad said that research departments of universities are conducting good research in various fields, but due to lack of coordination, local industry is not benefiting from such efforts.

draw a mechanism for the collaboration, as universities can help in improving the productivity, efficiency and competitiveness of industry through strong academia-industry linkages.

He also said that Pakistan's

national interest demands

reduction in heavy depend-

ence on foreign countries and aid agencies in order to develop a viable self-sustaining economy. weak governance, lack of commitment, corruption, external and internal threats has led to Pakistan

eign assistance".

We have to recognise the

being heavily reliant on for-

paradoxes that we face. We

Pakstani rupee despite an improving current account position, seeking the central bank's intervention for stability. "We have to draw a new strategy for effective stabili-

sation, rely on our existing resources, reduce the cost of expenditures, strengthen agriculture and revise the strategy of free float of the dollar," he said.

ar-armed country, and jus-

tifiably so, but on the other

hand we are so dependent

on others to keep our econ-

omy afloat. This is a huge

contradiction," said Jawad.

The BMP secretary gen-

eral also expressed sur-

prise over the instability of

### PNCA to FPCCI appoints promote environmentalist on CSC

Ahmed said that with the support and guidance of the FPCCI president a model of sustainability reporting would be introduced for the industry engaged in exports

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) president Mian Anjum Nisar has appointed well-known journalist and Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed as Deputy Convener of the FPCCI Central Committee on Environment with immediate effect.

The FPCCI president hoped that the induction of an environmentalist into his team would help develop a comprehensive strategy and an action plan to engage Pakistan's corporate sector and industry to more environment friendly practices.

Talking to this scribe, Munir Ahmed said Pakistan's industry and corporate sector is all out to adopt a new mechanism of environmental sustainability to be more competitive to the standards required for entering into the European and the US markets.

The investment does not only improve the environment around and cut the health cost of an industry, it also gives the industry to have more exports.

Ahmed said that with the support and guidance of the FPCCI president a model of sustainability reporting would be introduced for the industry engaged in exports. It would help in securing more exports to Europe and the US.

He said the environment is more than tree



plantation, waste management and anti-littering campaigns. Pakistan's business and industry sector should be introduced to the emerging sustainability trends to have more changes of business and trade globally. We also need to support and appreciate busi-

nesses and industry having environmental compliance and fulfilling their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), he added. Government is only interested in collecting taxes and that's it.

The federal and provincial governments should come up with a plan to encourage environment friendly industry by giving incentives to engage them into sustainable urban management. It would make cities more sustainable and resilient to climate change impacts, he concluded.

### 'Smokey vehicles polluting environment' RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi City Traffic Police (CTP)

has launched special operation against smoke emitting vehicles here on Sunday. According to Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi, Sved Ali Akbar, smoke emitting vehicles were not only polluting environment but could also cause respiratory problems. He informed that special campaigns were also run by the CTP while under a campaign the citizens were educated regarding traffic rules and road safety. Education Wing of Traffic Police was making efforts to spread awareness among masses to make road journey more safe, he added. The CTO urged people to

cooperate with traffic wardens. A special squad is available on Helpline 1915 to help and facilitate the citizens, he added.

The increasing number of smoke emitter and old-age vehicles on the busy roads of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad are hazardous to health of residents beside damaging capital's beauty. The black smoke belching out from the exhaust pipes of Cars, trucks, vans and other smoke emitter and old vehicles moving on roads was a big menace for environment. – **APP** 

## Pak, Turkey trade links need of the hour: HAP

Pakistan proud of its relations with Turkey: Fahad Barlas

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Handicrafts of Pakistan and Turkey are a reflection of the historical, cultural heritage of both the countries. Promotion of bilateral trade and exchange of delegations can maximize trade and investment between Pakistan and Turkey, says Chairman Handicraft Association of Pakistan Fahad Barlas. and the Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul said during a meeting. Former chairman Handicraft association of Pakistan Khurshid Barlas and senior members were also present on the occasion. Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul said that Turkey and Pakistan have a lot in common



in their cultural traditions and deep friendly relations have been established between the two countries. Over time, trade cooperation has grown stronger. Fahad Barlas, chairman Handicraft Association of Pakistan, said on the occasion that Pakistan was proud of the strong brotherhood of Turkey and would improve bilateral trade as well as promote cooperation in the field of handicraft.

Ex Chairman Handicraft Association of Pakistan Khurshid Barlas appreciated the Turkish Ambassador's deep love and goodwill towards Pakistan and said that increasing trade volume in both the countries could create business and trade opportunities and in this regard Handicraft There is a huge potential for cooperation and mutual trade in the sector.

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Monday, September 21, 2020

### **Briefs**

### Islamabad police promoted 26 officials

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police Islamabad Aamir Zulfiqar khan on Saturday gave approval to promote 26 Sub-Inspectors (SIs) in next rank.

According to details, a meeting of Departmental Promotion Committee chaired by DIG (Headquarters) Muhammad Saleem was held here at Cen-tral Police Office which was also attended among others by AIG (Establishment) Kamran Adil, AIG (Special Branch) Muhammad Suleman, SSP (Headquarters) Irfran Tariq, SSP (Traffic) Karraukh Rashid and DSP Legal. The Committee recommended to promote 26 SIs to the rank of Inspectors. In next phase, Head Constables and inspector would be promoted to the ranks.

### Bike-lifters' gang busted; 16 2-wheelers recovered

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Golra Police have busted four members of a bike lifter gang and recovered 16 stolen motorbikes from their possession, a police spokesman said.

According to details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan ordered crackdown against criminal elements and following his orders, DIG (Operations) Waqar-Ud-Din has directed all zonal officers to accelerate their efforts to curb the crime in the city. SP (Saddar -Zone) Sarfraz Ahmed Virk constituted special team under Supervision of DSP Khalid Mehmood Awan including SHO Golra police station Inspector Sham-Ul-Akber.

### APC decides to give govt tough time

From Page 01

"I am speaking from my experience of serving this country; the soul of democracy lies in people being allowed to bring their opinions forward. According to the law, our democratic system relies on the opinions and say of the people."

"Democratic systems around the world follow the same principle. When public votes are not respected and the verdict is decided even before the elections, then we can guess the extent to which the people of this country are deceived and

dodged," Nawaz said. "Unfortunately, Pakistan has been a laboratory for such experiments. It is not even taken into account that the democratic structure of the country is destroyed due to such tactics and the public loses faith in the

system," he added. "During the 73-year-long his tory of Pakistan, everybody knows that no democratic lead er could complete their tenure. whereas dictators ruled the country and completed their tenure," the PML-N supremo underlined. "Why are we alone?" he went on to ask, adding that Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi made statements that disappointed Saudi Arabia. "We must strengthen the OIC," Nawaz asserted, referring to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. The PML-N leader also lambasted the PTI government over the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying the multi-billion dollar project backed by China was being treated like the Peshawar Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. PPP Chair person Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari hailed the PML-N founder for giving a comprehensive speech and demanded a level-playing field in not only elections but in courts, media forums, and in the Parliament as well. "As Nawaz Sharif has summed it all up that the failure of a democratic system is the failure of the society," Bilawal said. He added that everyone had seen that if the leaders were not elected through the public's votes, the public welfare was always neglected. "Instead of facilitating the doctors and health professionals, the government targeted them and did not support them the way they were deserved," Bilawal said. The PPP chairperson also criticised the government over the state of media free dom in the country. Earlier, in his welcome note, Zardari had thanked the attendees, noting that the APC should have taken place quite a while ago. Criticising the government for not allowing Nawaz's speech to be broadcast, he said they showed former president Per-Musharraf's interview. "We have never seen such

stringent censorship across

the country," Zardari stated.

"This reflects on the weakness

of the government.



ISLAMABAD: Newly elected members of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry posing for a group picture. Sardar Yasir Ilays will be the new President of ICCI. - DNA

## SCO to play central role in regional economic prosperity

Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said with all the hegemonic efforts by India, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has been dead now. But there is a need for a vigorous and vibrant regional cooperation organization

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The experts at a webinar said the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is getting stronger to safeguard interests of the countries in the region. Covid-19 has played havoc with the world economy, especially the poor and developing economies have suffered a lot. The pandemic has extreme effects on the SCO region as well. That is why the next SCO heads of states meeting would be crucial for coming up with the post-covid-19 regional policy framework.

Afghan peace process and its impact in the region is expected to be another top agenda besides resolving the pending conflicts between the countries of the region. Working out the regional cooperation for sustainable peace and economic prosperity, and cooperation in the health sector would be other priority tasks for discussions. The webinar was organized by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) on Saturday on the SCO's role in conflict management.

The participants included geopolitical analyst

WAPDA starts

recruitments for Diamer-

Bhasha dam project

The dam has a capacity to produce

4500 megawatts of electricity and

could help in saving US\$2.48 billion

annually in terms of fuel charges

In July, Prime Minister Im-

ran Khan had inaugurated

the construction work of

the mega hydroelectricity

project, Diamer-Basha Dam

"a historic milestone" in

the country's development.

Accompanied by Chief of

Army Staff (COAS) Gener-

al Qamar Javed Bajwa and

ISI Director General Lt.

General Faiz Hameed, he

had visited the reservoir

site and got a detailed brief-

ing on the project. Federal

Water and Power Minister

Faisal Vawda and Minister

for Kashmir Affairs and

Gilgit Baltistan Ali Amin

Gandapur were also present

The dam has a capacity to

produce 4500 megawatts of

electricity and could help

in saving US\$2.48 billion

annually in terms of fuel

charges. The project is like-

ly to be completed in 2027.

on the occasion.

which is being billed as

DNA

ISLAMABAD (DNA): Water

and Power Development

Authority (WAPDA) has

commenced recruitments

of Grade 6 to 16 officials for

the construction of Diam-

The WAPDA spokesperson

said that the authority has

advertised the recruitments

on 124 vacancies for the

Grade 6 and 16 employees

for the construction of the

Diamer-Bhasha dam. It

added that the residents of

Diamer and Gilgit-Baltistan

(GB) will be appointed on

Moreover, 179 vacancies of

Grade 14 to 20 officials and

317 security positions were

also advertised. The spokes-

person said that the nation-

als belonging to GB and the

project's area will be priori-

tised in order to ensure the

economic progress of the

the positions.

er-Bhasha dam project.

from Beijing Zoon Ahmed Khan, senior journalist and political analyst from Washington Anwar Iqbal, Eurasian affairs expert Dr Fahim Akhtar, global security analyst Dr Ashfaq Ahmed and CGSS research fellow Anushka Johum. The webinar was hosted and conducted by Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed. Zooh Ahmed khan said SCO provides equal opportunity to all countries to represent their development agenda for regional cooperation as envisioned in the SCO charter and mandate. Though each one has the right to present their case, no one can play hegemonic. The respective committees sit together and discuss issues to resolve them.

She said the SCO's main goals are to strengthening mutual trust and neighborliness among the member states; promoting their effective cooperation in politics, trade, the economy, research, technology and culture, as well as in education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental protection, and other areas; making joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace. security and stability in the region; and moving towards the establishment of a democratic, fair and rational new international political

Music, Art

Classes at

PNCA in full

swing

ISLAMABAD: Music and

Art classes are in full swing

here at Pakistan National

Counsil of Arts (PNCA)

aimed to attract the aspir-

The classes of sitar, sing-

ing, calligraphy, flute, vio-

lin, singing musical instru-

ments, and calligraphy

that commenced at PNCA

under the supervision of

different maestros were

attracting young aspirants

Renowned professionals

and master artisans in dif-

ferent specialized music

and craft fields are impart-

ing training to registered

According to an official,

the classes are now in full

swing as new students are

coming to register them-

Classes Ahmed Niazi, for

sitar training Amir Hussain

Khan while Jhangir Saghar

for Violin. Salman Adil for

Flute and Shabir Ahmed for

Calligraphy have been hired.

He said the aspirants were

taking keen interest in differ-

ent form of singing including

classical .Sufi and Jazz.

participants at PNCA.

selves everyday.

He said that for

in performing arts.

ants of music and arts.

and economic order. Ms Khan said the Heads of State Council (HSC) is the supreme decision-making body in the SCO. It meets once a year and adopts decisions and guidelines on all important matters of the organization.

The SCO Heads of Government Council (HGC) meets once a year to discuss the organization's multilateral cooperation strategy and priority areas, to resolve current important economic and other cooperation issues, and also to approve the organization's annual budget. The forthcoming meetings are very important in the context of rising economic conflict between China and the US.

Anwar Iqbal said SCO no doubt is getting stronger and meaningful but the question is if it would be able to combat the new emerging bloc in the region where India would be playing proxy for the US-Israel alliance against China, India would be taking on China in the SCO and would not succeed. The same will be the case of Indian-Held Jummu and Kashmir (IOJK). SCO won't be able to sort out the Kashmir solution in near future even cannot compel India to soften the siege of the territory. He said Pakistan has lost its strategic

importance in the US after getting closer to China on CPEC and other economic fronts. Despite repeated assurances from Pakistan. the decades old relationship is not going to the same pitch. Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said with all the hegemonic efforts by India, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has been dead now. But there is a need for a vigorous and vibrant regional cooperation organization. Having a comprehensive agenda of the regional cooperation and support to all basic sectors, this SCO would fulfil the void. It has the potential to grow like European Union (EU) with large development funds and a regional currency or any other mechanism of trade. Dr Fahim Akhtar said the SCO is pacing up on its agenda with a consistency, building up trust among the member states, and finalizing policy frameworks for the future discourse and action. Having two veto powers and strong countries and with the inclusion of Iran, the SCO is going stronger. If all the members stand united, they would become a force to combat challenges confronting the region from external forces.

### Opposition parties deceiving themselves on APC: Usman Buzdar

He said that opposition parties had totally ignored the national interest. Those who looted the national exchequer cannot hoodwink the people through the drama of APC

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that opposition parties were deceiving themselves on the All Parties Conference (APC).

According to a hand out, he said that unemployed politicians should keep this in mind that APC cannot assure public acceptability but serving people was the real politics which was the hallmark of PTI government. He said that people of Pakistan have complete confi-

dence on the bold and honest leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. The rejected elements had done nothing before and will not get anything in future as well. CM said that APC of the opposition parties will end in a fiasco. He said that the opposition parties had already been divided and will further split after APC.

Sardar Usman Buzdar said



that opposition had once again proved that they only gathered for protecting their

personal interests. He said that opposition parties had totally ignored the national interest. Those who looted the national exchequer cannot hoodwink the people through the drama of APC. CM said that people of Pakistan were well aware and recognized the ineligible and corrupt faces. The rejected elements cannot deceive the conscience people of Pakistan.

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar said that opposition parties were trying to create hurdles in the progress and prosperity of the country. He said that the negative role of the opposition was highly deplorable. He said that Pakistan cannot afford any more chaos. The drama of APC will also be failed like past, he added. – **APP** 

### Wheat, sugar importers dancing on the tune of mafia'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former President ICCI Shahid Rasheed Butt said following the coronavirus destruction, the economy is now on the growth trajectory that has infused confidence in investors. The government has focused attention on energy, tax net expansion, reforming PSEs, stabilising prices and currency and reducing the deficit which is laudable, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that country was on the brink of default when the incumbent government came to power and change the situation by taking tough but decisions which were necessary to avoid default.

Massive investment in Pak-China Economic Corridor, special focus on infrastructure development, and zero tolerance for terrorism are satisfactory developments but upgraded tax system and pace of privatization must be improved. He said that incompetence

of exporters has forced government to borrow or burden existing taxpayers which is not going down well with the masses.

### IHC summons Shahzad Akbar over rising crime rate

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) has summoned Advisor to Prime Minister on Accountability and Interior Mirza Shahzad Akbar over rising crime rate and disappearances in the federal capital.

Chief Justice remarked that land grabbing crimes are on the rise in Islamabad and surprisingly state ministries are involved in illegal real estate business and ordered Shahzad Akbar to appear in court in person on September 21. Chief Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and IG Islamabad have also been summoned.

### APC flimsy attempt to pressurize govt: Shibli

From Page 01 Shahbaz Gill,

while addressing a press conference today, said that the accountability process will be continued against the corruption persons and such elements will be taken to task by Prime Minister Imran Khan.

"The present government has an agenda to provide all facilities to the deserving nationals and accountability of corrupt elements. Accountability will continue and NRO will not be given." Gill said that it is a long journey to hold the elites of the country accountable before

### CPEC's drainage corridor completed

From Page 01

devices were put in to the construction of the No.2 drainage corridor of SK project.

The length of the corridor is 733.25 meters, and the transversal and vertical errors of the corridor are 9 mm and 7 mm respectively, which are far better than the standard required by measurement specification. It means the potential risks of safety and efficiency will be

significantly reduced Faced with the severe conditions such as small working place, poor ventilation, water impounding and sharp bend in the cave, both Pakistani and Chinese staff have lived on site while implementing the measures of epidemic prevention and control. After 450 days of continuous operation, the drainage corridor was successfully connected and the horizontal connection was finally achieved. The errors of various indicators were strictly controlled within the standard range. On September 12, the concrete pouring of cut-off wall for SK project was officially launched.

SK hydropower station is one of the priority projects under CPEC. Once completed, it will make up one fifth of the power gap in Pakistan and play an important role in providing local employment and improving people's livelihood.

## FEBR seeks cut in production cost

The FDI is over 34 percent lower versus \$174.8 million received in the month of June 2020. The number, however, surged over 60% against \$72 million recorded a year ago in July 2019, which is due to massively low FDI in July 2019

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Friends of Economic & Business Reforms (FEBR) President Kashif Anwar has recommended the government to take serious steps for bringing down cost of production, which is very high due to constant rupee depreciation, rising power tariffs, costly fuel and escalating import duties on inputs.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, Kashif Anwar, who is also former vice president of LCCI, observed that the government will have to make visible reduction in

taxes to help revive the businesses in post-corona economic strategy. He said that like the domestic industry Covid-19 crisis has also forced the global investors to put their new investment plans on hold. He said that there is no visible improvement in employment even after the business activities were allowed and countrywide lockdown eased. The small and medium industries (SMEs) -the main providers of jobs are still struggling because of lack of funds and demand. Kashif Anwar asked the government to take concrete steps to attract foreign investment, saving the livelihood of millions of workers



associated with various sectors, as the FDI has declined to \$114 million in July 2020, indicating that the

government has failed to win the confidence of foreign investors. The FDI is over 34 percent lower versus \$174.8 million received in the month of June 2020. The number, however, surged over 60% against \$72 million recorded a year ago in July 2019, which is due to massively low FDI in July 2019.

The FEBR President observed that it is good that the FDI is higher on a year-on-year basis, but still lower compared to the average of \$250-300 million during the pre-Covid-19 period. Pakistan has reopened its economy from the lockdown. Majority of the sectors in manufacturing and

operational now. He said that foreign direct investment figures of the previous year reflected the same poor scenario, which plunged to a ninemonth low at \$73.4 million in July 2019, the first month of the current fiscal year 2019-20, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The FDI was 59% lower than the \$178.9 million received by different sectors of the economy, particularly construction and power, in the same month of previous fiscal year. The FDI had dropped to half at \$1.66 billion in the last fiscal year compared to invest-

almost entire agriculture sector are

## Options for the opposition

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

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 kaz 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

NDIA recently withdrew from Kav- 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 socalled 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

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

India:

92,605 new virus cases

NEW DEHLI: 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 lat-

est 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 con-

ducted 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 par-

liamentarians were found

to be COVID-19 positive as

parliament session began

amid the massive spike in

cases this week. The situ-

ation 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 in-

crease of around 90,000 cas-

es. This week, the country's

coronavirus cases crossed

the 5 million mark. Experts

say that India is likely to sur-

pass the US - the worst-af-

fected country in the world

in the severity of the pan-

demic due to lack of health

care facilities. - APP

### **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 or ganizations 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 iackets 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 Septem ber, 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 multilateral 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

### **Protesters** urged EU to take in refugees

around the world.

**DNA** 

BERLIN: Thousands of peodemonstrated 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 activst group Seebruecke 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 DEHLI: 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

Web Desk

WASHINGTON: US Pres-

ident Donald Trump on

Sunday spoke to Japan's

new prime minister, Yoshi-

hide Suga, to congratu-

late him on taking office

and to discuss a "free and

open Indo-Pacific" region,

which is increasingly dom-

"The two leaders dis-

cussed the importance

of pursuing our shared

vision of a free and open

Indo-Pacific, continuing

ed States-Japan Alliance,

to strengthen the glob-al economy," the White

House said in a statement.

China is locked in dis-

putes with neighbors in-

cluding Japan and Viet-

nam over islands in the

Beijing's expanding mil-

itary presence in the re-

gion has worried sever-

Washington has vowed

to stand up against its

DNA

MADRID: Gareth Bale com-

pleted a loan move from

Spanish champions Real

Madrid back to his former

club Tottenham Hotspur as

the Wales forward ended an

increasingly fractious sev-

en-year stay at the Bernabeu.

The 31-year-old had flown to

London on Spurs chairman

Daniel Levy's private jet on

Friday along with Real's Span-

ish left back Sergio Reguilon

to put the finishing touches to

their moves on a seismic day

al of its neighbors, and

South China Sea.

territorial claims.

strengthen the Unit-

working together

inated by China.

"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

Japan's parliament elected

Suga, 71, as the country's

first new leader in nearly

eight years on Wednesday.

He said he would seek

continued strong ties

stable relations with

He also pledged to con-

tinue the work of former

leader Shinzo Abe, whose

program involved vast

government spending and

monetary easing, and at-

tempts to cut red tape.

After the phone conver-

sation Suga told reporters

that he informed Trump

that the alliance with

Washington is the "corner-

stone of peace and stabili-

ty in the region," Japan's

In their 25-minute talk,

Trump and Suga also

talked about the situ-

ation in North Korea.

asked for US support to

push for the return of

Japanese nationals kid-

napped by the North Ko-

reans in the 1970s and

for the Premier League club.

Bale has joined Spurs on a

season-long loan deal and

although the financial de-

tails of the move were not

disclosed, British media

reported that Tottenham

will pay about 20 million

pounds (\$25.83m) in wag-

"It's such a special club to

me. It's where I made my

name," said Bale. "Incred-

ible to be back and now I

hope I can get some match

fitness and get under way

and really help the team and

hopefully win trophies.

es and loan fees.

80s, Kyodo reported.

Gareth Bale rejoins

Tottenham

Japanese leader

Kyodo News reported.

"Abenomics'

with Washington

China and Russia.

signature

'Trump Suga discuss free

and open Indo-Pacific'

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 par-

KSA: 5

wounded in

Houthi's attack

DNA

RIYADH: At least five

people were injured in

a rocket attack in south-

western Saudi Arabia, lo-

The Saudi Press Agen-

cy (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

The Houthis regularly

fire ballistic missiles and

drones toward Saudi Ara-

bia in response to coali-

tion airstrikes on areas

held by rebels. Yemen has

been beset by violence and

chaos since 2014, when

Houthi rebels overran

much of the country, in-

cluding the capital, Sanaa.

about the attack.

cal media said Sunday.

ty with a strong base in the northern state of Punjab and believes the bills will increase farmer suffering in the breadbasket state.

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

Her party believes the laws

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

WASHINGTON: Federal of-

ficials have intercepted an

envelope addressed to the

White House that contained

The letter was intercepted

at a government facility that

screens mail addressed to

the White House and Pres-

ident Donald Trump, a law

the poison ricin.

Punjab and neighbouring Harvana 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

Envelope of ricin intercepted

on way to White House

A preliminary investigation

indicated it tested positive

for ricin, a poison found nat-

urally in castor beans, the

The official was not au-

thorised to discuss the

ongoing investigation pub-

licly and spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity. Federal

investigators were working

to determine where the

official said.

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?"

who mailed it. The FBI,

the Secret Service and

the US Postal Inspection

Service were leading the

In a statement, the FBI said

agents were working to in-

vestigate "a suspicious let-

ter received at a US govern-

ment mail facility" and that

there is "no known threat to

investigation.

dry spells. Sometimes they

### 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 oilgrims 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** 

## US judge blocks

NEW YORK: A California

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. US Magistrate Judge Laurel

### Trump's WeChat ban Trump administration says

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 However, hours before the ban was set to come into effect,

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

## German artists rally for Belarus opposition's Kolesnikova

DNA

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 Kole-

### 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.

## 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

MINSIK: 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 "Sparkly March" on Saturday, wear-

ing shiny accessories and carrying redand-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 pres-

sure," 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 released 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.

Libya's NOC

lifts force majeure on

oil

DNA TRIPOLI: Libya's National

Oil Corporation (NOC) has

lifted a force majeure on

what it deemed secure oil

ports and facilities, but said

the measure would remain

in place for facilities where

On Friday, eastern-based

Libyan commander Khalifa

Haftar said his forces would

lift their eight-month block-

ade of oil exports, but did

not say if they would leave

Haftar's self-styled Libyan

National Army (LNA) and

allied forces, including mer-

cenaries from Russia's Wag-

ner Group, hold some of

Libya's largest oil fields and

export ports, and the NOC

had already rejected any re-

turn to operations until they

the facilities they control.

fighters remain.

### **Briefs**

### **UK's Labour** begins virtual bid

DNA

LONDON: Britain's main opposition Labour party on Sunday goes online to try to reinvigorate grassroots support after years of bitter ideological infighting and stinging electoral failure.

The three-day "Labour Connected" event, which replaces the annual conference cancelled because of coronavirus, is the first major gathering of members under new leader Keir Starmer.

The former chief state prosecutor is trying to turn Labour around after its worst election showing since the 1930s in December. His predecessor Jeremy Corbyn quit after his hard-left policies and lack of clarity over Brexit proved a turn-off for voters and sparked fierce internal feuding. Starmer has vowed to reunite the party to recapture the successes of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, who led Labour governments from 1997 to 2010.

Since taking the helm in April, he has won plaudits for trying to win back Jewish members who left in droves because of anti-Semitism that Corbyn was accused of failing to tackle. He has also seen a surge in popularity for his efforts to hold Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson to account for the government's response to the coronavirus outbreak.

### England imposes fine for breaking COVID-19 rules

LONDON: People in England who refuse to self-isolate to stop the spread of coronavirus could face fines of up to 10,000 British pounds (\$13,000) under tough new regulations announced to tackle a surge in cases.

The rules will apply from September 28 to anyone in England who tests positive for the virus or is notified public health workers that they have been in contact with someone infectious. "People who choose to ignore the rules will face significant fines," Prime Minister Boris Johnson said in a statement on Saturday. Fines will start at 1,000 pounds (\$1,300) for a first offence, rising to 10,000 pounds for repeat offenders or cases where employers threaten to sack staff who self-isolate rather than go to work.

Some low-income workers who suffer a loss of earnings will receive a 500-pound (\$650) support payment on top of other benefits, such as sick pay, to which they may be entitled. "While most people are doing their absolute level best to comply with the rules, I don't want to see a situation where people don't feel they are financially able to self-isolate," Johnson said.

### Civilians killed in Afghan gov't air raids

WEB DESK

TEHRAN: A local official in northeastern Afghanistan has said at least 11 civilians were killed in twin air raids that the government said targeted Taliban fighters.

"The first strike hit the Taliban base but the second one caused civilian casualties as they had gathered at the bombed site," Fatima Aziz, a member of parliament who represents Kunduz province, was quoted as

saying by media. She said 11 civilians were killed and five people were missing in the Khanabad district. On Sunday, The Associated Press news agency quoted two witnesses as saying that the civilian death toll stood at 24 and included children. Six other civilians were also reported wounded in the attack, which came as the warring sides hold peace talks. Villagers said an initial air attack targeted a house belonging to a Taliban fighter, whose home doubled as a check post that stops and frisks people to ensure they are not con-

nected to the government.

# Europe rejects US call to return Iran sanctions'

In a statement on Sunday following the expiration of a deadline set by the US, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo threatened "consequences" for any UN member state that does not comply with the punitive measures

**DNA** 

WASHINGTON: The United States has broken with all other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and unilaterally declared the re-imposition of all UN sanctions against Iran - a claim rejected by Iran and the international community, including Washington's close allies, as having no legal basis.

In a statement on Sunday following the expiration of a deadline set by the US, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo threatened "consequences" for any UN member state that does not comply with the punitive measures, which were lifted under a landmark nuclear deal that was signed between six world powers and Iran in 2015 but was abandoned by the US more than two years ago.

In addition to adhering to a conventional arms embargo that is due to expire next month, Pompeo said member states must comply with restrictions such as the ban on Iran engaging in nuclear enrichment and reprocessing-related activities; the prohibition on ballistic missile testing and development; and sanctions on transfer of nuclear and missile-related technologies. "If UN Member States fail

to fulfil their obligations to implement these sanctions, the United States is prepared to use our domestic authorities to impose consequences for those failures and ensure that Iran does not reap the benefits of UN-prohibited activity," Pompeo said.

His statement came a month after the US officially triggered the process aimed at Iran will never succumb to US bullying: President Ruhani
cially known as the Joint dealing with the Iranian parties - that parties - that it has been

TEHAN: Iran's president says the Islamic Republic will never give in to US bullying after the United States claimed it has restored all UN sanctions against Tehran through the so-called snapback mechanism of a landmark nuclear deal clinched in 2015, offi-

restoring all UN sanctions on Iran, claiming significant Iranian violations of the Joint Comprehensive Plan for Action (JCPOA), the formal name for the 2015 deal that was endorsed by the Security

Despite the US in May 2018

Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Addressing a cabinet session on Sunday, Hassan Rouhani added that the US so-called maximum pressure on the Iranian nation in political and legal sectors has led to Washington's "maximum isolation." "We have always said that there is only one way of

pulling out of the deal and reimposing crippling sanctions on Iran, Washington argues it is still technically "participant" and could trigger the so-called "snapback". This was a mechanism devised by the US

negotiating team before

spect," he emphasized. "As Iran's president, I announce that if the US wants to continue its bullying and take a practical step in line with its incorrect assertion - which has been rejected by all

nation and that is to show

respect for the rights of the

Iranian nation and speak to

it with the language of re-

the signing of the JCPOA that stipulated that if Iran breached its commitments. all international sanctions could snap back into place. However, the international community, including the four other permanent Security Council members,

will stand against the US bullying at this juncture as well," he added. insist the US no longer has

able to restore [anti-Iran]

resolutions [passed by the

UN Security Council], he

will be faced with our cat-

egorical response," Iran's

"It is quite clear that Iran

has never yielded to US

bullying at any juncture and

president said.

the legal ability to force through any changes since it announced its exit from what Trump has branded "the worst deal ever" with a presidential memorandum titled Ceasing US Participation in the JCPOA.

the way I feel. It will be a woman. A very

talented, very brilliant woman, who I hav-

en't chosen yet - but we have numerous

women on the list." The 87-year-old Gins-

burg, immensely popular among Demo-

crats, died Friday after a long battle with

cancer. Her death, just weeks before the

presidential election, offers Republicans a

chance to lock in a conservative majority

for decades to come, on a court where

justices are appointed for life. The stakes

left the facilities, citing the safety of its staff. "Force majeure continues in oil fields and ports where the presence of fighters from Wagner and other armed groups that obstruct the activities and operations of NOC is confirmed," the oil company said in a statement posted on its Face-

> book page on Saturday. The country's oil revenues are managed by the NOC and the central bank, both based in Tripoli.

### Anti-Palestinian racism in Canada

DNA

TORONTO: Students and teachers at the University of Toronto have called for the reinstatement of an international scholar's job offer after it was allegedly rescinded by management over her work on Israel's human rights abuses in the occupied Palestinian territories.

university's law school has been accused of blocking the hiring of Valentina Azarova as director of the International Human Rights Program (IHRP) following pressure by a sitting federal judge, who is also a major donor to the faculty, according to emails seen by the Toronto Star newspaper.

In an email sent to law school Dean Edward Iacobucci on September 12, also seen by Canadian daily The Globe and Mail, two former directors of the IHRP programme said the school made an offer to Azarova that she accepted

### **Belarus: Mass** anti-Lukashenko rally planned

DNA

MINSIK: Military trucks and vehicles have rolled into the centre of Belarus's capital, Minsk, before a planned opposition march, as anonymous hackers leaked what they said was the personal data of more than 1,000 police officers in retaliation for a crackdown on anti-government demonstrations.

The protest movement calling for the departure of longtime President Alexander Lukashenko has been holding mass rallies every week since his disputed election win on August 9.

The latest opposition protests were set to begin at 11:00 GMT on Sunday, with the opposition calling on social media for demonstrators to gather in central Minsk as well as in other cities.

Belarusian opposition news sites posted video and photos of the military convoy driving into central Minsk and bringing rolls of barbed wire with it. The protest comes after riot police cracked down

**DNA** 

ISTANBUL: Turkey and

Greece could soon resume

talks over their contested

Mediterranean claims but

European Union leaders

meeting this week will not

help if they threaten sanc-

tions, Turkey's presidential

spokesman said on Sunday.

The NATO members and

neighbors have been

locked in a bitter dispute

over the extent of their

continental shelves in the

eastern Mediterranean.

Tensions flared last month

when Turkey sent a vessel

to survey for gas and oil in

contested waters. Europe-

an Union member Greece

condemned the move as

illegal and pressed, along

with Cyprus, for a strong

response from EU lead-

ers when they meet on

Thursday. Ankara with-

drew the Oruc Reis vessel

last week. It described the

move as a routine mainte-

nance stop but later said

it opened up the chance

for diplomacy to reduce

tensions with Athens. "At

on peaceful female demonstrators on Saturday who had come out wearing shiny accessories for a so-called "Sparkly March". Police dragged protesters into vans, lifting some women off their feet and carried them.

Belarusian interior ministry spokeswoman Olga Chemodanova said on Sunday morning that police had detained 415 people in Minsk, and 15 in other cities, for breaking rules on mass demonstrations. She said 385 had been released. Chemodanova warned Be-

larusians they could face

criminal charges for organ-

ising such protests. The number of detentions on Saturday was far higher than at a similar protest last week, prompting the opposition's Coordination Council to warn of a "new phase in the escalation of violence against peaceful protesters".

Among those held was one of the most prominent faces of the protest movement, 73-year-old activist Nina Baginskaya, although she was later released.

this point, the climate

has become much more

suitable for negotiations

to begin," presidential

spokesman Ibrahim Kalin

told Dogan News Agen-

may start again." Last

month Greece and Tur-

key were on the verge of

resuming those "explora-

tory" talks, suspended in

2016. But Turkey broke

off contact and sent Oruc

Reis into disputed wa-

ters after Greece signed

a maritime demarcation

deal with Egypt, anger-

ing Ankara. Erdogan has

had talks with EU Council

president Charles Michel,

who chairs the meetings

of EU leaders, and German Chancellor Angela

Merkel, who is seeking to

But Cyprus, protesting

the presence of two Turk-

ish exploration vessels in

waters off the divided is-

land, insists on sanctions

against Ankara and has

blocked EU action against

Belarus for alleged elec-

tion fraud until its de-

ease the crisis.

mands are met.

"... Exploratory talks

Turkey may resume talks, with Greece'

### Trump says will name woman to succeed Ginsburg WASHINGTON: CUS President Donald considerably louder for the former. "That's a very accurate poll because that's

Trump on Saturday said he would nominate a woman to succeed late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The president's desire to "to move quickly" on the process, despite Democrats' vehement opposition, is likely to dominate the campaigns - alongside other hot-button issues such as the coronavirus and America's ongoing racial reckoning - ahead of the November 3 election.

"I think it's going to move quickly actually," Trump told reporters outside the White House Saturday, adding that he thought his choice would be made "next week." Addressing a rally in Fayetteville,

Country sinking in unsustainable

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is mired in an unsustainable debt as billions are being borrowed without any justification an FPCCI official said Sunday. Horrible crimes have be-

debt: FPCCI

come the order of the day due to political interference in important departments which has unnerved masses and emerged as a challenge for the criminal justice system, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, Convener FPCCI Central Standing Committee on Insurance. - DNA



North Carolina later that day, he took an impromptu poll from the crowd, asking them to cheer for either a woman or a man to be his pick. The crowd cheered

### are high as the decision could affect such weighty issues as abortion, healthcare, Thai demonstrators challenge monarchy

DNA

BANGKOK: Openly challenging the rule of Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn, thousands of protesters have marched in Bangkok for the second straight day to present demands that include a call for reforms

to curb his powers. Protesters have grown bolder during two months of demonstrations calling for reform of the monarchy, as well as for the removal of Prime Minister

Prayuth Chan-ocha, a former military government leader, and a new constitution and elections-dominated establishment.

Criticising the monarchy has long been taboo, and is illegal under lese-majeste laws.

The king is not in Thailand, and the Grand Palace made no immediate comment. The marchers were blocked by hundreds of unarmed police manning crowd-control barriers, but protest leaders declared a victory after saying Royal Guard police had agreed to pass on their demands to police headquarters. "Our greatest victory in the two days is to show that ordinary people like

us can send a letter to royals," Parit "Penguin" Chiwarak told the crowd. The police made no immediate comment.

> Protesters also announced on Sunday that they will hit the streets anew on Thursday, and mount a major strike on October 14, the anniversary of the 1973 student uprising.



ISLAMABAD" Ambassador of Morocco Mohammed Karmoune, Political Counselor Abdul Rahim and Editor Daily Islamabad Post posing for a picture at the Moroccan embassy. – DNA

## 'Pakistani entrepreneurs must develop brands'

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

ABID RAZA

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 institu-

tional 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.



# Islamahar POST



US magazine

spotlights Pakistan

response

**DNA** 

NEW YORK: A report in

Newsweek, an American

weekly magazine, has drawn attention to Pakistan's re-

buttal of the recent Indian

allegations about what New

Delhi called "unprovoked

ceasefire violations" by Pa-

kistani army along the Line

of Control sector in the dis-

Quoting a Pakistani official,

the report said that Islam-

abad, in turn, blamed New

Delhi for both the incidents.

"The Indian Army resort-

ed to unprovoked fire in

Nekrun Sector, targeting

military posts and civilians

alike across the Line of Con-

trol with automatic weapons,

rockets and heavy mortars,'

the Pakistani official was

quoted as saying by News-

week. "These unilateral prov-

ocations were responded [to]

appropriately by [the] Paki-

stan Army," the official said.

"Indian Army persistent-

ly targets civil population

residing on its side of the

LoC while they are busy in

routine chores," the official

added. "Such unprofession-

al and unethical acts are

confounded by allegations of

sponsoring terrorism across

LOC." Newsweek also car-

ried the Pakistani Foreign

Ministry's statement accus-

ing India of wounding three

civilians at the village of

Andrala Nar in cross-border

shelling against the Hot-

spring and Jandrot Sectors.

A senior Indian diplomat,

it said, was summoned in

response to that incident,

which the ministry argued

was intended to distract

from a deteriorating hu-

manitarian and security

situation in the Illegally In-

dian Occupied Jammu and

Kashmir. The disputed ter-

ritory has been in an effec-

tive state of lockdown since

August of last year, when

India removed Jammu and

Kashmir State's semi-auton-

omous status and flooded it

with paramilitary forces, it

was pointed out.

puted Kashmir region.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 | WWW.ISLAMABADPOST.COM.PK

## 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 "sovindependence, ereignty, 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." He further added: "This is a unique moment for Afghanistan. Not only are Afghan parties negotiating directly, but as indicated by the UNSC statement, there is broad international support for a negotiated political settlement and peace in Afghanistan. "This unique opportunity must be seized," he added. The UNSC, in a statement, welcomed the start of the Afghanistan peace negotiations in Doha, Qatar. The members of the UNSC also recognized that "a sustainable peace can be achieved only through a comprehensive and inclusive Afghan-led, Afghan-owned peace process that aims at a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire, as well as an inclusive political settlement to end the conflict in Afghanistan.'

### 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 gangraped 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 arrest ed soon like his accomplice. Shafqat Ali, was apprehended earlier this week.

Sultan - who heads a six-member special investigation team set up by the inspector-general (IG) of police for Puniab, Inam Ghani - explained that at least eight designated raid teams were working in trying to search for and arrest the key suspect in the Lahore motorway gang-rape case. The eight teams have personnel from Punjab Police's Crime Investigation Agency (CIA), the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), and

### Nation stands with govt rhetoric, says Ch Sarwar

the Special Branch, he said.

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 floodhit areas of Sindh.

During the meeting, Sarwar said that all parties conference will be continued till 2023 but the incumbent government led by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will complete its five-year term. He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has always turned impossible into possible. The Punjab governor said that the present government is working for the development of weak segments of the society and nobody could criticise the honesty of the premier Imran Khan.

# 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.

The Indian occupation forces had martyred 25year old Imtiyaz Ahmed, 20-year old Mohammad Ibrar, and 16-year old Abrar Ahmed in so-called "cordon and search" operation 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.

In a statement issued on September 18, the Indian Army accepted that the powers vested under the draconian Armed Forces

### **OIC urges probe into** fake encounters

JEDDAH: The Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-IPHRC) 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-IPHRC in a twitter message said, "Admission of this heinous act [by Indian forces] reinforces IPHRC'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 (AF-SPA) supported by the [Indian] State apparatus under the Hindutva ideology and widely condemned by UN, OHCHR and OIC." The OIC-IPHRC urged the international community to establish Commission of Inquiry under the United Nations to investigate these extrajudicial killings and grave human rights violations. - DNA

Special Powers Act (AF-SPA) 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.

To cover up the "cold blooded" murder of these innocent Kashmiris, the Indian occupation army had claimed that the three were "unidentified terrorists." To further hide their

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.'

"Pakistan has been consistently sensitizing the world community, including the United Nations and the international human rights organizations, about India's serious crimes against the Kashmiri people. The Indian Army's statement of 18 September is an acknowledgement that Indian occupation forces are guilty of war crimes in IIOJK," the spokesperson said.

## reducing **President**

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minisrules through a bill.

He contacted his adviser on to formulate legislation for ending VIP expenditures on public funds. Following the Babar Awan expedited work on the legislation.

## **Imran mulls** perks of PM

ter Imran Khan has decided to reduce the perks and privileges of the president and premier by amending the While showing his commit-

ment for cutting down the expenditures of the national exchequer, PM Imran Khan decided to reduce perks and privileges of the president and prime minister.

parliamentary affairs, Dr Babar Awan, and instructed him to pass a law from the parliament to allow reducing the perks of the prime minister. He directed him directives of the premier,

continuing professional devel-

opment program (CPD) for

the young engineers. Brig (r)

Engr Fiaz Hussain Shah, Ex-

DG National Disaster Man-

agement Authority (NDMA)

was the resource person who

highlighted the preventive

measures that could be taken

to reduce or minimize the

Engr. Ahmed Shamim, con-

vener of CPD conducted the

session and around sixty en-

gineers attended the session.

Also present on the occasion

were chairman IEP-RIC, Engr.

Hafiz M. Ehsan ul Haq Qazi,

Secretary IEP-RIC Gp. Capt.

disaster's hazards.

### Railways retrieve 383 acres land

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, 90,326acre is in Punjab, 39,428acre in Sindh, 28,228-acre in Balochistan and 9,708-acre i n Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said the Geographic Information System (GIS) survev 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 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 KCR land from the land grabbers in the province. He said Royal Palm Golf and Country Club case had decided in favour of Pakistan Railways by the Supreme Court - bids have been called for transparent outsourcing of the club man-

#### 'Hard decisions on cards if virus resurges'

**DNA** HYDERABAD: Sindh Edu-

cation 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.

## China's inactivated vaccines available by year 2020 end

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

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 COV-ID-19 inactivated vaccines may be available on the market by the end of 2020, according to China National Biotec 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.

receiving the vaccines for emergency use. Both of the vaccines' safety and efficacy are sound. It is hoped that the vaccines will be on the market before the end of 2020.

Yang also said that the inactivated COVID-19 vaccines of CNBG can be effective to multiple novel Coronavirus strains around the world based on the cross-neutralization test.

In terms of the production of the inactivated COVID-19 vaccines, CNBG

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. By early August three vaccines under research in China had entered phase

Ltd.(Sinopharm), is a large health-

has set up its production workshops care group. Sinopharm has a full in just two months. chain in the industry covering R&D, manufacturing, logistics and distribution, retail chains, healthcare, engineering services, exhibitions and conferences, international business and financial services.

Earlier on Friday, officials in China said four vaccines are now in phase-III clinical trials.

"So far, we have 11 vaccines that have entered clinical trials, among which four have entered phase three clinical trials," state-affiliated China Global CanSino Biologics and a team led by infectious disease expert Chen Wei is an adenoviral vector-based vaccine, while the other three are based on the inactivated virus, according to CGTN.

### 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. It was aimed at apprising the young engineers about their role and responsibilities for better disaster-risk management and promoting community's capacity to manage the risk through indigenous resources.

The event was arranged by

® Engr. Najamuddin and chairman building committee the Center as part of their IEP Prof. Dr. Sharif Bhatti. (Under PEC Licer

#### three clinical trials, accounting for Television Network (CGTN) quoted half of the world's total, according to Wang Zhigang, Chinese Minister for An additional 350, 000 people are the World Health Organization. Science and Technology, as speaking China has stated that it will make at the Global Science and Life Health its COVID-19 vaccine a global public Forum in Beijing. "China boosted the good when available, contributing to development of five technical routes in parallel for COVID-19 vaccines,' vaccine accessibility and affordability he added. Among the four candidate in developing countries. CNBG is a comprehensive biopharvaccines in China, the one developed maceutical enterprise focusing on by Chinese biopharmaceutical firm

human vaccines, blood products, medical aesthetics and animal healthcare. CNBG's parent company China National Pharmaceutical Group Co.,

## 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 the rest of the world. Therefore, this tunkhwa is not just cheap but is

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). Talking to China Economic Net Hassan Daud said that Rashakai SEZ would be developed under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor located at Nowshera-Mardan Road, around 57km away from Peshawar airport in the country's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province.

He said that anything that is produced within this SEZ can easily be exported to Afghanistan and through road connectivity from Gwadar, it can easily be exported to 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 Rashakai special econom-

ic zone will contribute immensely towards the geo and socio-economic conditions of not just only in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but entire Pakistan. It will create around 200,000 job opportunities and will bring different industries that cando import substitution and bring new technologies" he told CEN in an exclusive interview. Daud mentioned this project is

within the umbrella of CPEC and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This is the first special economic zone that is being developed in a public-private partnership. if this experiment proves to be fruitful, 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. Regarding the question about what kind of incentive Chinese investors would get, Daud told, there are many incentives under the framework of CPEC Special Economic Zone Act 2013; that stipulates industry that is set up in any special economic zones under CPEC would get tax relief for 10 years on import duty and also on income tax for a similar period. He said that for the developer there is an exemption on import of development equipment for one time so that they can develop the special economic zone on modern lines. Besides this, the government offers special security for foreign investors. Lastly, the human resource of Khyber Pakhalso 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. Butt said that Rashakai Special Economic Zone will be developed in three phases, in the first phase. the infrastructure and road network will be developed, and also the industries can start the development after the bidding process. The first phase would be completed in less than two years. The second phase, which will largely be about expansion and looking at modern trends and inviting new technologies. The last phase will again be about the expansion of this SEZ. Initially, Rashakai SEZ would cover about 1,000 Acre land 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.

The people from FATA will naturally become the employment pool for this special economic zone because they are extremely hardworking, extremely talented, and they have the historic knack of economic and trade activities, he added. Daud mentioned that many Chinese investors have shown interest to invest in this special economic zone because they are aware of the importance of the location and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) as a place which is called a land of growing opportunity for local and particularly

foreign investors.