



Islamabad POST

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Prime Minister Imran Khan lauds services of ambassador Yao Jing

Chinese scholar lauds Pakistan's role in Afghan talks



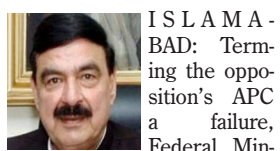
Alisher Navoi Uzbek Language Center at Peshawar University



Briefs

Nawaz has shut all doors for his return

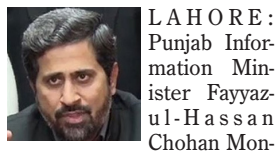
DNA



ISLAMABAD: Terminating the opposition's APC a failure, Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Saturday said that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has shut all doors for his return to Pakistan after his address at the moot. Talking to private news channel, Sheikh Rashid questioned Nawaz's credibility as he spoke against the establishment, noting that Nawaz "was brought to power by the former military ruler General Ziaul Haq", and adding that he believed that "the PML-N supremo will now take political asylum in the UK".

Opposition deceiving each other: Fayyaz

DNA



LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Fayyaz-ul-Hasan Chohan Monday said Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Fazal-ur-Rehman are deceiving each other. The provincial minister said in his video statement that the opposition has given four months for making deal with the government but all parties should know that Prime Minister Imran Khan will not NRO to anyone. Fayyaz Chohan said, "Twelve opposition parties finalized corruption plan for next four months on Sunday. The nation witnessed such a plan of corruption in 2000 also."

US outraged by EU leaders' refusal

DNA



WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has laid into European leaders for failing to do anything to bring back the United Nations' sanctions against Iran lifted under Tehran's nuclear deal with the world powers. On Saturday, the US top diplomat claimed the UN sanctions had been reimposed against Iran, a claim that came even as the Trump administration failed to extend the conventional weapons embargo set to expire next month under the deal.

Govt hits back at Opposition

Nawaz attempted to 'malign' the 2018 elections, added the foreign minister

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Monday slammed the opposition's multi-party conference that it referred to an All Parties Conference (APC) and said that Nawaz Sharif had cast doubts over the 2018 elections as the results weren't in his favour. Minister for Information Shibli Faraz — addressing a press conference flanked by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Planning Minister Asad Umar, and Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry — said that Nawaz looked "fit" during his speech at the conference yesterday. Speaking on the permission granted by the government to air the conference on TV, Faraz said that Prime Minister Imran Khan had decided that speeches of opposition leaders Nawaz Sharif, Asif Ali Zardari, and Bilawal Bhutto should be aired on TV. "Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman [was left] but we did not stop his broadcast, the PPP did that," he said. Nawaz attempted to 'malign' the 2018 general elections, added the foreign minister.

Continued on Page 04

Opposition promoted Indian agenda: PM

KHAYAM ABBASI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: A day after convicted former premier Nawaz Sharif's no-holds-barred onslaught against what he called the "parallel state" in Pakistan, Prime Minister Imran Khan said that "once again a fugitive sitting in London is maligning the state institutions". Nawaz Sharif's speech and the story published in Times of India reflect the same agenda, the premier said while speaking to members of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on Monday. "Sharif's PML-N has once again promoted the Indian agenda. New Delhi wanted to vilify Pakistan's state institution ahead of the UN General Assembly session which opened on Sept 15 and will continue until Sept 30."



ISLAMABAD: China's Ambassador to Pakistan, Yao Jing, paid farewell call on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Prime Minister Office on Monday. — DNA

SC stays extradition of bombing suspect

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday asked for extradition agreements (if any) signed by Pakistan with the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States as it heard a petition challenging a terror suspect's extradition to the US. "Are there extradition agreements with the US and the UK?" asked the apex court while hearing a petition filed by Talha Haroon, who fears he will be extradited to the US over alleged involvement in the New York Times Square bombing. The court meanwhile issued a stay order barring the government from extraditing Haroon while it hears the case. The court, while summoning the details from the attorney general and foreign ministry, directed the officials to present details of how many prisoners were extradited from and to Pakistan from the US and the UK.

PM lauds services of Amb. Yao Jing

Ambassador Yao underlined that the Prime Minister's vision and leadership was instrumental in Pakistan's transformation

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: China's Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Yao Jing, paid farewell call on Prime Minister Imran Khan. During the call, Prime Minister lauded efforts of Ambassador Yao in further deepening and strengthening Pakistan-China "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership". The Prime Minister conveyed that the people of Pakistan were keenly looking forward to welcoming President Xi Jinping to Pakistan. Appreciating priorities of Chinese leadership for its

people, Prime Minister emphasized that the Chinese leadership had played a remarkable role in China's socio-economic transformation and there was a lot to learn from Beijing's example of economic development and poverty alleviation. Prime Minister underlined that during Ambassador's tenure, CPEC had entered the second phase focusing on industrialization, agriculture and socio-economic development and would play a key role in promoting regional growth and prosperity. Ambassador Yao thanked Prime Minister Imran Khan for the leadership role he

had played in further solidifying and deepening Pakistan's relationship with China which was greatly valued by the Chinese leaders at the highest level. Ambassador Yao underlined that the Prime Minister's vision and leadership was instrumental in Pakistan's transformation. He emphasized that with Prime Minister's personal focus on poverty alleviation and people-centered approach, CPEC had entered into its second phase and will deliver substantial and immense benefits not only to people of Pakistan but the entire region.

Continued on Page 04



ISLAMABAD: Federal Ministers, Senator Shibli Faraz, Asad Umar, FM Qureshi and Ch Fawad Hussain addressing a press conference. — DNA

Thar Coal Mine Power project completed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The landmark building of Thar integrated coal-mine power project has been completed, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Monday.

According to the report, the concrete casting of the chimney (170 meters in height) of the 2x660MW Thar Block-1 Coal Project is now finished. This laid down the foundation for the subsequent construction of desulfurization area of the power station.

Tang Jiayu, the project manager of Shanghai Electric's Thar Coal Project stated that, the chimney is the highest

Maintenance contract signed

SAIFULLAH / DNA

ISLAMABAD: A seven-year maintenance contract for Gwadar 300MW coal-fired power station has been signed here, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. The contract is based on Gwadar 300MW coal-fired power station engineering procurement construction (EPC) contract signed last year.

Continued on Page 04

structure of the project. The construction of the chimney has lasted more than 10 months, using 1,200 tons of steel reinforcement and 7,452 cubic meters of concrete. Since the spread of the COVID-19, the construction progress of the project has been interrupted

by the pandemic-induced travel restrictions which have made it difficult for the workers and equipment to enter the country, causing a substantial shortage of the on-site workforce and logistics delay, slowing down the overall progress.

Continued on Page 04

Six Pak banks' named in FinCEN leaks

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: The names of six Pakistani banks have also surfaced with regard to the transactions leaked in Fin CEN files.

It's the latest leak during past five years that has exposed secret deals, money laundering and financial crime.

The leaked documents, involving about \$2tn of transactions, have revealed how some of the world's biggest banks allowed criminals to move dirty money around the world.

Six Pakistani banks that have been named in leaked files, which sent or received over all 1.942 million dollars in 39 transactions.

'Army has no role in politics'

The military leadership assured that the army will continue to help civil administration whenever it is needed

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: While stressing on fast and effective implementation over the National Action Plan (NAP), the military leadership of Pakistan has stressed that Pakistan Army is, directly or indirectly, not associated with any political activity in the country.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa and Director-General of Inter-Services Intelligence (DG ISI) Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed met parliamentary leaders the other day and discussed administrative affairs of Gilgit-Baltistan.

It has been learnt that the military leadership stressed to keep the army away from

COAS calls on PM Imran

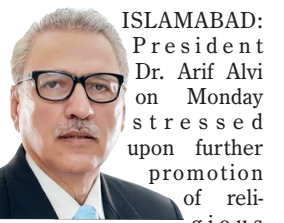
STAFF REPORT/DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Monday met Prime Minister Imran Khan. The members of the federal cabinet and other officials were also present in the meeting. The meeting was given a briefing on the Indian aggression along the LoC.

political matters. Pakistan Army will always help the civil administration and has no role in election reforms and the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), the military leadership said.

President stresses religious harmony

RAJA PERVAIZ



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Monday stressed upon further promotion of religious harmony and unity among all ranks of the society as Pakistan had reached to a tipping point from where it was heading towards a brighter future. Addressing Wahdat-e-Ummat conference at the Awan e Sadr, the President underscored the important role of Ulema and Mashaikhs in the society, urging them to continue playing their role in foiling all evil designs aimed at sowing seeds of religious disharmony and discord in the society.

51 students virus test positive

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: As many as 51 students, three teachers and a staffer tested positive for the novel coronavirus in various schools in Punjab on Monday. Talking to journalists, Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department Secretary Captain (retd) Muhammad Usman confirmed that 51 students and three teachers were diagnosed with COVID-19, adding that nine class rooms of various educational institutions have been sealed for violation of SOPs. He said various teams of the health department had taken samples of 28,887 students. Of them, results of 6,168 students came out negative while 41 students were diagnosed with the virus.

Inside...

'WAPDA to increase share of hydropower in energy mix' — Page 02

'Trade volume between Pakistan and Cyprus should be enhanced' — Page 03

Mubashar Choudry raises CSF issue with Armed Services Committee — Page 04

SCO ensuring regional peace and stability — Page 05

FinCEN Files: Tracing the flow of dirty money — Page 06

FPCCI salutes Army role for peace, development in tribal areas — Page 07

Chinese scholar lauds Pakistan's leading role in Afghan peace process — Page 08

Why Opposition's movement may prove barren?

IN my Sept 21 piece, I dwelled upon various factors that led to holding of the All Parties Conference or some would call it Multiparty Conference in Islamabad on September 20, 2020. This is not for the first time that the opposition parties have joined hands against government. Especially PPP and PML N have a history of forming alliances and then betraying each other. Analysts believe this time too history may repeat itself and these two main opposition parties once again leave each other in the lurch and at a time when their anti-government movement would be at its peak. As discussed in my yesterday's piece, both parties have their own axe to grind when it comes to dislodging the government or the supporters of this government, who according to these parties happen to be the establishment. Former Prime Minister Nawaz

Sharif's September 20 speech from London was in fact an open challenge to the establishment that if voted to power again PML N would settle all scores. PML N critics believe if PML N is in deep crisis these days it is because of the belligerent attitude of its supreme leader. Unlike, PML N President Shahbaz Sharif really wants to work with the establishment knowing the fact very well that their (establishment) role in Pakistan's politics has become a reality now therefore politicians and the establishment will have to work in tandem for the smooth functioning of the system. That is why Shahbaz Sharif during his APC speech did not touch upon anything that would draw ire of the powers that be. Now the question is why the opposition parties have chose this period of time for their anti-govt rallies. According to their plan their

COMMENT



ANSAR BHATTI

movement will start in October and final showdown in the shape of long march will take place in January 2021. The opposition's real predicament stems from the fact that in March 2021 Senate elections shall take place and since PTI has majority now in KPK, Center and Balochistan also there-

fore it will win majority in Senate as well after March elections. And majority in Senate means the govt will have two-thirds majority in the Parliament to amend Constitution. Once govt gets majority then changing the 18th Amendment or legislation for a presidential form of government will become easy. Opposition wants to do some miracles meanwhile in order to stop PTI and its allies getting majority in the Senate. Then, PML N and PPP have realized that their survival lies in politics of agitation. That is the only way to keep their opponents at their toes. Politically that is a smart move so we can say better late never. All said and done, what can be those factors due to which opposition's movement may not prove a success? First, the opposition movement is driven by the fact that their leaders are facing charges or some are in prison so these

parties want a relief for them. Secondly, the opposition is launching protests only because it thinks the government is illegitimate and thrust upon people by force. This excuse also appears to be flimsy and freak. History would bear testimony to the fact that all mass movements can only succeed if supported by general public. And in this case general public may not be interested for it has already tried and tested all these parties for more than once. Then these parties are facing internal problems as well. Half-hearted and disjointed movements can hardly yield any results. There is no denying the fact that even the PTI experience has backfired but then the alternate choices too may be equally dangerous and counterproductive. So, we can rightly say that Pakistani people are indeed between the devil and the deep sea!

Briefs

Polio eradication campaign kicks off

ISLAMABAD: A 5-day country-wide polio eradication campaign began on Monday (today) during which forty million children below five years age would be administered anti-polio vaccine across the country. According to details, this was the first nationwide campaign in the country after its four-month suspension due to COVID-19 outbreak. The scope of this campaign was much larger and seeks to vaccinate all children under the age of five through door-to-door visits by almost 270,000 vaccinators all over the country, electronic channels reported. The polio vaccinators have received a comprehensive training on how to vaccinate children safely within the COVID-19 context. The polio eradication programme has put strict measures for all staff following the Government's set guidelines on COVID-19 preventative measures.

633 new virus cases, four deaths reported

ISLAMABAD: The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Monday were recorded 7,015 as 633 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. Four corona patient, who were under treatment in hospital died on Sunday, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). No COVID-19 affected person was on ventilator in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Balochistan, while 106 ventilators elsewhere in Pakistan, out of 1,912 allocated for COVID-19 patients, were occupied. Some 33,393 tests were conducted across the country on Sunday, including 13,198 in Sindh, 10,589 in Punjab, 3,138 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 4,243 in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 1,195 in Balochistan, 397 in Gilgit Baltistan (GB), and 633 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). Around 292,869 people have recovered from the disease so far across Pakistan making it a significant count with over 90 percent recovery ratio of the affected patients. Since the pandemic outbreak, a total of 306,304 cases were detected so far, including AJK 2,533, Balochistan 14,394, GB 3,483, ICT 16,162, KP 37,357, Punjab 98,428 and Sindh 133,947. About 6,420 deaths were recorded in country since the eruption of the contagion, including 2,460 in Sindh, 2,226 in Punjab, 1,258 in KP, 180 in ICT, 145 in Balochistan, 82 in GB and 69 in AJK. A total of 3,194,317 corona tests have been conducted so far, while 735 hospitals are equipped with COVID facilities. Some 837 corona patients were admitted in hospitals across the country. — APP

'WAPDA to increase share of hydropower in energy mix'

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry appreciated WAPDA for gaining stable rating

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Lt. Gen. Muzammil Hussain (Retd), Chairman WAPDA said that the construction activities on the strategically important DiamerBasha Dam Project were picking up pace and this project would provide over 16000 jobs to the engineers and local people leading to poverty alleviation and socio-economic uplift of the local area. He said that DiamerBasha Dam was at the highest point of the world with a huge water storage capacity of 8.1 million acre feet (MAF) and huge power generation capacity of 4500 MW. He said this dam was a vital project for water, food and energy security of Pakistan and will go a long way in stabilizing the economy. He said this dam would produce low cost energy that would boost industrial and agricultural productivity of

the country. He also briefed the ICCI delegation about the under construction hydropower projects including KeyalKhawar, Dasu, KhurramTangi Dams. He said that Mohamad Dam, Bunji Dam and Tarbela 5th Extension were also ready for construction and all these dams would be instrumental in generating cheap hydropower in the country. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry appreciated WAPDA for gaining stable rating, which was a great achievement for it. He also lauded the efforts of WAPDA for initiating vital projects for water storage and hydropower generation



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in various parts of the country. He said that Pakistan was mostly relying on thermal power due to which energy cost was quite high in the country. He said that Pakistan should focus on hydropower and renewable energy sources to produce cheap energy that would reduce production cost and boost business activities. Saif urRehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Malik Sohail Hussain former Senior Vice President ICCI and Chief Coordinator FCCI UBG and Muhammad Aslam Khokharsaid that Pakistan was facing the water scarcity challenges. However, it was encouraging that WAPDA was trying its best to build more dams in the country that would reduce water shortage and help in generating cheap hydropower that was important to reduce the cost of doing business in the country.

Govt auctions Rs23.2 mln land in Nawabshah

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government has auctioned Rs 23.2 million through open bidding in Nawabshah owned by different Ministries and government departments. The land of 22 properties including 40 canal land near Nawabshah Airport have been auctioned, said a press release issued by Ministry of Privatization here on Monday. The land situated in Nawabshah is the property of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Aviation Division, and Pakistan. The reserved price of the subject land is Rs 8 million. The property in Nawabshah was auctioned in Rs 23.2 million. The auction, including all auctions before the present one have been auctioned through open competition and the highest bidder will be granted the right of ownership of the specified property. The final approval will be granted by CCOP/Federal Cabinet.

Creativity key to success: President PBF

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said coronavirus has changed the world forever. Only those nations and businesses will survive amid new challenges which can adapt to the new realities, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said this while speaking at Global Online Innovation Summit 2020 organized by Institute of Research Promotion. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the importance of online businesses as well as innovation is multiplying at a rapid pace and the world is seeking new ideas in every field. He said that pandemic has left many businesses bankrupt while many new businesses have appeared on the horizon and the change will continue for decades. People move from homes to factories in eighteenth century and now many have moved from factories and offices to homes.

Hindu community holds protest

DNA

BADIN: All Hindu Panchayat Badin held protest demonstration in front of Badin press club against mysterious death of 11 family members of Bheel community in Indian territory Jodhpur of Rajasthan. The protest led by Manji, Veero Mal, Manji Lal and others. The protestors chanted slogans against atrocious act. While talking protestors said 11 family members of Bheel clan migrated from Sindh province to India were brutally tortured and murdered. They said criminals involved in murder of innocent family members of Bheel community were not exposed and held. The protestors said it was regrettable that human rights organizations were silent over such cruelty.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan chairs meeting regarding rationalization of subsidies. — DNA

Buzdar seeks reply from IGP over Motorway case



DNA

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has sought reply from IGP Punjab Inam Ghani on the non-arrest of the accused in the motorway rape case. Punjab Chief Minister while seeking reply from IGP Punjab asked that what

progress has been made so far in the motorway case and why the main accused has not been arrested. On the other hand, 13 relatives of Abid Malhi, accused in the motorway abuse case, are in custody but he is still at large. According to sources, the accused has Rs35,000. Police are using all means to find the accused. Investigative sources said that the identity of the arrested accused Shafqat has not been paraded yet. The arrested accused Shafqat has been sent to jail on a 14-day remand. The victim has to record section 161 statement first and then section 164 statement will be recorded in the court.

2 injured in factory building collapse

KARACHI: Two people were injured after the building of a factory collapsed near Cement Chowringi in Karachi's Sher Shah on Monday afternoon. Rescue officials and police teams have started reaching the site. It is feared that multiple people are stuck under the debris. People from neighbouring areas have started a rescue operation on the own. The administration has also called for heavy machinery at the site. There were three departments in the building. According to witnesses, most workers had gone for prayers and lunch when the building collapsed. According to an employee, the owner of the factory was informed about the weak building two months ago but no action was taken. The police have recorded statements and have begun investigations. A team of the Sindh Building and Control Authority has also left for the collapse site. — DNA

Alisher Navoi Uzbek Language Center at Peshawar University

Under the initiative of the Embassy, PU hosted a scientific and literary conference dedicated to the works of Alisher Navoi



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Uzbekistan to Pakistan took part in the opening ceremony of Alisher Navoi Uzbek Language Center at Peshawar University. At the event, a collection of books, «Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek language» published in a new edition by the Department of State Language Development of the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan, as well as works by Alisher Navoi, various literatures and collections were solemnly handed over to the Center. Under the initiative of the Embassy, Peshawar University hosted a scientific and literary conference dedicated to the works of Alisher Navoi, in which linguists, specialists and students spoke about the life, work, legacy and role of this great thinker in the history of Uzbekistan. Views were expressed on the great contribution of



Alisher Navoi to the development of the Uzbek language, literature and his scientific work.

Govt committed for youth empowerment: Usman Dar

MUHAMMAD TAHIR

FAISALABAD. Government is fully committed to provide easy access to much needed capital to our youth ranging from 21 to 45 years of age so that they could fully exploit their entrepreneurial skills to further strengthen the national economy, said Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs and Chairman PM Youth Program Mr. Usman Dar. Addressing a cheque distribution ceremony

under Kamyat Youth Program (KYP) in the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry here today, he said that the government has allocated Rs.100 billion for the first phase of this program. He appreciated the skills of Pakistani youth and said that the successive government failed to exploit their God-gifted capabilities and thus they became a burden instead of gearing up the pace of national progress and prosperity. The micro, cottage and SME sectors faced continuous crisis as the successive government did not con-

centrate on these segments, he said, adding that the Prime Minister is fully aware of the importance of the textile sector and is considering setting up a full fledged textile ministry very soon to focus on the SME sector. Regarding Kamyat Youth Program (KYP), he said that the SME sector was badly ignored in the past despite 80% share in exports and 25-30% share in GDP. "In spite of its excellent performance, only 6% of total released loans were gone to the SME sector", he added.

He said that KYP will also generate one million jobs for our youths. "Government is also working on "Ease of doing business" and "Cost of doing business", he said and added that taxes would also be curtailed within next few months, enabling our exporters to compete with their international competitors. Regarding high rates of electricity and gas, he said that it is due to the ill-conceived policies of previous governments that restrain the present government to trim it. However, on the direction of the Prime Minister, the refund claims of the last many years are being cleared on top priority basis. About the popularity of KYP in Faisalabad division, he said that as many as 21,000 youth have uploaded demand of Rs.27 billion. "The scrutiny of these applications will be started very soon as all 21 banks have been involved in it", he added.



SEPTEMBER 2020

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Briefs

Int'l peace day observed at PUCAR

DNA

RAWALPINDI: International Peace Day observed by Lions Club International and Punjab Council of the Arts, Rawalpindi on Monday. A competition was arranged in which more than 50 students participated. The exhibition was inaugurated by Director PUCAR. The students highlighted the importance of peace in posters. A peace walk was started from the main gate of arts council and ended at Adabi Baithak followed by Peace Seminar. The participants of the walk chanted slogans for peace. A delegation of Peace Committee also participated in walk. Sabaain Raza Lodhi anchored the events. Participants of the seminar addressing at the occasion said that peace is need of the time and everyone must play his role to promote the culture of tolerance.

COVID-19 SOPs being followed during anti-polio drive

RAWALPINDI: The five-day anti-polio campaign kicked off in the entire district of Rawalpindi on Monday to cover more than 875,000 children below five years age. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Health Authority Dr. Sohail Chaudhary informed that around 3000 polio teams, 270 health centers, allied hospitals and tehsil headquarter hospitals are participating in the drive. The CEO said that Standard operating procedure (SOPs) regarding COVID-19 were being followed to ensure the safety of polio teams during the drive. He said polio drops were also being administered at transit points to ensure that all children be immunized below five years age. Sohail said that staff deployed for the campaign have been instructed that no negligence in this regard would be tolerated. "The parents should cooperate with special teams so that the set target could be achieved," he added. — APP

Rs357.232 mln released for petroleum sector

ISLAMABAD: The government has released funds amounting to Rs357.232 million during first three months of the current fiscal year to execute eight petroleum projects under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2020-21) against the total allocation of Rs 1,786.160 million. According to the official data, the government has authorized/dischursed an amount of Rs 357.232 as of September 18. As per the to the PSDP details, the government has earmarked an amount of Rs 1,662.684 million for five ongoing projects, out of which Rs 100 million would be spent in expansion and upgradation of Pakistan Petroleum Corehouse (PETCORE), Rs 6.524 million for exploration and evaluation of coal in Noshah and Bahlol areas of Balochistan, Rs 303.160 million for supply of 13.5 Million Cubic Feet per Day (MMCFD) gas to Dhabeji Special Economic Zone, Rs 1,153 million for supply of 30 MMCFD gas at doorstep (Zero Point) of Rashakai Special Economic Zone Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Rs 100 million for upgradation of HDIP's POL testing facilities at Islamabad, Lahore, Multan, Peshawar, Quetta and ISO Certification of Petroleum Testing Laboratory at Islamabad. While, Rs 123.476 million have been kept for three new schemes, out of which Rs 48 million would be utilized for establishment of National Minerals Data Centre, Rs 20 million for geological mapping of 50 Toposheets (out of 354 unmapped Toposheets) of outcrop area of Balochistan and Rs 55.476 million for strengthening, upgradation and ISO certification of Karachi Laboratories Complex (KLC) at HDIP Operations Office, Karachi. — APP

Trade volume between Pakistan and Cyprus should be enhanced: Sanjrani

The Honorary Consul General of Cyprus briefed the Chairman Senate about the efforts for enhancing the trade relations and the problems being faced by 5000 students from Cyprus studying in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Cyprus enjoy cordial historic relations in different areas of mutual interest including political, social and trade. There is a need to further cement bilateral ties through exchange of parliamentary and other delegations as there is a huge potential to boost these relations. Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani expressed these views while talking to Honorary Consul General of the republic of Cyprus who called on him here at Parliament House on Monday. Chairman Senate said that boosting the parliamentary relations would not only enhance the chances for better trade relations but would also argue the existing political ties between two countries. The Honorary Consul General of Cy-



prus brief the Chairman Senate about the efforts for enhancing the trade relations and the problems being faced by 5000 students from Cyprus studying in Pakistan.

On this occasion Chairman Senate said that all out efforts would be made to provide better facilities to the students from Cyprus in Pakistan as they are not only the ambassador of their country but would serve as good source for improving the cultural and social ties between two sides.

He said that a large number of Pakistan students are also studying in Cyprus and we expect that they would also be properly facilitated. Chairman Senate calls for exchange of delegations from Chambers of Commerce of both the countries to increase the trade volume. He assured that the Upper House of the Parliament would continue to play a proactive role in this regard.

114 PSVs challan over route permits

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Cantt Circle has taken action in accordance with the law against Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) running without route permits and fitness certificates. According to Deputy Superintendent Police (DSP) Cantt Circle, under a special campaign launched on the directive of City Traffic Officer, Rawalpindi, CTP took action against PSVs particularly those running without route permits and fitness certificates. He said, 87 vehicles which were without route permits and 27 for not having fitness certificates were issued challan slips during this month. He informed that Traffic Wardens deployed at Kutchary Stop, Jhelum Road and Airport Road were directed to conduct checking of route permits and fitness certificates of PSVs to ensure safety of the passengers. Meanwhile, the CTP spokesman informed that CTP had issued 815 challan slips to PSVs which were without fitness certificates and route permits during August. — APP

Railways provides over Rs133.5 mln compensation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways have disbursed an amount of over Rs133.5 million as accident compensation to the families of passengers who lost their lives in five major train accidents across the country during last year. As many as 109 passengers have lost their lives and around 128 persons were injured in the train accidents on the railway network in 2019, an official told media. Similarly, he said the Ministry of Railways also paid an amount of Rs 4.95 million to families of passengers who received minor or major injuries in railways accidents during the above said period. In order to control the accidents, several steps have also been taken including upgradation of unmanned and vulnerable railway level crossings across the country in collaboration with respective provincial governments, he said. He said road surface of all level crossings was being improved together with improved warning boards and provision of reliable communication (VHF radio) between ground staff and locomotives crew. The Directorate of Public Relations has produced video messages for circulations over social media to inform the public about the dangers associated with railway crossings, he said. — APP

Over 3.5 lakh children to get anti-polio vaccine

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Around 3.5 lakh children will be vaccinated against polio virus across the city in a five day campaign started on Monday. The anti-polio teams comprising 2200 workers would approach the children living in the urban and outskirts of the federal capital to vaccinate them against the deadly virus, Mayor Islamabad Sheikh Anzar Aziz told media here.

The teams had received special training in wake of COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) before launching the campaign and were asked to ensure its strict implementation, he said. During first three day of the camping it would carry out throughout the city while rest of the days the children who could not get anti-polio vaccine for some reasons would be caught, he maintained. "Parents must immunize their children against polio

to prevent them from becoming paralyzed," Mayor remarked. To answering a query, he said Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation was working for the prevention of dengue virus and fumigation is under way in various areas of the city on daily basis. Despite the shortage of funds the corporation was trying to carry out its operation in smooth way to facilitate the federal capital dwellers within available resources, he added.

A five-day nationwide anti-polio campaign started today with the aim of reaching 40 million children across the country with the lifesaving polio vaccine. This will be the first nationwide campaign in Pakistan since February due to a four-month suspension during the COVID-19 outbreak. Meanwhile, Islamabad Mayor planted a sapling in Lake View Park under 'Green Islamabad Campaign' in collaboration with Nestle Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Mayor Islamabad Sheikh Anzar Aziz administering polio drops to children in G-8 Markaz. — DNA

ICT police to arrange courses for investigation officers

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have decided to organize professional courses for investigation officers and ensure their capacity building to overcome flaws in the investigation process. The decision to this effect was made in a meeting held here on Monday which was presided over by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfikar Khan and attended among others by DIG (Operations), AIGs, Zonal SPs and DSP (Legal).

The meeting reviewed various under investigation cases and the IGP directed to remove flaws in the investigation process so that criminals could not escape from punishment. Islamabad police chief directed to adopt zero tolerance policy against those involved in delaying investigation. He asked to arrange investigation courses and educate officers about modern and professional investigating techniques so that criminals may not escape from the law.

22 outlaws including nine POs held

Shahzad Town police arrested Waqas Ali and Adnan and recovered two 30 bore pistol from their possession

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police on Monday arrested 22 outlaws including nine proclaimed offenders from various areas of the city and recovered narcotics, wine and weapons from their possession, a police spokesman said. Following the directions of IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfikar Khan and DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed, all officials of Islamabad police have accelerated their ef-

orts to curb activities of anti-social elements and drug pushers. Following these directions, Tarnol police arrested accused Umer Khan and recovered one 30 bore pistol from him. Kohsar police arrested a Filipino Liezal Tolentino residing illegally in the country. Aabpara police arrested accused Arshad for handling beggars while Golra police nabbed Adil for his alleged involvement in theft case. Shailmar police arrested Yousaf and recovered one 30 bore pistol from him.

Industrial-Area police arrested Gulraiz Masih and recovered 50 liter alcohol from him. Sabzi Mandi police arrested accused Arshad Khan and recovered 430 gram heroin from him. Shahzad Town police arrested Waqas Ali and Adnan and recovered two 30 bore pistol from their possession. Khanna police arrested Farzand and Naqash Masih and recovered two pistols along with ammunition from their possession. Criminal Investigation Agency (CIA) of Islamabad

police arrested Shaor and recovered 20 liter alcohol from him. Koral police apprehended accused Mush-taq involved in selling petroleum products illegally in the area. Cases have been registered against these nabbed persons and further investigation is underway from them. During special checking in the whole city, nine proclaimed offenders were nabbed wanted to police in various crime cases. DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed has appreciated this performance

and directed all Station House Officers for effective crackdown against that involvement in drug peddling activities. He asked for renewed efforts to curb such practices and get rid of society from such menace. He said that performance in this regard would be reviewed on continuous basis. The DIG also categorically asked all police officials to focus on resolving the public complaints and take every possible step to provide maximum relief to citizens.



ISLAMABAD: Charge d' Affairs of Hungary Tivadar Takacas called on Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser. — DNA

Briefs

Atlassian signs Abacus as its first solution partner

DNA

LAHORE: Abacus – a global consulting, technology and outsourcing firm with proven expertise in DevOps, Agile and ITSM announced a partnership with Atlassian, an Australian enterprise software firm and a leading provider of collaboration, development, and issue tracking software for teams. With over 138,000 global customers (including 85 of the Fortune 100) advancing the power of collaboration with products including Jira, Jira Service Desk, Jira Ops, Confluence, Bitbucket, Trello, and more. The partnership will allow the firm to meet the growing demand for issue tracking and team collaboration by implementing Atlassian products across Pakistan and EMEA region. As a Solution Partner, Abacus would help its customers across Pakistan and EMEA to acquire licenses of all Atlassian products and various add-ons, customized products training, Professional Services for Implementation and Managed Services. "As an Atlassian Solution Partner, Abacus has renewed its commitment to provide the best of breed technologies to its customers across Pakistan and EMEA," said Abbas Ali Khan, Managing Director of Abacus Consulting. He further stated, "The provision of Atlassian products would enable our customers to strengthen their software development, implementation and technical support capabilities in line with international standards"

Bank Alfalah Islamic wins GIFA awards

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In recognition of its outstanding performance and leadership in Pakistan, Bank Alfalah Islamic received the 'Most Innovative Islamic Banking Window 2020' and 'Best Islamic Savings Product 2020' awards at the prestigious Global Islamic Finance Awards (GIFA). The awards ceremony was held on September 14 at Marriott Hotel, Islamabad. President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi graced the occasion as the chief guest, whereas other attendees included Governor State Bank of Pakistan Mr. Reza Baqir, senior ministers, senior officials of State Bank, ambassadors & diplomats of all Islamic countries, local and international leading players, and other stakeholders of the industry. Bank Alfalah Islamic was recognised for its continued efforts to serve customers in new and better ways, such as through the successful launch of its Premier proposition and its unique deposit facility of Alfalah Islamic Recurring Value Deposit. This year the Bank also introduced a Shariah compliant Islamic App Journey for its customers. The Bank's Alfalah Islamic Recurring Value Deposit, which won under the category of 'Best Islamic Savings Product 2020', has served as an outstanding star to Bank's Deposit Portfolio.

Govt hits back at Opposition

From Page 01

However, he has remained the prime minister for three tenures and he does not cast doubts on those elections, added Faraz. What Nawaz stated yesterday was contrary to the facts, the minister said, adding that 413 petitions were filed with the election commission after the 2013 elections, and this year, only 299 applications have been filed. "Of those, only 90 were against the National Assembly elections [...] several of those were PTI's," he said. Faraz said that Nawaz was casting aspersions over the elections because his party had lost them and that through such actions he wasn't helping Pakistan in any way. Faraz said that the PML-N members are present in the National Assembly hence they should demand electoral reforms over there. "Electoral reforms were done in their tenure, why didn't they overcome their shortcomings at that time?" Faraz asked. Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Opposition and Nawaz Sharif spread false information about foreign policy and CPEC. He said he met with the Chinese foreign minister recently who expressed complete satisfaction over the pace of work.



ISLAMABAD: Rector National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Maj gen Muhammad Jaffar HI (M) in a meeting with caretaker Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan, Mir Muhammad Afzal Khan GB House. – DNA

Mubashar Choudry raises CSF issue with Armed Services Committee

He recalled that in early January 2018 the United States suspended security assistance to Pakistan. "Security assistance is important, it includes foreign military financing which funds purchases of US military hardware, training, and services

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Pakistani American cardiologist Dr Mubashar Choudry raised the issue of Coalition Support Fund with the Vice Chairman of House Armed Services Committee, Congressman Anthony Brown. Dr Choudry raised this matter in a fundraiser arranged by a young Pakistani American politician for Congressman Anthony Brown. The United States has suspended "security assistance" to Pakistan

in Jan 2018 for failing to take decisive action against Taliban militants targeting US personnel in neighboring Afghanistan. Since then, Pakistan has also not got any funds of CSF which the US pays to Pakistan to reimburse it for its counterterrorism operations. Dr Choudry was of the view that being ally of United States, Pakistan fought in "war against terrorism" and sacrificed thousand of civilian and military lives and now when Afghan peace process is in final stage, United States should resume security

cooperation with Pakistan. US Special Representative Ambassador Khalilzad in his recent visit to Pakistan expressed appreciation on behalf of the United States, especially the important role that Prime Minister Imran Khan and Gen Bajwa played in facilitating Afghan negotiations. Commenting on the remarks of Dr Choudry, the Vice Chair of Armed Services Committee Congressman Anthony Brown said that Pakistani forces have made significant sacrifices in recent years in the counter-

terrorism fight and reclaim parts of Pakistan previously held by militant groups. "Sacrifices made by Pakistani soldiers and unfortunately civilians", he observed. "Pakistan has taken action against externally focused militant groups and many terrorist organizations that have been designated by the United Nations, the Congressman said. He noted that many Pakistani lives have been lost in that effort. He recalled that in early January 2018 the United States suspended security assistance to Pakistan. "Security

assistance is important, it includes foreign military financing which funds purchases of US military hardware, training, and services, it also includes Coalition Support Fund. "The suspension does not include civilian assistance", he added. The Congressman termed US-Pakistan relations particularly important for regional stability. "United States is one the largest source of foreign direct investment in Pakistan, in a variety of areas: consumer goods, energy, agriculture and we are Pakistan's largest export market.

NA Speaker urges world over Kashmir dispute

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser has urged the international community to play its role for the resolution of Kashmir dispute. Addressing a seminar organised by Parliamentary Kashmir Committee and Institute of Conflict Resolution on the occasion of International Peace Day in Islamabad on Monday, he said that the resolution of Kashmir dispute as per the UN Security Council resolutions is imperative for regional peace and stability. The speaker said Kashmiris were denied the basic necessities of life for the last one year. The government was effectively playing its role to highlight Kashmir issue at the international forums, he noted. The Speaker said India was committing grave human rights violations in Kashmir and 22000 women became widows, thousands of youth were martyred and hundreds of women were raped. The Parliament will focus on the Kashmir issue and will continue efforts to help resolve it according to

aspirations of the Kashmiri people. He said it was imperative to resolve disputes peacefully to achieve sustainable peace in the world. The United Nations should play its role to resolve the disputes of Kashmir and Palestine, he added. Condemning the blatant human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIO-J&K), the Speaker said that Indian troops had been given free hand to persecute the innocent and armless Kashmiri people. He said Pakistan had been making effective efforts to expose the evil face of India before the world. Asad said the teachings of Islam stressed on peace, adding peace could be attained in the world by following the teachings of Islam. He said Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) had special attachment to peace and his followers could bring peace in the world. He said people of Kashmir and Palestine were offering sacrifices for their rights and peaceful existence. The international community should play its role for achieving peace in the world, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker national Assembly Asad Qaiser penning down his comments on comment sheet placed at the venue of the Seminar on 'International Peace Day' organized by Parliamentary Kashmir Committee. – DNA

'Wheat, sugar scandals leave Government exposed'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former President ICCI Shahid Rasheed Butt on Monday said despite best efforts of the government, the prices of wheat, flour and sugar could not be reduced in the market. The developments

in the food sector indicate collusion between the importers and the influential food mafia which must be noticed followed by a stern action. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the availability of wheat was an important issue and there was a need to maintain sufficient stock of wheat and sugar in

the country, therefore, the government should start importing wheat by itself as the response of the private sector is has left much to be desired. In May, the Government released the findings of the sugar commission inquiry's report into a scandal that has implicated a number of political and

business figures but to no avail. The report found that a cartel of 88 sugar mills had exported sugar during a low yield year, underpaid growers, faked records and manipulated prices, which contributed to an ongoing crisis in sugar prices which continues till the day, he said.



ISLAMABAD: Mayor Islamabad Shikh Anser Aziz planting tree in Sector D 12 on Monday as part of MCI tree plantation drive. – DNA

Ten billion tree drive in full swing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister, Malik Amin Aslam, said that while the implementation of the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme across the country is full swing, all-out efforts are being taken to ensure its effective monitoring, reporting and verification at all levels for attainment of desired outcome of enhanced environmental development and climate change resilience of the country. Addressing the participants of the high-level event 'Third Party Monitoring of Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme', as a chief guest here on Monday at the local hotel Malik Amin said further that in management projects and programmes, information

regarding its transparent implementation is not always readily accessible to everyone and is on a need-to-know basis for some. The project or programme directors, managers and relevant key stakeholders are the ones with access to all the information. This lack of transparency can lead to public distrust and resentment and hamper publicity of the programme and project activities, Malik Amin added. He said, "We hope that independent and impartial monitoring and evaluation by third party of the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami (TBTP), would help systematically measure and assess programme activities across the country through various internationally-used tools and techniques and provide support to establish and maintain public trust about the activities."

Lok Virsa to hold "Sufi Sangat" on Sep 24

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) would hold "Sufi Sangat" on the poetic vision of "Hazrat Baba Farid Shakar Ganj" on September 24. Talking to APP, an official of Lok Virsa told that well-known sufi poet Prof Saeed Ahmad would shed light on his sufi wisdom and poetic vision. Sufiana Kalamis will be presented by Singer Areeb Azhar, he added. He said that Baba Farid's famous poetry would be presented including "Ay Farid Rokhi Sokhi Kha Kar Thanda Pani Pii", "Ay Farid Mati Ko Bura Na Jaan" and "Ay Farid Makaanon Par Dolat Ka Israaf Na Kar".

Thar Coal Mine Power project completed

From Page 01

Shanghai Electric coordinated with other participating units in advancing resumption of work and production on the premise of effective epidemic containment. The company has arranged multiple charter planes for 465 technical and managerial staff back to Pakistan as part of the support to speed up the progress of the project. As a major energy project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Thar Block-1 Integrated Coal Mine-Power project is of great significance for comprehensively promoting the construction of the CPEC and forging a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future. Since the start of the project, thousands of jobs have been provided to local people, which has greatly promoted the local social and economic development and improved people's living standards. Shanghai Electric will continue to work hard to ensure the smooth construction and operation of this project, promote the construction of Pakistan's energy projects, and benefit the Pakistani people as soon as possible.

PM lauds services of envoy Yao Jing

From Page 01

Ambassador Yao stated that Pakistan's policy of "smart lockdown" in containing COVID-19 was internationally recognized and could be followed as a model by others to deal with a possible second wave of COVID-19. Ambassador Yao maintained that he will have very fond memories of Pakistan and would wish to see Pakistan-China relationship further strengthened. He emphasized that China would continue to support Pakistan in pursuit of its national development and objectives. The Prime Minister appreciated Ambassador Yao Jing's overall contribution to the Pakistan-China partnership and wished him well in his future endeavors. Ambassador Yao Jing served in Islamabad from October 2017 to September 2020. This was his third assignment in Pakistan.

Maintenance contract signed

From Page 01

Power China has successfully signed the contract for the project and will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the power station in the next seven years. This means that Gwadar 300MW coal-fired power station realized an engineering procurement construction and operation (EPCO) full industrial chain production. Power China will make up a professional team and send technical personnel to Gwadar 300MW coal-fired power station for operation and maintenance. Meanwhile, the project will also employ local talents and promote regional employment.

Lahore police distributes pamphlets

LAHORE: In order to materialize a significant development in the appalling Lahore Motorway gang-rape case, and arrest the principal suspect Abid Ali, the authorities have prepared pamphlets to distribute amongst people and stick on the walls. The pamphlets, with suspects face and the reward money, are meant to mobilize citizens to facilitate the police into capturing the absconding suspect booked for the assault, gang-rape and robbery with the mother of two on Lahore Motorway link-road. The police have notified on the pamphlets the amount of reward, Rs2.5 million, for the critical information that will lead to the arrest of the suspect and two of his photographs to establish his possible appearances. – DNA

Stark realities

IN the ten days since the motorway gang-rape took place, there have been reports of at least nine other cases of rape from various cities of Punjab. Some of these took place in the presence of family members, including husbands or parents, others took place in the presence of children or involved children themselves. In at least one case, the police refused to record the matter or file an FIR leading to the victim, a young woman in Bahawalpur, committing suicide. This is now an issue that needs to be looked at in depth. These are not isolated incidents, they are part of a wider, broader syndrome. Yes, rape and sexual abuse takes place all over the world. But penalties are handed out more commonly than is the case here. While five rapes occur in Pakistan each day, in most of these no one is convicted. What we need is to ensure the penalty written out under the law is delivered in each case, and that the culprits involved in rape are duly apprehended and not allowed to go free. So far, ten days after the motorway incident, the main accused has still not been apprehended. This is dangerous and sends out a terrible message. We need to deal with rape in a far firmer manner. We also need to make clear precisely what consent is and that only adult females can offer it. Sex without consent is rape, no matter where it occurs, or how it takes place. The warning by the CCPO Lahore that women should not leave their homes without a male escort is also made meaningless by the case in which dacoits broke into a home and raped female members of the family in the presence of male members. This simply shows that women are not safe whether they are within their homes or outside them. It would make no difference if they went out or not. There can be no doubt that cases of rape are being reported more frequently since the motorway assault took place. But this is largely ephemeral. Once the news cycle dies down, so does the attention on the issue. We must ensure that crimes against women and children remain in focus so that they can be dealt with effectively and without making survivors still worse off by being humiliated, threatened, or simply denied their basic rights as citizens of the country.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Vol: 01 Issue: 153

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Sectarian violence

A Sudden escalation in hate speech and violence against the Shia community is alarming and has all the makings of leading towards full-blown sectarian violence that will create instability in the country. These concerns were voiced by PPP Senate leader Senator Sherry Rehman, as she urged the PTI government to take immediate steps in order to arrest this dangerous trend. Massive rallies arranged by hardline Sunni groups like the JUI, banned outfit Sipah-e-Sahaba and TLP among others, were held on successive days in Karachi last weekend with thousands gathering on major highways of the city, chanting anti-Shia slogans, calling them infidels and heretics. Chairman of Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Mufti Muneeb-ur-Rehman demanded that it be made mandatory to declare one's sect in the next census. TLP's Karachi chief, in keeping with the party's more violent leanings, took a more extreme line, declaring that Sunnis could behead people for blaspheming. All this has not happened overnight and there has been a build-up towards igniting this old fire, most notably legislation passed by the Punjab Assembly a few months ago, a bill that many MPs had not even read but voted in favour for, perhaps due to its title: the Tahaffuz-e-Bunyad-e-Islam (Protection of Foundation of Islam) Bill. Apart from proposing ridiculous changes to Punjab's textbooks, it maintains that the Sunni interpretation of Islam was the only one that would be acceptable, causing much outrage in the Shia community. Quite expectedly, close to 42 blasphemy cases have been registered in August, mostly against Shias. According to some reports there have been at least 20 cases of targeted killing with Shias being executed. Pakistan had remained in the fold of some of the worst sectarian violence in the region during the 1980s and 1990s with a proxy war of the Saudi-Iran Sunni-Shia conflict being fought in the country. Around 20 percent of the country's population is Shia and for decades extremist outfits, some state-sponsored, have carried out a cleansing, with minor Shia groups like the Hazaras virtually wiped out, mostly killed with others having fled the country to safety. The NAP (National Action Plan) that criminalizes hate speech must be implemented in letter and spirit. Demonstrations where such incitement to violence takes place must be stopped. Shias are again in the same crosshairs and it is up to the state to put an end to it.

SCO ensuring regional peace and stability

Vladimir Norov



SPECIAL FOR DAILY ISLAMABAD POST

Current global trends, such as increased geopolitical tensions and the complex nature of threats and challenges, require a collective effort to create a fairer and more polycentric model of the world order. The experience of developing relations within the SCO, taking into account the big difference in mentality and views of peoples, is a fairly effective model of interaction between states in the international arena

EVERY year on 21 September, the international community celebrates the International Day of Peace. This Day was declared by the UN General Assembly as a day of strengthening the ideals of peace among all countries and peoples, both nationally and internationally.

In 1981 the United Nations General Assembly declared Peace Day and marked it on the third Tuesday in September, and 20 years later, in 2001, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution decreed that, since 2002, the International Day of Peace would be celebrated annually on 21 September as a day of universal ceasefire and non-violence. The UN urges all countries to cease hostilities on this day and to celebrate it with educational and public information actions on peace issues.

1. In connection with the celebration of the International Day of Peace, the SCO Secretary-General Vladimir Norov shared his vision for peace and stability, as well as the SCO's policy in this direction. Every year, Peace Day is dedicated to a specific theme. Thus, in different years it was held under the motto: "Human Rights and Peacekeeping", "Disarmament and non-proliferation", "Youth for peace and development", "Sustainable Development Goals: Components of peace", "Right to Peace: 70 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights", "Fighting Climate Change for Peace, and others.

The motto of this year's International Day, "Achieving Peace Together" reflects the goal of the UN. Throughout this year, the UN, to mark its 75th anniversary, has asked people to participate in a global debate to jointly address the serious challenges of our time.

2. The modern world continues to change rapidly, the global balance of power is being actively redistributed, and the interconnectedness and interdependence between the participants in international relations are deepening. The desire for peace, development, equitable and mutually beneficial cooperation, and the formation of a community of universal peace and prosperity are becoming increasingly important. However, the situation in global politics and the economy remains turbulent and tense, and economic globalization is facing an increase in unilateral protectionist measures and other challenges in international trade. New regional and local conflicts remain unresolved.

The relationship between the security and prosperity of states is growing. The nature of challenges and threats requires collective approaches to combating

them, as well as an awareness of the impossibility of ensuring one's own security at the expense of others. In these circumstances, it is imperative that all states adhere to the universal principles of equal and indivisible security - equally applicable to the Euro-Atlantic, Eurasian and Asia-Pacific territories.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization, established 19 years ago, acts as an influential and responsible participant in the modern system of international relations, increasing its participation in efforts to ensure peace and security, consistently advocating for the resolution of international and regional conflicts exclusively by peaceful, political and diplomatic means, based on the principles of equality, respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, the renunciation of the use of force or the threat of its use.

Current global trends, such as increased geopolitical tensions and the complex nature of threats and challenges, require a collective effort to create a fairer and more polycentric model of the world order. The experience of developing relations within the SCO, taking into account the big difference in mentality and views of peoples, is a fairly effective model of interaction between states in the international arena. The SCO countries are actually demonstrating how it is possible to build cooperation without sacrificing sovereignty, not contrary to national interests and not opposing these relations to other priorities of foreign politicians.

Following Shanghai Spirit, which embodies the principles of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for multiculturalism, Member States are working together to actively promote a just international political and economic order.

The SCO acts as a reliable platform for fruitful cooperation in the interests of forming a polycentric world order, ensuring the supremacy of international law, first of all the UN Charter, equal, joint, undivided, comprehensive and sustainable security, implementation of the Agenda for Sustainable Development until 2030, respect for the people's own choice of the path of their political and socio-economic development, ensuring the interests of all and each state. Member States emphasize the importance of the initiative to promote cooperation in building a new type of international relations based on the principles and norms of international law, first of all mutual respect, justice, equality, mutually beneficial cooperation, and the formation of a common vision of the idea of creating a community of the common destiny of mankind.

Member States reaffirm their strong support for the UN's efforts as a universal multilateral organization to maintain international peace and security, promote global development, protect and protect human rights. They are in favour of strengthening the key role of the UN Security Council, which, under the UN Charter, has the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.

The founding documents of the SCO clearly outline the desires of Member States to contribute as much as possible to the strengthening of peace, security and stability in the region in the context of the development of political multipolarity, economic and information globalization.

In particular, the SCO Charter of 2002 enshrines as the main goals and objectives of the Organization - the development of multidisciplinary cooperation to maintain and strengthen peace, security and stability in the region, and to help build a new democratic, just and rational political and economic international order.

The 2007 Treaty on Long-Term Neighbourhood, Friendship and Cooperation among SCO Member States stipulates that the SCO countries will work to maintain and strengthen international peace and security, strengthen coordination and cooperation in areas such as protecting and enhancing the role of the UN, and maintaining global and regional stability. The document also notes that Member States will seek to actively strengthen cooperation to turn common borders into borders of peace and friendship.

The SCO's Development Strategy until 2025, which was approved by the Heads of State in 2015, states that the member states will concentrate their efforts on creating a region of peace, stable development, economic growth and progress, mutual trust, good neighbourliness, friendship and prosperity in the SCO space.

In order to implement the provisions of this Strategy, the SCO countries approved the 2016 Action Plan for 2016-2020, which includes 75 practical activities in various fields. With the success of virtually all activities, Member States have begun to develop a new Plan for the next five years. The document is planned to be approved at the upcoming SCO summit. The draft of the new Plan has already included more than 150 activities, which confirms the expansion of the spheres of cooperation of SCO member states aimed at maintaining peace and stability in the region.

3. In ensuring peace and security in the region, Member States are focusing on countering international terrorism, separatism and extremism, drug trafficking, organized crime, cybercrime, and other cross-border challenges and threats.

Mechanisms for law enforcement cooperation at the level of heads of ministries and departments, senior officials and experts have been established and are functioning effectively. In order to counter the threats of terrorism, anti-terrorist military exercises "Peace Mission" are regularly conducted, as well as joint exercises to detect and stop the use of the Internet for terrorist and separatist purposes. International information security and the fight against crimes using information and communication technologies are also high on the Organization's agenda. At the same time, it should be noted that the SCO is not a military and political bloc and does not seek to become an economic integrated community over national governments. Its activities are not directed against other states and international organizations and associations. The security and stability mechanisms developed within the organization and the regulatory framework for mutually trust-based cooperation ensure, despite the growing challenges and threats, sustainable stability in the SCO region.

The SCO countries also work together on disarmament, nuclear and non-proliferation and arms control, peaceful use of nuclear energy, and political and diplomatic responses to global and regional challenges to the non-proliferation regime. In this context, they believe that the early entry into force of the Protocol on Security Guarantees to the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty in Central Asia will make a significant contribution to the consolidation of peace and security in the region.

Member States believe that one of the most important factors in preserving and consolidating peace and stability in the SCO space is the early resolution of the situation in Afghanistan. They support the efforts of the Afghan Government and people to restore peace, economic development, countering terrorism and drug crime. Member States emphasize the non-alternative resolution of the conflict in Afghanistan through political dialogue and the implementation of an inclusive peace process by the Afghans themselves and under the leadership of the Afghans themselves.

In this context, the SCO welcomed the launch of inclusive negotiations between the Government of Afghanistan and the Taliban Movement in the country and expressed the hope that the inter-Afghan dialogue would continue to develop, taking into account the interests of all the country's social, political, ethnic and religious groups in order to restore its sustainable peace. Cooperation within the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group is also important in resolving the Afghan issue.

In dealing with the challenges and threats of our time, the SCO is actively cooperating with international and regional organizations. Partnerships have been established with the UN and its specialized institutions, such as UNODC, UN and UN, as well as the CSTO, CIS, CICA and ASEAN. High-level thematic joint events aimed at combating terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime are regularly held.

4. This year, it became clear that in addition to warriors and conflicts, there is a much larger threat: a new type of coronavirus infection that threatens the health, safety and way of life of all humanity. In March this year, UN Secretary-General A. Guterres called on all warring parties to lay down their arms and focus on fighting this unprecedented global pandemic.

The pandemic has demonstrated the close interconnectedness of the world. However, instead of solidarity and common struggle against the threat, peace has moved from globalization to localization, and international solidarity has given way to the national interests of each country. This has a negative effect on the containment of coronavirus. The most important task is to overcome the global confrontation and politicization around the pandemic. The world community needs to realize that the pandemic is by no means the latest test on a global scale. All countries of the world must work together on the principles of mutual support and joint development.

In these difficult circumstances, SCO countries have demonstrated a high level of solidarity and mutual support in the fight against the coronavirus epidemic, and the Organization itself has established itself as an effective platform for countering today's challenges and security threats during the pandemic. The SCO's efforts have received authoritative international recognition, in particular from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the European Union, the OSCE and the Arab League.

During the pandemic, the SCO has gained invaluable experience working together to contain and minimize its negative effects. In this regard, the decision of the SCO Health Ministers to approve the Review of Advanced Measures to Counter the Spread of Infection was important.

The fight against the spread of the new coronavirus infection required a decisive multilateral effort, with the central role of the UN system, effective interaction of SCO member states with the World Health Organization, and other international associations. At the meeting of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers in Moscow on September 10, 2020, the parties stated that in the face of the difficult sanitary and epidemiological situation, the SCO, based on the principles of the "Shanghai spirit", convincingly confirmed

its significant potential as an effective platform for responding to emerging challenges, building work to overcome the political, social and commercial and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The foreign ministers approved the drafts of the Comprehensive Plan to counter the threats of epidemics in the SCO space, as well as the SCO Statements on Joint Countering the New Coronavirus Infection, which will be submitted for approval by the leaders of the member states at the SCO summit, scheduled for November this year in the format of a video conference.

During the upcoming meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State, it is planned to consider the priorities to further strengthen peace and stability, deepen cooperation within the SCO in the context of the global political and socio-economic consequences of the pandemic of the new coronavirus infection. The SCO summit will be the main event that culminates in Russia's Presidency of the Organization, which will result in the adoption and signing of a number of important documents, setting priorities and long-term development objectives of the Organization.

Member States expect that the upcoming summit will provide new opportunities for effectively addressing global problems, reducing security risks, and enhancing the SCO's capacity to advance the principles of multilateralism and new-type international relations. 5. The key to prosperity, peace and security is undoubtedly stable economic cooperation. Work in this direction contributes to the socio-economic well-being of Member States, as well as to the improvement of the living conditions of citizens.

As noted in the SCO Development Strategy until 2025, economic cooperation is an important element in ensuring stability in the SCO space, one of the tools to achieve the sustainability of the Organization itself for the long term. The SCO will contribute to the harmonious development of all member states of the association in order to balance economic growth in the region.

Today, the SCO space is characterized by a capacious consumer market, rich natural resources, as well as advanced production capacity, and is promising in terms of implementing large cross-border projects and new ideas, as it is characterized by stability, dynamic development and constantly emerging new opportunities.

Expanding and deepening cooperation in financial, investment, industrial, transport, energy, agriculture and other areas is in the interest of sustainable economic growth in the region. The Organization is becoming a powerful trans-regional structure, being the optimal format for docking national strategies, cross-border projects and multilateral integration initiatives.

All of this represents a great potential for the growth of trade, economic and innovative cooperation, which is based on the well-being of the peoples of the countries of the Organization.

6. The development of intercultural and inter-civilization dialogue, strengthening ties in educational, scientific and technical and humanitarian areas contribute to strengthening relations between good neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation within the SCO.

The SCO countries attach importance to strengthening cultural ties and understanding among peoples, respecting the cultural traditions and customs of Member States, preserving and promoting multiculturalism, and exploring and preserving the cultural and natural heritage of the region.

A great deal of attention is paid to the development and spiritual education of the younger generation, first of all, through accessible, high-quality, innovative education, allowing to fully realize the potential of the individual. In this case, the SCO University, which brings together the leading universities of the SCO member states and observer countries, has a special role to play. In addition, Member States are taking effective preventive measures to protect young people from various destructive ideas by enabling them to receive modern education and skills, engage in entrepreneurship and innovate.

In this context, it is important to consistently implement the Joint Appeal of SCO Heads of State to Youth and the Programme of Action to implement its provisions (Tsingtao, 10 June 2018), with a particular focus on preventing the spread of religious intolerance, xenophobia and racial discrimination.

These efforts confirm once again that the SCO member states, as multi-ethnic and multi-religious societies, have an interest in ensuring an internal inter-ethnic and inter-religious world, as well as in strengthening centuries-old traditions of harmonious coexistence between different nationalities and religions.

The success of the SCO shows that the Organization is a major factor in ensuring regional peace and stability and shared prosperity of Member States. It is one of the most promising security systems on the Asian continent, as it represents a new system of inter-State relations.

The SCO is open to cooperation with all countries and international organizations to ensure peace and stability, strengthen international and regional security, and develop sustainable socio-economic development, and expand cultural and humanitarian ties.

- The writer is the Secretary-General of SCO

Briefs

China sends 3rd maritime satellite into space

DNA

BEIJING: China on Monday sent another maritime satellite into the space, local media reported.

The new sea and ocean-monitoring satellite was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China, Xinhua News Agency reported. Chinese-built Long March-4B rocket carried the Haiyang-2C (HY-2C) satellite that took off at about 1.40 p.m. (0540GMT). It is China's third maritime satellite which will join the previous HY-2B and subsequent HY-2D satellites "to carry out high-precision maritime environment monitoring." It was also 347th launch by the Long March rocket series. Last week, China sent at least nine satellites into space.

The satellites from the Jilin-1 Gaofen 03-1 group took off from the Yellow Sea at 9.23 a.m. (0123 GMT). China also sent an observation satellite, Gaofen-11 02, into the orbit through a Long March-4B carrier rocket. It will be used for mapping efforts in China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative.

'Making UN bureaucracy inclusive need of hour'

NEW YORK: Ban Ki-moon, who served as the secretary-general of the UN in 2007-2016, said he had tried to bring efficiency in the UN Secretariat but was only half successful. Addressing members of the New Delhi-based Foreign Correspondents Club of South Asia through video link, he said that after seven years of negotiation with member states, he had incorporated an element of mobility to enable staffers to hit the ground too often to address issues. But he said as he stepped down, this element has been put on hold. Describing Covid-19 more dreadful in terms of its impact than the 9/11 terrorist attacks or the 2008 global financial crisis, he lamented that instead of coming together to find a global response, the US and Europe preferred their interests over shared interests. "Essential instruments of international cooperation are being challenged, and unilateral momentum is on the rise. This is causing even graver challenges in developing countries, socially, economically, and politically," Ban Ki-moon also said. The 2020 General Assembly session must work to establish an international governance system designated for global crisis response, he noted. "As a permanent body, the system should consist of specialized agencies and related organizations of the UN, including the WHO Office at the UN, World Bank, and IMF, to ensure its effective and immediate operation in a state of emergency," he suggested. — APP

11 anti-Netanyahu protesters arrested

DNA

JERUSALEM: The driver behind an alleged attempted ramming attack at the protests against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had his arrest extended by three days on Monday morning. As Israelis finished up with Rosh Hashanah festivities from lockdown, thousands of protesters headed to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's official residence in Jerusalem to demonstrate against Netanyahu's position in government after his indictment for fraud, bribery and breach of trust, as well as the government's mishandling of the economy amid the coronavirus crisis. Some 11 protesters were arrested for allegedly disturbing the peace and assaulting police officers. At around 9 p.m., a driver of a private vehicle raced toward protesters in his car, almost ramming into them. He hit the brakes at the last moment and was arrested. Police have taken him in for investigation. At first, the driver refused to cooperate with the investigators, but later explained to them that he did not intend to crash into protesters, but rather to explain how the coronavirus works to the prime minister. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Atif Bokhari Chairman Board of Investment met with Tarek Dahroug, Ambassador of Arab Republic of Egypt. Pakistan and Egypt enjoy cordial relations & share the vision to further deepen economic ties by engaging in business ventures in multiple sectors. — DNA

FinCEN Files: Tracing the flow of dirty money

Over the past 16 months, 400 journalists from 88 countries burrowed into the leaked records, conducted interviews with investigators and victims, pored over court and archival records and reviewed data on millions of transactions that took place between 1999 and 2017

WEB DESK

The FinCEN files are the result of extensive international research on money laundering and financial crime. They show how dirty money is shuffled around the world and how banks fail to stop this flow of money. The unchecked movement of dirty money may not register as an immediate threat in a world beset by headline-grabbing crises. But the conse-

quences are profound, as narcotraffickers, smugglers and Ponzi schemers shift illicit profits beyond the reach of authorities, and despots and corrupt captains of industry swell their own ill-gotten fortunes and consolidate power, aided by the powerful and the banking system. In 2019 the US media outlet BuzzFeed News obtained a large cache of secret US Department of the Treasury (USD) financial records

and shared them with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ). These are the FinCEN Files, documents from the USD's regulatory bureau for safeguarding the financial system — the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. Over the past 16 months, 400 journalists from 88 countries burrowed into the leaked records, conducted interviews with investigators and victims, pored over court

and archival records and reviewed data on millions of transactions that took place between 1999 and 2017.

The FinCEN Files are based on Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs). These are records of money movements that the banks themselves compile and submit to the US Department of the Treasury, when they suspect a possibly suspicious activity. A review of the files casts a disturbing spotlight on the complex trail left by near-

ly \$2 trillion (1.7 trillion) of suspicious funds being maneuvered around the globe — and on the role of banks.

"It isn't the criminals themselves that launder the money. So the banks have a really important role to play because they are the system by which that money is being moved from their country, to a nice, safe place," Graham Barrow, a money laundering expert, told ICIJ. "All of us ultimately pay the price for this. Because

this money is coming from our taxes and our contributions to society," Barrow said. ICIJ, BuzzFeed News and media partners including DW's Pelin Ünker examined more than 2,100 SARs. The ICIJ team gained access to an additional 17,600 records with links to financial institutions through Freedom of Information Act requests as well as from other sources during the investigative reporting process.

'Turkey to continue supporting Libya's GNA'

DNA

ANKARA: Turkey will continue to support Libya's internationally recognised government despite Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj announcing last week that he planned to step down by the end of next month, according to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's spokesman. Ibrahim Kalin said on Monday that Turkish support for the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) and their bilateral agreements, which include a security pact and a maritime demarcation deal signed last year, would continue.

"These accords will not be impacted by this political period because these are decisions made by the government, not by any individual," Kalin told

media. Late last year, Ankara reached an agreement with the GNA that it says grants Turkey drilling rights across a corridor of the Eastern Mediterranean — much of it within the maritime jurisdiction Greece also claims. Greece, Cyprus and other regional actors have denounced the Turkish-Libyan agreement as "illegal", which Turkey denies. Kalin said Turkish officials would travel to Tripoli "in the coming days" to discuss developments in the wake of al-Sarraj's announcement. Erdogan had also hinted at upcoming talks as he expressed regret at his close ally's stated intention to hand over power by the end of October. "Such a development, receiving this kind of news afterwards, was of course saddening for us," Erdogan said on Friday.

Russia starts Kavkaz-2020 military drill

DNA

MOSCOW: Russia launched a military drill on Monday, involving almost 80,000 servicemen. Kavkaz-2020 (Caucasus-2020) is the final stage of annual combat training this year, the Defense Ministry said in a statement. The main operations during the drill will take place in the North Caucasus, as well as in the Black and Caspian seas, all of which are part of the country's Southern Military District.

Up to 1,000 servicemen from Armenia, Belarus, China, Myanmar and Pakistan were invited to practice joint actions, while the Iranian military vessels are expected to join naval exercises. Representatives from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Indonesia, Iran and Sri Lanka plan to participate as observers. The exercise will engage up to 250 tanks, 450 infantry fighting vehicles and armored personnel carriers, 200 artillery systems and multiple launch rocket systems.

Uzbekistan and the UAE expand investment cooperation

DNA

TASHKENT: On 20 September 2020, in the format of a video conference, negotiations were held between the Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov with the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure of the United Arab Emirates Suheil bin

Muhammad al-Mazrui.

During the videoconference, a wide range of issues of trade, economic and investment cooperation between the two countries, as well as practical aspects of interaction in key areas of strategic partnership and the implementation of joint projects was discussed. The significant progress achieved in the implementation of bilateral agreements was emphasized. Thus, a

joint Uzbek-Emirati investment company with an authorized capital of US\$1 billion began its operational activities, the procedure for agreeing agreements within the framework of Mubadala's participation in the privatization of Talimarzhan TPP is being completed, and the allocation of US\$300 million by the Abu Dhabi Development Fund for modernization has been approved infrastructure of Samarkand, as well as fi-

ancing the construction of a 4-star hotel and shopping center in Samarkand. Significant progress has been made in cooperation with Masdar - in January 2020, the main legal agreements were signed on the project for the construction of a 500 MW wind farm in Navoi region. Preparations for construction work have also been completed as part of a project to build a 100 MW solar power plant in the same region.



ISLAMABAD: Ali Alizada, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan met with Bénédict de Cerjat, newly appointed Ambassador of Switzerland to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. — DNA

OIC Contact Group on Kashmir calls for ending India's abuses

The OIC group discussed the worsening human rights situation in Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), according to a press release issued by Pakistani Mission to the UN

DNA

NEW YORK: The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir, which met in New York on Sunday, voiced "deep concern" over the continued human rights violations by India in occupied Kashmir, and called on UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council to take steps to end those abuses. The meeting, which was requested by Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, was held on the eve of the UN General Assembly's high-level

debate opening on Tuesday. Attending the meeting were permanent representatives of Saudi Arabia, Niger, Azerbaijan and Pakistan. The OIC Secretary General was represented by the Permanent Representative of the OIC Observer Mission to the UN, Ambassador Agshin Mehdiyev. The OIC group discussed the worsening human rights situation in Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), according to a press release issued by Pakistani Mission to the UN. Reaffirming its stand on the Kashmir dispute, the Contact Group also urged the UN chief to press India to rescind

the unilateral and illegal measures taken on and after 5 August 2019 and to implement the Security Council resolutions calling for a plebiscite to enable the Kashmiri people to exercise their right to self-determination. Conveying a special message of the Foreign Minister Qureshi to the meeting, Ambassador Munir Akram stated that the RSS-BJP regime in India was implementing what its rulers had themselves called a "Final Solution". The regime was engaged in systematically engineering a demographic change in IIOJK through new domicile rules, he said. The issuance of 1.6

million domicile certificates (since March) was meant to change the demography of IIOJK from a Muslim majority into Hindu majority territory. In another attempt to obliterate the Muslim identity of occupied Jammu and Kashmir the status of Urdu language was being changed under a new legislation, the foreign minister said. Indian claims of "normalcy" in IIOJK were fallacious, he said, adding that the joint communication by eighteen Special Mandate Holders of the Human Rights Council issued last month had termed the human rights situation in IIOJK as in a "free fall". Hundreds

of young Kashmiris were extra judicially killed in "fake encounters" and "cordon and search" operations while the Indian security forces continued to enjoy complete impunity under black laws like Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) and the Public Safety Act (PSA). The Foreign Minister, in his special message, also sensitized the Contact Group about India having intensified its belligerent rhetoric against Pakistan, including threats of military aggression. In 2020 alone, India had so far committed over 2200 ceasefire violations.

Multan set to host national T20

DNA

MULTAN: The picturesque and the most modern international level cricket playing facility of the country, the Multan Cricket Stadium (MCS), is all set to host national T20 matches from September 30 sans any spectators around the lush green ground due to novel coronavirus SOPs.

Total fourteen matches of national T20 competition would be played in Multan from September 30 to October 16 and people would be able to enjoy the game through their television sets as the matches would be broadcast live, say officials in a meeting to review arrangements for the contest with additional deputy commissioner general (ADCG) Qamar Uz Zaman Qaisarani in the chair. First class teams of the country would be participating in the event with some national heroes to be part of action packed contest. ADCG assigned duties to officials and ordered strict security arrangements for the team players and officials.

India: Ten dead, in building collapse

DNA

BHIWANDI: Ten people were killed and up to 25 were feared trapped after a three-storey residential building collapsed before dawn on Monday in western India, officials said.

The accident in the city of Bhiwandi, which neighbours India's financial capital Mumbai, occurred around 3:40 am (2210 GMT Sunday), local authorities said. "Ten people have died, we have rescued 11 people alive," an official at the Thane city authority, which oversees Bhiwandi, told media. More than 40 emergency workers had arrived at the scene, the official said, including a team of 30 rescuers from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

NDRF director general Satya Narayan Pradhan tweeted that teams armed with specialised equipment and sniffer dogs were trying to rescue some "20-25 feared trapped". Images broadcast on the NDRF's official Twitter page showed emergency workers combing through concrete and brick rubble with electrical wires hanging over their heads. The cause of the accident was not immediately clear, but building collapses are common during India's June-September monsoon, with old and rickety structures buckling after days of non-stop rain.

Briefs

Algeria rejects normalization with Israel

DNA

ALGIERS: Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has said Algeria will never be part of an agreement to normalise relations with Israel. Tebboune condemned the formally signed deal between Israel, Bahrain and the UAE to normalise their ties last week at the White House, in an interview with Algerian media on Sunday. Algeria will not normalise ties with Israel nor bless any of the Arab countries that have made "a kind of rush towards normalisation". "The Palestinian issue is sacred for us and it is the mother of all issues and will not be resolved except by establishing a Palestinian state, with the 1967 borders, with Holy Jerusalem as its capital," he said. For decades, most Arab states have boycotted Israel, insisting they would establish ties once the Palestinian conflict is resolved. The US-brokered deal in mid-August has drawn heavy criticism from several other Arab countries, including Qatar and Morocco.

'Country heading 'to hell' if gov't not formed'

DNA

BEIRUT: Lebanese President Michel Aoun said on Monday that his country was going "to hell" if a government is not formed as French efforts to encourage the formation of a new cabinet falter. Asked where Lebanon was headed if there was no agreement among its fractious leaders, Aoun responded: "Of course - to hell." "As the positions have grown harder, there appears no solution on the horizon soon," he said in a televised address almost a week after the passing of the deadline agreed with France to name a cabinet. Over the past year, Lebanon has been rocked by unprecedented protests calling for an overhaul of the political system, a deepening economic crisis, a surging coronavirus outbreak and a massive explosion that devastated the capital, Beirut. Following the resignation of the government in the wake of the August 4 explosion, France has been pushing for the quick formation of a new cabinet and has offered to help provide Lebanon with vital aid if its politicians make good on long-overdue reforms. But efforts to get Lebanon's fractious leaders to agree on a new government by mid-September in order to start fixing the country's problems have yet to bear fruit. The cabinet formation process has hit a logjam over the demand of Lebanon's two dominant Shia parties - the Iran-backed Hezbollah and its ally the Amal Movement - to name Shia ministers in the cabinet including the finance minister. In his speech, Aoun proposed annulling sectarian quotas in the main cabinet ministries. When asked whether there is no hope for a breakthrough, Aoun said "there might be a miracle". His remarks come shortly after the country's Prime Minister-designate Mustapha Adib urged political forces in the crises-hit country to cooperate to facilitate the formation of a new government.

FPCCI salutes Army role for peace, development in tribal areas

The sacrifices of the Army has changed the situation and now the local and foreign businessmen should start looking into opportunities in that area, said Vice President FPCCI Qaisar Khan Daudzai

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) on Monday said the business community acknowledges role of Army in bringing peace to the tribal districts. Army has not only improved situation but also played a crucial role in rebuilding and developing the erst-

while FATA, it said. The sacrifices of the Army has changed the situation and now the local and foreign businessmen should start looking into opportunities in that area, said Vice President FPCCI Qaisar Khan Daudzai. Talking to the business community, he said investors should be taking advantage of the emerging situation and divert their investments to that area for good profits.

He said that tribal districts have immense potential for investment because of its advantageous location, mineral resources and reliable manpower. The potential of former FATA could not be exploited in past due to security situation and lack of commitment but the incumbent government is serious about it, he added. Qaisar Khan Daudzai said that investment in former

FATA amounts to investing in the future of this great country, he said, adding that the positive role of Army has won hearts and minds of the majority which is not going down well with some negative elements. Law and order situation during the last decade has forced many industries to close or relocate rendering many jobless who have a right to earn a decent living, therefore,

the private sector and the government needs to double their efforts. The army is doing its best while other stakeholders should also do more for provision of facilities, civic services, infrastructure building and other development to ensure that youth of the area are engaged in healthy and constructive pursuits, he demanded. The Government should provide special incentives

to attract investment in infrastructure, tourism, agriculture, cattle farming, forestry and mineral development in once highly unpredictable region. He said that in past the US repeatedly assured to set up Reconstruction Opportunities Zones in FATA but their interest faded for various reasons due to their own priorities and interests but we should stick to our own interests.

Lebanon PM-designate Adib calls for collaboration

DNA

BEIRUT: Lebanese Prime Minister-designate Mustapha Adib has urged political forces in the crises-hit country to cooperate to facilitate the formation of a new government, almost a week after the passing of the deadline agreed with France to name a cabinet. Over the past year, Lebanon has been rocked by unprecedented protests calling for an overhaul of the political system, a deepening economic crisis, a surging coronavirus outbreak and a massive explosion that devastated the capital, Beirut. Following the resignation of the government in the wake of the August 4 explosion, France has been pushing for the quick formation of a new cabinet and has offered to help provide Lebanon with vital aid if its politicians make good on long-overdue reforms. But its efforts to get Lebanon's fractious leaders to agree on a new government by mid-September in order to start fixing the country's problems have yet to bear fruit.

Madrid imposes class-based lockdown

DNA

MADRID: A million people in and around the Spanish capital are under new "stay-at-home" orders to contain another coronavirus surge, as the US death toll neared 200,000. The restrictions in Madrid will last for two weeks, affecting people living mainly in densely populated, low-income neighbourhoods who will be allowed only to travel for essential reasons such as work, medical care or taking children to school. On Sunday, people took to the streets in some of the affected districts in protest against the new measures.



BUDAPEST: Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Mr. Chingiz Aidarbekov held bilateral talks with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary H.E. Mr. Peter Szijjarto. - DNA

Uzbek President to take part in UNGA's 75th session

DNA

TASHKENT: On 23 September, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev will take part in the highest level general political debates at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly. For the first time in the history of the UN, the central events of the General Assembly are to take place in videoconference format due to the epidemiological situation in the world. In his address to the session, the head of our state is anticipated to present the international community with his vision of the pressing issues on regional and global agenda and outline priorities of the political, so-

cial and economic modernization of Uzbekistan. As the principal topic of overall debates suggests, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev is scheduled to speak about joint efforts to combat coronavirus pandemic and overcome its impact. Uzbek leader is expected to put forward a range of important initiatives designed to bolster peace and stability, secure sustainable development, enhance constructive dialogue in the region and at the global level, promote human rights and freedoms, as well as address contemporary challenges and threats, including climate change, food security, poverty reduction. It is worth reminding that in his speech at the 72nd

session of the UN General Assembly in September 2017 in New York, Shavkat Mirziyoyev voiced a number of vital proposals. As part of their implementation, consultative meetings of the heads of Central Asian states are held regularly. In particular, the second such meeting took place in our country's capital city last November. In March 2018, Tashkent played host to a high-level international conference on Afghanistan, the declaration adopted whereby has come to be a "roadmap" for ensuring inter-Afghan peace talks. In December that same year, UN General Assembly passed a special resolution entitled "Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance".

'Ricin mail', woman arrested

WASHINGTON: A woman suspected of sending an envelope containing the poison ricin, which was addressed to White House, has been arrested at the New York-Canada border. The letter had been intercepted earlier this week before it reached the White House. - DNA

Protests against Sisi's rule break out

DNA

CAIRO: Protests have broken out across Egypt against the rule of General Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi. In Suez, Kafr El Dawwar, a city on the Nile Delta, Cairo, Alexandria and Aswan, demonstrators demanded Al-Sisi stand down. Following security forces' attack on demonstrators, the presidential residence in Aswan, Upper Egypt, was set on fire. One video at another protest shows a police car retreating after anti-Sisi protesters threw stones at it. In Al-Qanater, Qalyubia Governorate, protesters marched through narrow streets to stop them being attacked by security forces or beltagayya. In Kadiya village in Giza Governorate, Egyptian protesters overturned a police truck, angry at the government's demolition of buildings there. This is despite Egyptian security forces being deployed in several areas in cities across the country, including Tahrir Square and Suez, with military checkpoints being set up at crossing and highways. Several cafes were closed, particularly in the capital Cairo, as a pre-emptive measure. The protests are in response

to calls made by Egyptian whistleblower Mohamed Ali for people to take to the streets on 20 September. Under the hashtag, which at the time was number one trending in Egypt, "go out on 20 September" Ali called for Egyptians to unite against oppression and injustice to save the country. Last year, Ali released a series of videos accusing the ruling regime and his family of corruption and squandering public funds whilst Egyptians got poorer and poorer. Under the current regime, the Egyptian economy has continued to deteriorate and human rights abuses have escalated, compounded by the coronavirus crisis in the country which has been mishandled by the ruling authorities. Thousands of houses have been demolished after the government claimed they violated building requirements. There is also widespread anger at the government's handling of Libya and the Renaissance Dam negotiations. In response to the protests last year, at least 4,000 people were arrested and many detained over unfounded "terrorism" charges, in the largest crackdown on protesters since AL-Sisi came to power.

Biden blasts Trump's plan for Supreme Court vacancy



DNA

NEW YORK: US Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has urged Senate Republicans not to vote on any candidate nominated to the Supreme Court as the November election approaches, calling the plan by his rival, incumbent President Donald Trump, an "exercise

in raw political power". Biden was speaking on Sunday, the day that a second Senate Republican voiced objections to Trump's plan to vote quickly on a replacement to liberal Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died on Friday. Such an appointment by the president, if approved by the Senate, would cement a 6-3 conservative majority that could influence American law and life for decades. "Voters of this country should be heard ... they're the ones who this Constitution envisions should decide who has the power to make this appointment," Biden said in Philadelphia. "To jam this nomination through the Senate is just an exercise of raw political power."

US to surpass 200,000 COVID-19 deaths

DNA

NEW YORK: The death toll from the spread of coronavirus in the United States was approaching over 200,000 lives on Monday, more than double the number of fatalities in India, the country reporting the second-highest number of cases in the world. The United States, on a weekly average, is now losing about 800 lives each day to the virus, according to a Reuters tally. That is down from a peak of 2,806 daily deaths recorded on April 15. During the early months of the pandemic, 200,000 deaths was regarded by many as the maximum number of lives likely to be lost in the United States to the virus.

Belarus opposition leader urges EU to be 'brave' on sanctions

DNA

BRUSSELS: EU Foreign ministers met in Brussels on Monday to discuss possible sanctions against some 40 Belarusian officials, including President Alexander Lukashenko. The measures are being considered in response to the election that saw Lukashenko elected to a sixth term in office, and the Minsk government's tough response to protesters who dispute the result. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, whose country holds the European Union's rotating presidency, said a key issue was whether to include the president in sanctions. Ministers must "ask ourselves the question of whether Mr. Lukashenko, the main one who bears responsibility, mustn't also be sanctioned by the European Union," said Maas. Belarus police detain hundreds at wom-

en's rally against Lukashenko's rule. Countries including Croatia, Lithuania and Romania are calling for the full suite of measures to be deployed. Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius urged his colleagues to act decisively. "It's really time to act," he said. "It's the least we can do." The ministers spoke after meeting Lukashenko's main opponent Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who called for a courageous response. Speaking to reporters after meeting the ministers at breakfast, Tsikhanouskaya urged Europe to cut any financial support to the Belarus government. "We did a lot to manage with this situation by ourselves, with only the strength of the Belarusian people, but now I understand that we need exterior help," she said, speaking in English. Tsikhanouskaya said she understood that some ministers were reluctant, but that financial help would "only go for violence,

for killing Belarusian people." "At this meeting, I asked just to be more brave," she said. The August election result showed Tsikhanouskaya winning only about 10% of the vote, with Lukashenko - who has been in power for the past 26 years - garnering about 80%. Several people have died in protests since the vote. Tsikhanouskaya was forced to flee Belarus for her own safety after the election. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said ministers would also consider what support the bloc could provide for the Belarusian people. He also said relations with Minsk might need to be reconsidered given that "we don't recognize Lukashenko as the legitimate president of Belarus." He rejected allegations that the European Union was interfering. "This cannot be regarded as interference in internal affairs because democracy and human rights are at the core of the identity of the European Union."

We Don't
COVER UP THE
FACTS
We uncover them.

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25th
Read a Newspaper on
September,
National Newspaper Readership Day

APNS
All Pakistan Newspapers Society

Briefs

UK could face 50,000 cases a day by October

DNA

LONDON: The UK could see 50,000 new coronavirus cases a day by mid-October without further action, the government's chief scientific adviser has warned. Sir Patrick Vallance said that would be expected to lead to about "200-plus deaths per day" a month after that. It comes as the PM prepares to chair a Cobra emergency committee meeting on Tuesday morning, then make a statement in the House of Commons. On Monday, a further 4,368 daily cases and 11 deaths were reported in the UK. The number of deaths recorded tends to be lower over the weekend and on Mondays due to reporting delays. Sir Patrick stressed the figures given were not a prediction, but added: "At the moment we think the epidemic is doubling roughly every seven days."

Pakistan condemns Houthi attack

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns the attack by Houthi militia that resulted in civilian injuries and damage to civilian property in Jazan Region of Saudi Arabia. Pakistan reiterates its full support and solidarity with the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against any threats to its security and territorial integrity.

Chinese scholar lauds Pakistan's leading role in Afghan peace process

Although the intra-Afghan talks have been launched, peace and reconciliation process in the country still faces many difficulties

DNA

BEIJING: A Chinese scholar and former Defense Attache in South Asian countries Prof. Cheng Xizhong lauded Pakistan's leading role in pushing forward Afghan peace process. In an article published by Gwadar Pro on Monday, he said Pakistan has come out as a strong supporter and mediator of the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan and played a key role in realizing the US-Taliban negotiations and signing the peace agreement aimed at ending the war in Afghanistan on February 29 this year. Similarly, Pakistan, together with all parties concerned in the international community,

has done a lot of work to facilitate the opening of peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban. Prof. Cheng pointed out that Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan reiterated on September 13 that Pakistan will continue to fully support the Afghan people's unremitting efforts for peace and development. The "Afghan owned and Afghan led" peace talks are essential to the realization of peace in Afghanistan and the region. He hopes that the Afghan leaders will seize the historic opportunity and work together to reach an inclusive, extensive and comprehensive political solution. Although the intra-Afghan talks have been launched, peace and reconciliation process in the country still



faces many difficulties.

First, the United States will not withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan. US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad said recently that the United States will reduce its troops in Afghanistan to 4,500

within one to two months. As long as the US troops continue to stay in Afghanistan, the Afghan Taliban will not completely stop the resistance movement. To truly achieve peace in Afghanistan, the US troops must leave Afghanistan completely. Second, the United

States will not give up its control of the Afghan regime. The Taliban believes that the current Afghan government is a puppet regime of the United States. In fact, without the support of the United States, the current regime in Afghanistan will collapse immediately. Under such circumstances, the intra-Afghan talks will likely go ahead along with fighting, and the security situation in Afghanistan will not be fundamentally improved. To truly achieve peace in Afghanistan, the United States must thoroughly give up its control over the Afghan government. Third, as the United States reduces its military presence in Afghanistan, some regional force is trying to

deeply intervene in Afghan affairs, which will add complex factors to the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. Cheng Xizhong added, that as a neighbor of Afghanistan, Pakistan is not only the biggest victim of the US military occupation of Afghanistan and the terrorism caused by the US military operations, but also has been in a very difficult situation in the subsequent peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. In order to seek regional peace, Pakistan has overcome various difficulties, worked with the relevant parties of the international community and successfully facilitated the Afghan Taliban to accept the offer of peace talks.

PM vows to bring reforms in subsidy system

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday chaired a meeting to review the process to bring transparency and organize the provision of subsidy to various sectors in the country. The meeting reviewed the reforms proposed for the subsidy system in the country. Imran Khan said that the government's priorities over subsidy matter are clear cut and it is aimed at supporting weak segments of the society. "Subsidy from the national exchequer is aimed at ensuring social and economic uplift in the country," he said.

Suspects' DNA matches rapists'

DNA

KARACHI: The DNA samples of two suspects arrested in the rape and murder of a six-year-old girl in Karachi's PIB Colony have matched the DNA found at the crime scene, the police said on Monday. "Their fingerprints also matched with the fingerprints found on the body," a police officer said. Last week, the police arrested two suspects, Faiz and Abdullah, in the case. Both of them were under the influence of drugs when the crime was committed. According to the police, Faiz first raped the six-year-old and then murdered her. "Abdullah raped the girl after she died," the police said. They then carried the body on a trolley to a nearby park and threw it in a trash can. Another suspect, Nawaz, who was detained for interrogation when the investigation into the case started, has been released after no evidence was found against him.

SEZs, a lifetime opportunity for Pakistani companies: Report

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)'s Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are a lifetime opportunity for the Pakistani companies and the people as they will provide regular business and job openings. According to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Monday, the SEZs with new business models are likely to generate reasonable jobs, develop industrial and business infrastructures and establish domestic value chains connected regionally and extra-regionally with the help of Iron Brother China. Given the successful record

of China in constructing and running several SEZs, Pakistan finds an opportunity to capitalize on the Chinese experiences and investment human resources and technology in establishing China-led industrial parks. Recently, Prime Minister Imran Khan - during the course of the participation in China's Second Belt and Road Forum (BRF) of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) - signed various agreements with his Chinese counterparts. One of the agreements was related to the construction of Rashakai Economic Zone as a topmost priority. This month, Imran Khan inaugurated the Rashakai Special Economic Zone, completed as a project of CPEC.

The feasibility work on remaining SEZs is underway in accordance with the second phase of CPEC. The proposed SEZs offer multiple opportunities to both the Chinese and Pakistani government, firms and people. The proposed Special Economic Zones are expected to work as a strong economic incentive for Pakistani authorities to introduce reforms in order to improve domestic business environment, governing behaviour, productive capacity, export base and enhance commercial attractiveness for further foreign investments. Furthermore, industrialization with a new face is likely to create jobs for the country's large but under-

employed population. The intended industrial activity under SEZs in general and CPEC in particular would expectedly generate employment for the growing educated workforce. In addition, capacity-building efforts through vocational and technical training would also help local workforce to catch up in quality skills. Secondly, the SEZs offer an opportunity to attract Pakistani diaspora with their skills and knowledge along with their accumulated capital for more profitable prospects in the country. Thirdly, trade generation opportunities are likely to induce both the states improve and strengthen bilateral trade regime.

India, China commanders meet again

Chinese side in the Moldeo area facing the Indian-controlled Ladakh region, weren't immediately disclosed

BEIJING: Senior Indian and Chinese military commanders held talks on Monday aimed at resolving a tense months-long standoff along their disputed border in the mountainous Ladakh region. Details of the talks, held on the Chinese side in the Moldeo area facing the Indian-controlled Ladakh region, weren't immediately disclosed. For the first time, a senior Indian foreign ministry official was also participating in the military-level meeting, said an Indian official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with government regulations. There was no information immediately available from Beijing. Despite several rounds of talks by military, diplomatic and political officials, including negotiations between the two countries' foreign and defence ministers in Moscow this month, the border tensions have persisted. Monday's military-level talks come less than two weeks after the two nations' foreign ministers met on September 10 and agreed that their troops should disengage from the tense border standoff, maintain proper distance and ease tensions. - DNA



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