



# Islamabad POST

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**Pakistan's legal system is obsolete and needs review, says Dr. Nudrat**

**Kashmir, Palestine disputes UN's big failures: FM Qureshi**



**Russian envoy says Pakistan an important partner**



## Briefs

### PM forbids unnecessary statements

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan ordered federal ministers to stop issuing 'unnecessary' statements as their opinions during a heated meeting of the federal cabinet, sources reported on Tuesday. "No minister should issue unnecessary statements. A minister does not have [the liberty to express] personal opinions," the prime minister was quoted as saying by sources during the meeting. As the meeting progressed, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, pointing towards Federal Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari, said.

### COAS satisfied over operational readiness

NAVEED MIRAJ

JEHLUM: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Field Firing Ranges near Jhelum to witness demonstration of state of the art, Chinese origin third generation Main Battle Tank VT-4. This potent war fighting machine will be employed in offensive role by strike formations after induction. VT-4 is compatible with any modern tank in the world integrating advanced armour protection, maneuverability, fire power capabilities and state of the art technology. Interacting with the officers and men, COAS expressed satisfaction over demonstrated performance of

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### Kashmir, Palestine disputes UN's failures

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Tuesday has termed the Kashmir and Palestine disputes as the UN most glaring and long-standing failures. Virtually addressing the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations in New York, the foreign minister said the people of IOK still await the fulfillment of UN's commitment made to them for granting them their long-sought right to self-determination.

## No mercy for outlaws, says govt

Shibli said that the Cabinet has reviewed the laws on sexual abuse and work is underway on strengthening these laws

STAFF REPORT \ DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information Shibli Faraz on Tuesday reiterated the government's resolve to ensure the apprehension of people involved in crimes of a sexual nature, as calls increase for stern action against such offenders. Shibli Faraz said that the Cabinet has reviewed the laws on sexual abuse and work is underway on strengthening these laws. Faraz - addressing a post-cabinet meeting press conference alongside Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan - said that the premier's aide on accountability, Shahzad Akbar, had presented a draft to the cabinet regarding sexual crimes. The information minister said that the cabinet had discussed matters related to the country's energy sector as well and it also mulled over the policy on which LNG-based energy plants operate.

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### Price of experimental drug reduced

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Health Dr Faisal Sultan has said that the price of Remdesivir, an experimental drug used for the treatment of Covid-19, has been reduced to Rs8,400 from Rs10,873. Remdesivir, a drug developed by Gilead Sciences, has grabbed attention as one of the most promising treatments for Covid-19, the respiratory disease caused by novel coronavirus. Explaining the price mechanism of drugs, the SAPM said many life-saving drugs have run out from market after pharmaceutical companies were not allowed to increase their prices. "We are paying higher prices of smuggled drugs but not ready to accept the rational increase in their prices," he remarked. Dr Faisal said the government has allowed increasing the prices of 94 drugs to ensure their availability in the market. - DNA

## Taliban key man killed in Afghanistan attack

On the other hand, the Taliban are yet to comment on the incident

DNA

KABUL: The Taliban military commission deputy for Badakhshan province Mowlawi Attaullah has been killed during a battle with Afghan Security Forces. Sanaullah Rohani, the spokesperson for the local police, said that the Taliban insurgents carried attacks against security posts in Raghistan district of Badakhshan province. Afghan forces in a defence position repulsed the attack, inflicting heavy casualties to the militants, he added. Accord-

ing to Rohani, deputy of the Taliban military commission Attaullah, known as Ibrahim, was killed during the clash. Provincial government spokesman, Naik Mohammad Nazari also said: "his death could prove a major setback to the Taliban in Badakhshan and adjoining areas." On the other hand, the Taliban are yet to comment on the incident. Earlier on Sunday, at least 57 members of the Afghan security forces were killed and dozens injured in overnight clashes with Taliban fighters across Afghanistan in the bloodiest day of fighting since the government and the armed group began peace talks in Qatar more than a week ago. Sunday night's clashes were in the central province of Uruzgan, where 24 members of the Afghan security forces were killed when Taliban fighters attacked security checkpoints, Deputy Governor of the province Sayed Mohammad Sadat said. Clashes and casualties were also reported in the provinces of Baghlan, Takhar, Helmand, Kapisa, Balkh, Maidan Wardak and Kunduz, provincial officials told Reuters news agency.

## Indian economy set to fall behind Pakistan's

A report has warned that India's approach has been ineffective in dealing with the crisis

NEWS DESK / DNA

NEW DELHI - India has failed to contain the spread of the COVID outbreak. The outbreak's implications are going to be huge for the country with the economy bearing the brunt of the pandemic's fallout. As of now, COVID-19 cases in India have crossed 5 million and there is no evidence to suggest whether the surge has reached its peak yet. India has the second-highest number of COVID-19 cases globally, after the US. A report has warned that India's approach has been ineffective in dealing with the crisis, meaning the virus's surge will see the country's economy lagging behind the rest of South Asia.

"New cases per capita in these three economies are far lower than in India," Shilan Shah, senior economist at Capital Economics in Singapore told the Print. "This has enabled a faster rebound in activity." The report further said that the pandemic's impact on Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka's gross domestic product is not going to be stern as these countries have done well to contain the crisis. However, India is expected to "post a double-digit slump" as the country's economy comes under huge pressure due to shutdowns.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi conferring 'Hilal-e-Pakistan' on the outgoing Chinese Ambassador Mr. Yao Jing, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday. DNA

### President confers Hilal-e-Pakistan on China envoy

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Earlier, in recognition of the services made by the outgoing Chinese Ambassador for improving Pakistan-China relations, President Dr. Arif Alvi conferred the Award of Hilal-e-Pakistan on Mr. Yao Jing at a special investiture ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Tuesday. The ceremony was attended by Chairman Senate, Mr. Sadiq Sanjrani, Speaker National Assembly, Mr. Asad Qaiser, Federal Ministers and senior

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## Phase III vaccine trial begins in Pak

The initial clinical trials were "done in China at the start of the year and it [the vaccine] was [found to be] safe and immunogenic, Maj Gen Ikram said

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Phase III clinical trial of a Chinese-developed coronavirus vaccine has commenced in Pakistan under the supervision of the National Institute of Health (NIH), with some 8,000-10,000 candidates participating,

Continued on Page 04

### Coronavirus kills 4 Pakistanis, infects 582

ABID RAZA / DNA

LAHORE, : Pakistan has reported 4 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 306,886. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 6,424. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCO) 582 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours.

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Over 80 local and foreign Golfers turn up in Serena-hotels sponsored Golf event - Page 06

Comprehensive accord on transparent and objective criteria and mechanisms - Page 07

Pakistan's legal system is obsolete and needs review, says Dr. Nudrat - Page 08

## Pakistan, China to jointly build cancer laboratory

Under the proposed framework, Pakistani and Chinese companies will jointly carry out exploration and research on cancer medical treatment

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan, China will jointly build a cancer medical laboratory through cooperative partnership. In this connection, an agreement's signing ceremony of Pakistan-China biotechnology strategic cooperation was held here, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. Under the flagship project of this cooperation, Pakistani and Chinese companies will jointly build a cancer medical laboratory.

The agreement was jointly initiated and signed by Life Rehealth Technology Pakistan and Beijing Anlong Gene Medicine Technology. Under the proposed framework, Pakistani and Chinese companies will jointly carry out exploration and research on cancer medical treatment, and Chinese companies will also share their existing medical technologies with Pakistan. Dr. Ahmed Waqas, the CEO of Life Rehealth, has been active in CPEC medical cooperation for a long-term. He said in an exclusive interview that, the incidence of cancer in Pakistan is very high, especially lung cancer, liver cancer and so on. However, due to the current medical level and sanitary conditions, patients cannot receive good treatments. Therefore, cooperation between Pakistan and China in this sector is very necessary and will bring great benefits to Pakistan. Regarding the reasons why Pakistan chose Chinese company as a cooperative

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## Briefs

## Nawaz Sharif playing into India's hands: Ch Pervaiz Elahi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has said that Pakistan Army is the guarantor of national security and stability and Nawaz Sharif's APC speech was a scathing showcase of anti-nationalism. Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi said that like in the Dawn leaks controversy, it has been proven that the PML-N supremo is still playing into the hands of India. He said in his video statement that the Army is the guarantor of security and stability of Pakistan. It is a constitutional institution and its cooperation with the government is also a constitutional process, he added. Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi said that Nawaz Sharif has violated the constitution by opposing this process, which is both regrettable and reprehensible. He advised Nawaz not to follow the footsteps of former MQM chief, otherwise his fate would not be too dissimilar. The Speaker said that just a few days ago, realizing the dangerous intentions of India, the Chief of Army Staff had ordered his troops to intensify its battle preparedness. Nawaz Sharif's brazen attack against Pak army during such a time is an example of his hostility towards the country.

## DC Hunza notifies closure of three schools

GILGIT: Deputy Commissioner Hunza has notified closure of three schools in Gulmit and Sost Hunza due to report of corona virus cases among staff. In this regard an emergency meeting was held under the chairmanship of DC Hunza Fiyaz Ahmad. In the meeting it has been decided that on the basis of positive cases of Covid-19 as recommended by district health officer Hunza and deputy director education Hunza, three schools namely Government Boys High School Gulmit Gojal Hunza, Government Boys High School Sost Gojal Hunza and Government Girls Higher Secondary School Gulmit Gojal Hunza will remain close for next seven days. It is pertinent to note that according to focal person of health department GB Dr. Shah Zaman more than 50 teachers has been tested positive cases in GB since September 15 after opening of schools and colleges. - APP

## Notices issued to heads of 12 schools

FAISALABAD: District Education Officer (DEO) Secondary Iftikhar Khan issued show-cause notices to heads of 12 schools over poor cleanliness and sanitary condition in addition to violation of corona SOPs. A spokesman for the education department on Tuesday said checking teams found violation of corona SOPs in addition to poor sanitary and cleanliness conditions in 12 schools, and presented its report to the DEO Secondary who issued notices to heads. The DEO also directed the heads to ensure implementation on government instructions regarding corona SOPs and take appropriate measures to control dengue as well. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Nominated President Sardar Yasir Ilyass, SVP Mst Fatima Azim, VP Abdul Rahman Khan submitting Nomination Papers along with Chairman Founder Group Mian Akram Farid, Former President FPCCI Zubair Ahmed Malik & Abdul Rauf Alam, Mian Shoukat Masood, Chairman Election Campaign Ijaz Abbasi, Ahmad Moughal, Sheikh Tariq Sadiq, Nasir Qureshi, Khalid Choudhry Former SVP-icci, Naveed Malik, Aslam Khokher. - DNA

## Pakistan can't bear the political instability, says Iftikhar Malik

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan can neither bear the brunt of political instability nor afford politics of agitation, violence, protest and confrontation at this crucial juncture of time in the wake of Covid 19. Addressing a select gathering of traders representatives from city markets in connection with on going election campaign of Lahore Chamber, Iftikhar Ali Malik, President SAARC Chamber said on Tuesday that what we need is political stability which is

prerequisite for sustained economic growth to cope with the multiple challenges in Pakistan. He said time has changed as now the influential nations are paying more attention to financial warfare to continue their dominance. These countries are successfully using their weapons of economic destruction to weaken economies of poor nations to achieve their unholy designs while Pakistan's economy is not strong enough to withstand economic terrorism. Iftikhar Ali Malik said it is indeed important to in-

crease our exports and for that purpose we need to reduce our cost of doing business so that our products can remain competitive in the world markets. He further said trade facilitation is the key to promote industries and we need to remove all the obstacles and create the culture of trade facilitation. "Our Country has tremendous potential as we have enormous talent. What we need is the consistency in the government policies and a clear roadmap to move forward," he added. Founder Secretary General SAARC Chamber Rehmat

Ullah Javed and President Anjuman-I-Tajran Spare parts Badami Bagh Waqar Ahmad Mian, who is also member election campaign committee were also present on the occasion. The veteran trade leader was of the view that all the sectors including the industrial sector should discharge their national obligations and play their role in strengthening the economy while the government should introduce reforms and control the smuggling of raw material and finished goods. He also urged the government

to conduct market research to find out new destinations for the Pakistani products which are best in the world as far as quality and price is concerned. He said that Pakistani missions abroad should be duty bound to introduce Pakistani products to the foreign buyers and also ensure dissemination of trade related information so that Pakistan entrepreneurs could avail trade opportunities to the maximum. Iftikhar Malik said Lahore Chamber always acts as a bridge between the government and the business commu-

nity. It has always tried to ensure a business-friendly environment through sharing views with the government and by taking all the stakeholders on-board on all the economy related issues. He said PIA-Founder alliance in Lahore Chamber has been still strong enough for the last 18 years and continue its mission to protect the interests of the business community after sweeping election on Sept 25 and Sept 26 next while remaining committed to the cause of development of the country.

## ICCI: Candidates file nomination papers

DNA

ISLAMABAD (DNA) - The three candidates for the new Office Bearers of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry for the year 2020-21 have filed their nomination papers in ICCI. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan has deposited nomination papers for President, Ms. Fatima Azeem for Senior Vice President and Abdul Rehman Khan for Vice President of ICCI. Mian Akram Farid Chairman Founder Group, Zubair Malik, Abdul Rauf Alam, Sheikh Tariq Sadiq, Khalid Javed, Mian Shoukat Masud, Ejaz Abbasi, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Hassan Moughal, Ch. Waheed ud Din, Nasir Qureshi, Muhammad Aslam Khokher, Khalid Chaudhry, Muhammad Naveed Malik, Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Ch. Mazhar and many others were present at the occasion. Speaking at the occasion, Mian Akram Farid, Chairman Founder Group said that no other candidate has deposited nomination papers for the Office Bearers of ICCI, which clearly demonstrated that the Executive Members have full confidence over the leadership of Founder Group. After scrutiny of the nomination papers, the Election Commission would formally announce their unopposed election.

## Two killed in roof collapse incident

ISLAMABAD: A woman with her child were killed on the spot while other got serious injuries when the roof of their mud house was collapsed in Swabi district on early Tuesday morning. As per details, the police said that roof of a house made of dilapidated mud and stone suddenly came down burying the residents under the debris. - APP

## NAB summons Maulana Fazl ur Rehman in assets beyond means case

DNA

PESHAWAR: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has summoned Jamiat Ulema-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on October 1 in assets beyond means case. According to sources, the accountability watchdog has initiated an inquiry against JUI-F chief in assets beyond means case. The sources within NAB said that Maulana Fazlur Rehman has been directed to appear before the NAB officials at its Hayatabad office. Sources said that the team of NAB would seek information from Maulana Fazlur Rehman regarding assets in excess of income. It is pertinent to mention here that Chairman National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Justice (ret'd) Javed Iqbal on September 18 said that they have no associ-

ation with any political party, group or an individual and they strictly believe in the policy of accountability for all. "Our association is only with the state of Pakistan," he said adding that they are striving to get rid of corruption and recover the looted amount. The chairman said this in the backdrop of a meeting held today at the NAB headquarters, where it was decided to file appeals for cancellation of bails in various high profile cases. The appeals would be filed after acquiring attested copies of the bail from the concerned courts. The NAB meeting reviewed cases against Nawaz Sharif, Asif Zardari, Shehbaz Sharif, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani, CM Sindh Murad Ali Shah, Qaim Ali Shah, Ishaq Dar, Khwaja Saad Rafique, Dr Asim Hussain, Ahsan Iqbal, Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Agha Siraj Durrani and several other political leaders.

## Nawaz Sharif spoke Modi's language in APC: Chohan

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan on Tuesday said former premier Nawaz Sharif spoke Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Major Gaurav Arya's language in the All Parties Conference (APC). The provincial minister said in his statement that PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif gave a proof of unification with the enemy and neutralized Shehbaz Sha-

rif's two-year struggle. Fayyaz Chohan said, "The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) which was made by the APC is in fact 'Pakistan Demolishing Movement.' As always, Nawaz Sharif is making futile attempt to use the opposition for personal benefit. "The opposition is meeting military leadership on one hand and giving statements based on hatred and enmity on the other which is a proof of its hypocrisy. - DNA

## Akbar Ayub Khan takes charge of office

DNA

PESHAWAR: Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akbar Ayub Khan on Tuesday took charge of his office after taking oath. The new minister was given a detailed briefing about functions and mandate of the department. Addressing the officers, he expressed gratitude to the high leadership for assigning local government and rural development department portfolio, adding he made every effort for the uplift of education sector and continued reforms process in line with the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan. He also expressed thanks to the staff of the education department for extending their support in implementation of reforms and cooperation in routine work. He vowed to do extra for development of local government and rural development department, adding he would ensure timely completion of masses' welfare-oriented projects besides launching new projects. He said more focus would be given on the development of the merged tribal districts so that its people could get benefits in wake of the merger. He said that work on digitalization policy would be further expedited. He said that local government sector played a key role in prosperity and development of province and added that its importance with regard to resolution of public problems could not be overlooked.



LAHORE: Chief Minister Usman Buzdar meeting with religious scholar Molana Tariq Jamil. - DNA

## Saudi Arabia grants permission for 13 additional flights to PIA

DNA

KARACHI: The Saudi authorities have allowed Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to operate 13 additional flights between the two countries with mandatory provision for adequate social distancing that restricts the passenger capacity to no more than 66% against the actual numbers of seats, said the spokesman of the national flag carrier. Abdullah Khan in a state-

ment here Tuesday said PIA had been operating its regular flights for Saudi Arabia, since September 15, however, infact steady surge was registered in the number of intending passengers, as aqama (residential permits) of many of the Pakistanis serving in the Saudi Kingdom are to expire on September 30. "The flag carrier had sought permission for 28 additional flights," he said. Mentioning that each of the passengers flying to Saudi Arabia, via

PIA, are already meeting the requirement of getting themselves tested for COVID-19 and only those with negative results are allowed to embark for journey, Abdullah Khan said PIA is absolutely committed to follow rules and regulations. Despite the fact that these 13 additional flights are almost half of the demand registered on part of intending passengers, he said PIA is trying its level best to address the situation and that seats can still be booked

through its booking offices and registered agents. According to him, PIA administration and the Aviation Minister have also approached the foreign ministry to help securing permission for additional flights between the two countries. The passengers with "aqamas" expiring on September 25 were advised to get their tickets in next two days and those with September 30 after September 25 so as to help streamline the process and avoiding unnecessary inconvenience.

## 'UN's response on Kashmir has been disappointing'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Masood Khan, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has said that it is unfortunate that the United Nations during its General Assembly session has not put Kashmir on its agenda. Kashmir is burning and UN's response has been immensely disappointing and despite holding three informal sessions at the Security Council, no declaration or presidential statement had been issued. This, he added, is a clear display of the UN's dereliction from its core obligations of maintaining global peace, he said. He said that with the support of friendly countries Pakistan can table resolutions in the Third, Fourth and Sixth Committees of the UNGA; highlighting in it Kashmiris right to self-determination, decolonization



and the illegal dimensions of India's actions, respectively. The President, as the chief guest, made these comments while speaking to a Kashmiri webinar hosted by the Jammu and Kashmir Self-Determination Movement International. The event was chaired by Debbie Abrahams MP All

Parties Kashmir Parliamentary Group in the British Parliament. Newly appointed High Commissioner for Pakistan in UK Moazzam Ahmad Khan along with Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed Chairman Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, Senator Sherry Rehman, Senator Seemi Ezdi, Deputy Leader of the House of Commons London Afzal Khan MP, Shadow Defence Minister Khalid Mahmood MP, Shadow Education Minister Tracy Brabin MP, Shadow Minister Barrister Yasmin Qureshi MP, Conservative MP Bury South Christian Wakeford, Former Member of the European Parliament and Patron Conservative Friends of Kashmir Anthea McIntyre, Mike Wood Conservative MP from Dudley, Sehrish Qamer MLA and Rehman Qureshi President Youth Parliament of Pakistan has also participated in the Seminar.

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## Briefs

### FDE, WWF to educate youth

ISLAMABAD: Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has signed a letter of understanding on Environment education programme with World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-Pakistan) to educate youth for adopting more environmental friendly and sustainable practice. Parliamentary Secretary for Federal Education, Ms Wajihah Akram, Secretary Education Ms. Farah Hamid Khan, Additional Secretary Education Mr. Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani graced the occasion. Mr. Hamid Naqi and Director General (DG) Federal Directorate of Education Ms. Zia Batool signed the agreement. The famous singer vocalist and alumni of FDE Schools Mr. Fakhr was also present in the ceremony. The Objective of the program is to educate and involve youth in advocacy workshop and community action projects by focusing on enhancing individual's personal and professional capabilities for adopting more environmental friendly and sustainable practice. - APP

### Rock Climbing training from Sept 26

ISLAMABAD: Rock Climbers would be arranged a two-day rock climbing training session at Margalla Hills for serious adventure and fun lovers of the twin cities on Sept 26. The training would focus on basic learning along with Introduction of Equipment, Knots, Basic Safety, Basic Bouldering (Basic Moves) Rock Climbing (Top roping), Belaying, Rappelling, Full moon trek to Banfaqiran Buddhist stupa (optional). If you have decided that climbing is for you, then there's no better way to get started to attend one of beginners climbing course, an official said on Tuesday. He said that they have arranged special BBQ dinner with bonfire and music besides Luxury Camping during the training session. He said that the administration fixed Rs. 4000 per head as fee for two-day of training which included all of the equipments, 2 lunch, 2 tea, moon light trek with juice and munching stuff and one BBQ dinner. - APP

### Display list of delimitation process on Oct 4

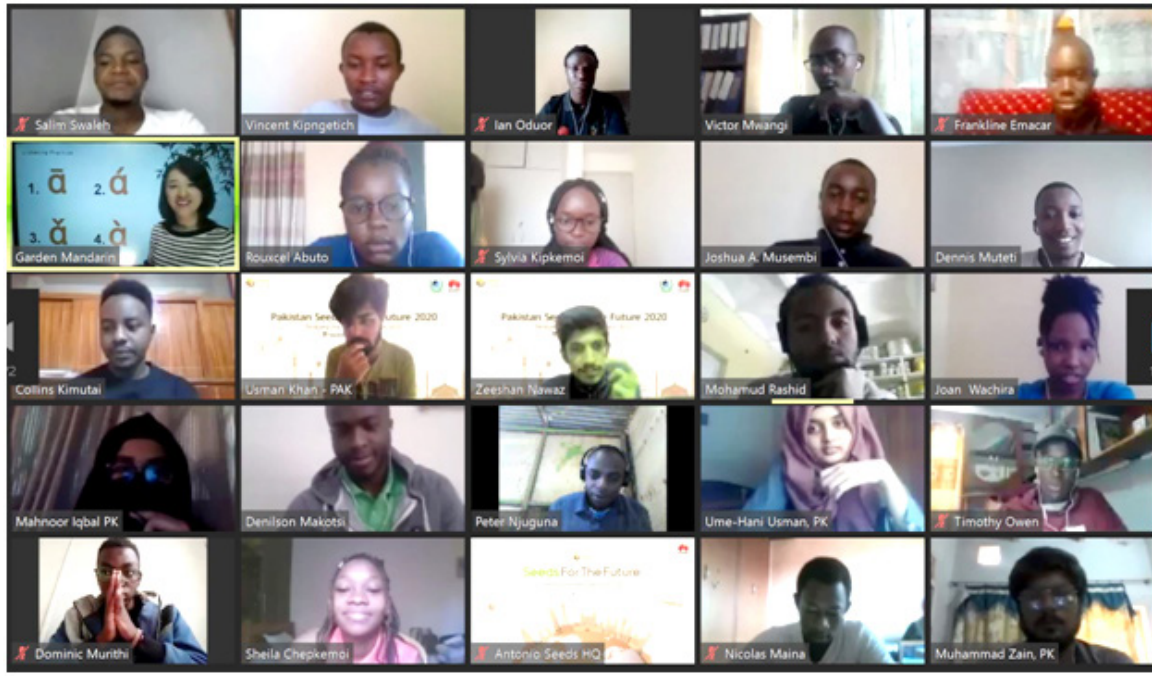
ATTOCK: Election Officer, Attock, Syed Zaigham Altaf Tuesday said that delimitation of 398 Village Panchayats and 53 neighborhood counsels has been completed and the lists would be displayed at his office on 4th Oct, 2020. He said that election commission has updated the facility for voters regarding checking their credentials through an SMS on 8300 also. He said that voters can transfer, register their votes and also file applications for correction of their credentials and deletion of votes on September 21, 22 and 23 respectively which can be down loaded from the website of Pakistan Election Commission. - DNA

# HEC, Huawei launch 'Seeds for the Future' Program 2020

The Seeds for the Future program has been a successful addition to Huawei's social-enterprise partnership goal in Pakistan since the first batch of Pakistani students traveled to China in 2015

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Huawei Pakistan together with the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan has launched the Seeds for the Future program 2020, a 5-day long culture and ICT technologies learning program where 32 brilliant engineering students from Pakistan will attend the online training together with students from Kenya. The program first launched in Pakistan in 2015. Since then, 55 students have benefited from it. Each year the selection criteria is extremely thorough. This is the 5th time seeds for future is happening in Pakistan, 32 students have been nominated by the Higher Education Commission out of a total of 1173 applicants. They are all undergraduate engineering students. The initial period of the learning is about Chinese culture and Chinese lan-



guage. They will also get technical training from Huawei and industry ICT experts who will share their expertise on a wide range of

courses covering 5G, cloud computing, AI, strategic leadership, smart homes, IoT and cybersecurity. Unlike previous years when

whole batch of the nominated students could travel to China for the study trip, because of COVID-19, the program has been moved

online. However, at the end of the week, 2 of the top students will be selected and sent to China in 2021 for further study.

The Seeds for the Future program has been a successful addition to Huawei's social-enterprise partnership goal in Pakistan since the first batch of Pakistani students traveled to China in 2015. The aim of the program, which has been active in over 126 countries & regions since its inception in Thailand, has been to nurture upcoming STEM talent from around the world. As a global ICT market leader, Huawei has taken it upon itself to promote local ICT industries as part of development in their operational regions. The ICT industry is one of the fastest growing in Pakistan, and the world. The demand for qualified and market-ready professionals in the field is growing rapidly - it is becoming a need, in our burgeoning online-based globalized reality. Programs such as Seeds of the Future address this long-term possibility of deficiency with appropriate foresight.

### DG PNCA serves legal notice to Uxi Mufti

ISLAMABAD: DG PNCA Dr Fouzia Saeed on Tuesday served a legal notice to Mr. Uxi Mufti for baseless allegations against her for misusing her power when she was at Lok Virsa. Through this vicious campaign, Mr. Uxi Mufti tried to tarnish the reputation of Dr Fouzia Saeed and that of the institute of Lok Virsa, said the legal notice. According to the notice, Mufti used the tool of hate speech and attempted to incite violence. The notice states that Dr. Fouzia did an outstanding work at Lok Virsa in her three-year term from 2015 to 2018. Upgrading the ethnology museum and digitizing of archives and making it into state of the art system with searchable mechanism was one of her several achievements. She demanded that Mr. Mufti should stop the acquisitions and make a public apology. She has claimed Rs 25 Crores as damages for her mental agony and the damage he has done to her reputations, nationally and internationally. - APP

### 3 bike lifters arrested: 10 bikes recovered

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested three bike lifters and managed to recover 10 stolen motorcycles from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Race Course police in their crackdown against criminal elements, managed to net two bike lifters namely Muhammad Irfan and Abdul Wahab and recovered six stolen motorcycles and cash from their possession. He said, Police also recovered weapons and other items from their possession. He informed that a Police team constituted under the supervision of SHO Race Course on the directives of SP Potohar conducted raids and nabbed the bike lifters. As per preliminary police record, the criminals were also involved in other crimes, he added. He stated that other members and facilitators of the bike lifters would also be sent behind the bars following preliminary investigations with the detainee culprits. - APP

## Workshop commences at PMAS-AAUR

Dr. Qamar said that research needs time and hard work and the students must focus on the research activities

RAWALPINDI: A two-day training workshop on "Experimental Design, Data Analysis and Report Writing" for MSC students organized by Directorate of Advanced Studies (DAS) commenced at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), here on Tuesday. The main objective of the training workshop is to aware and train the students about the research topic selection, methods used for its conduction, data analysis of the research results and the report writing. In the workshop the Vice-Chancellor of the PMAS AAUR Prof. Dr Qamar Uz Zaman participated as Chief Guest while dean, directors and faculty members were also present.

The VC while addressing the participants said that Pakistan is far behind in the field of research work as the researchers which the universities are producing are not capable to compete with the foreign researchers. Research is one of the major components of any country's prosperity which is missing in every field here from universities to the industries that's why the local products are being beaten by the companies focusing on the research, he said. Dr. Qamar said that research needs time and hard work and the students must focus on the research activities. The VC further said that the PMAS-AAUR was striving to promote the culture of research and he had directed

all the deans, directors and faculty members to support and coordinate with the students in this regard. He said that the university was fully prepared to facilitate the students and constructing new labs and upgrading the old ones, new lectures rooms and the traveling facility. It is responsibility of the students to meet their research coordinators on regular basis regarding their research work and discuss problems if any, he added. Dr. Zammurad Iqbal Ahmed Professor of Agronomy department delivered a lecture on Experimental Design, Data Analysis and Report Writing. Earlier, Dr. Muhammad Azam Director Advanced Studies also spoke on the occasion. - APP

### Rwp Police arrest 10 for possessing weapons

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police in a crackdown against illegal weapons rounded up 10 persons from different areas and recovered weapons from their possession, said police spokesman on Tuesday. He informed that City, Waris Khan, Sadiqabad, New Town, Saddar Baroni and Rawat Police on the directives of Rawalpindi CPO, launched crackdown and arrested 10 persons namely Rizwan, Waqar Ashraf, Umar Qadoos, Adnan, Muhammad Ahsan, Muhammad Qasim, Sheheryar, Tofeeq and Noor Khan and recovered illegal weapons including eight 30 bore pistols, a rifle and huge quantity of rounds of different bores from their possession. He said that the police were conducting operations against law violators on a regular basis on directions from the CPO without any discrimination. - APP

### Traders call for implementation of IHC stay order

FIJAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Ajmal Baloch, President, All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tijarat and Traders Action Committee Islamabad and Khalid Mahmood Chaudhry, Secretary, Aftab Gujjar, Chaudhry Irfan, Abdul Rehman Siddiqui, Asad Aziz, Syed Altaf Hussain Shah, Khurram Iqbal, Yousuf Rajput, Emad Bin Arif, Zafar Iqbal Chaudhry, Yasir Abbasi and Raja Saghir said that the Islamabad High Court had issued a stay order against the increase in property tax by MCI and upheld that stay order in its last hearing, but the Director Revenue CDA has refused to implement the IHC stay order. He has also refused to accept the orders of Sheikh Ansar Aziz, Mayor Islamabad for implementing the

IHC stay order. They said that a delegation of traders met the Director Revenue CDA but he flatly refused to receive the property tax on previous rates. Ajmal Baloch further said that nowadays corruption was rampant in the Revenue Department of CDA. Even the Chairman CDA and Mayor Islamabad were unable to get any work done without paying bribe while the Director Revenue CDA played key role in increasing the property tax by 300%. He appealed to the Chairman CDA Amir Ali Ahmed and the Mayor Islamabad Sheikh Ansar Aziz to immediately appoint an honest officer as Director Revenue CDA. He warned that if the orders of the Islamabad High Court were not implemented, the traders would besiege the Revenue Office.

## UAE embassy endows 7600 sanitizers to IIU

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of United Arab Emirates (UAE Islamabad Tuesday endowed 7600 bottles of hand sanitizers and references books to the International Islamic University (IIU). The initiative was the part of UAE Embassy's hygiene campaign "Let's give everyone a clean hand" to combat against the COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier, a meeting was held at the new campus of the university between Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al Zaabi, the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Pakistan and Dr. Hathal bin Hamoud Al-Otaibi, President IIU. The meeting discussed the issues pertaining to mutual interests such as further strengthening the academic ties and enhancing bilateral educational cooperation. On the occasion, Dr. Hathal lauded the efforts of Embassy and apprised the Ambassador regarding the University's vision, objectives, activities and achievements. IIU President said that IIU is keen to further enhance cooperation in the field of Higher Education with the universities of Muslim world. Ambassador Al Zaabi, on the occasion, hailed IIU for its services and termed the university as one of the vital institutions of Muslim world. Talking about Pak-UAE ties, the ambassador pointed out that the deep rooted relations between UAE and Pakistan are based on political,



economic and trade relations, defense and security ties, cultural cooperation and exchange of experiences. The ambassador said that the UAE leadership always given importance to assist the health and education sectors in the brotherly Islamic Republic of Pakistan. - APP

### AIOU announces scholarships over 80% marks

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced scholarship program for the students securing 80 percent and above marks in the examinations of autumn 2020 semester. According to the details, all those students who will meet this criterion are eligible to apply for this scholarship irrespective of their academic programs. The director students' affairs, Rana Tariq Javed, informed that the rate of the scholarship as well as the number of students benefiting from this scheme will be determined in accordance with the available funds at the directorate of students' affairs. Moreover, examinations of the academic programs, offered during the 1st phase of admissions to autumn 2020 semester including matriculation, FA and ATTC, will commence from September 28 all over the country. Roll number slips have been dispatched to the students through postal services. Date sheet and roll number slips are, also, available online on the university website. On the special directives of Vice Chancellor AIOU Prof Dr Zia ul Qayyum examinations centers are established at the nearby union councils to facilitate the students of far flung areas. Dr Malik Tauqeer Ahmad, Controller Examinations, informed that wearing masks inside the examination halls has been made mandatory and social distancing will also be observed by leaving two seats empty between the students. - APP

## Crime rate declines in City Zone of Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The City Zone of Islamabad police has witnessed decline in crime rate during the ongoing year along with effective crackdown against the proclaimed offenders and focus on resolving public complaints. It was stated by SP (City Zone) Omer Khan while giving a briefing to Inspector General of Police Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar khan about crime situation in the area. DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed, AIG (Operations) Haroon Joya, Sub-Divisional Police Officers (SDPOs) and Station House Officers (SHOs) were also present in City Zone police area were police stations during the briefing. It was told that 197 accused were held in various cases and valuables worth millions of rupees including vehicles, bikes, gold ornaments, mobile phones and weapons, ammunition as well as narcotics were also recovered from them. A total of 386 absconders were held and produced before

the court, the SP Omer Khan briefed. The IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar khan stressed to adopt zero tolerance policy against crime and ensure protection to the lives and property of the citizens through effective as well as vigilant policing. He also focused on immediate registration

as well as resolving public complaints and improve investigation techniques for immediate justice to people. He asked to launch crackdown against absconders and complete investigation on cases related to human rights, rape or other heinous nature.



Islamabad police chief said that Capital police would be made role model for other provinces and its performance to be improved. He said that anti-corruption unit has been established in Islamabad police and accountability process is underway in the force. "We are public servants and our salaries are paid by the government through tax money. We should respect the people from whom taxes salaries are paid to us," the IGP said and urged for utmost efforts for providing relief to people. He directed to behave politely with complainants visiting policing stations and warned strict action against policemen for neglecting decency during interaction with people. From the level of Constable to DIG, every cop is respectful for me and they would be given more respect for their efforts towards effective policing, the IGP maintained. He said those bringing bad image for the force would not be tolerated and strict disciplinary action to be taken against them.

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## Briefs

## President confers Hilal-e-Pakistan on China envoy

From Page 01  
officials of the Government of Pakistan. The Ambassador of China, Yao Jing called on the President and discussed matters pertaining to bilateral relations between the two countries. While talking to the Ambassador, the President said that China was a close friend, which has always supported Pakistan on all issues of national interest. He emphasized the need for further strengthening defense cooperation between the two all-weather friends. He added that Pakistan was looking forward to the visit of President Xi Jinping which would further boost bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, economy and defense. The President appreciated the efforts made by the outgoing Ambassador for further promoting and solidifying bilateral relations. He said that many infrastructure and development projects were completed during the tenure of Mr. Yao Jing. The Ambassador assured that China would continue its efforts to promote peace and connectivity in the region. He specially thanked the President for being the only Head of State to visit China during Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020.

## Pakistan, China to jointly build cancer laboratory

From Page 01  
partner, Waqas said, the cooperation in the medical field is of great importance and requires profound friendship and trust between the two sides. "China and Pakistan are 'iron brothers', and the Pakistani people deeply trust China. So if Pakistan wants to develop biotechnology, the best partner must be our good brothers." "The second reason is," he added, "China's rapid development in the medical field in recent years is obvious to all, and the technology in oncology treatment has also been relatively mature. Therefore, we believe that through this cooperation, Pakistan can import advanced technology from China to help our patients." Dr. Wei Yujun, general manager of Anlong Gene, said, "China's development in life science has attracted worldwide attention in recent years. As Chinese medical personnel, we have the responsibility to make cutting-edge technology benefit more people. What's more, Pakistan is a friendly neighbor of China. Under the frame of BRI, we should strengthen medical cooperation with our iron brother."

## COAS satisfied over operational readiness

From Page 01  
Tank VT-4, another addition to inventory of Armoured Corps after recent induction of indigenously produced Al-Khalid-1 Tank. It has further strengthened Pakistan's overall defence capability to thwart enemy designs. COAS said that Pakistan Army is alive to emerging challenges and regional threats. We are completely focused towards internal and external challenges to defence of country and prepared with matching response against all threats to sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of Pakistan. COAS lauded troops for professionalism, operational readiness and highest training standards to meet challenges of modern day battlefield requirements. Earlier, Corps Commander Mangla, Lieutenant General Shaheen Mazher Mehmood received COAS at Tilla Field Firing Ranges.



JHELUM: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa witnessing demonstration of state of the art, Chinese origin third generation Main Battle Tank VT-4. – DNA

## COMSATS formulated a comprehensive strategy on economic growth

Changing climate is a great threat to regional food security and robust efforts are needed to achieve the sustainable development goal two-zero hunger

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Scientists from Pakistan, Colombia, Gambia, Ghana, Jordan and Sri Lanka were gathered by the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) to exchange valuable knowledge and experience on agriculture as means for food security and economic growth. The webinar entitled "Challenges to Agriculture and their Solutions in the GlobalSouth" was organized by COMSATS Centre for Climate and Sustainability (CCCS). "Changing climate is a great threat to regional food security and robust efforts are needed to achieve the sustainable development goal two-zero hunger", remarked Ambassador Kamal, head of COMSATS Center for Climate & Sustainability at the opening of the session. He considered agriculture the backbone of economy especially in the Global South due to the region's heavy reliance on farming as the major source of income. Owing to the rich intellectual inputs from various institutions, the webinar established the importance of sharing knowledge, good

practices and success stories to address challenges in achieving food security within the framework of South-South Cooperation. Researchers and scientists from National University of Science and Technology

(NUST), Islamabad; Centre for Climate Research & Development (CCRD), COMSATS University Islamabad (CU); Centro Inter-nacional de Fisica (CIF), Colombia; School of Agriculture and Environmental Science,

University of The Gambia (UTG), The Gambia; Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Soil Research Institute of Ghana; National Agricultural Research Council of Jordan; and Uva Wellassa University, Sri Lanka participated in the webinar. The speakers of the event, inter alia, highlighted need for technology-driven means for crop production and agriculture yield improvement under the changing climate; water conservation techniques, including rooftop water harvesting and wicker bed system under permaculture; importance of biochar derived from plants and other agricultural waste to mitigate climate change; measures to ensure self-sufficiency in food production such as limiting the use of chemical pesticides, promoting organic farming and precision agriculture; and import substitution policy, among others. Discussions during the webinar led to recommendations relating to use of alternate crop varieties; improvement of micro-finances and credit for smallholder farmers; more public-private partnerships in agriculture; holistic approaches towards food systems respective of social, economic, and environmental dimensions; and revisiting the agriculture policies aimed at enhancing agricultural production.



## 2 bootleggers held, 288 wine bottles recovered



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad industrial area zone police on Tuesday booked two bootleggers and recovered around 288 wine bottles from the accused. According to police spokesman, a team was constituted under the supervision of ASP Zuhab Narullah Ranjha, comprising SHO Khurram Shehzad, ASI Irfanullah and others, following the directions of SP industrial area Zubair

Ahmed Sheikh. The team arrested two accused Gulraiz Masih and Shahid Mahmood and recovered 288 bottles of wine besides 50 liters of alcohol. A case has been registered against the suspects and further investigation was underway, the spokesman added. IGP, Islamabad, Muhammad Amir Zulfikar Khan and DIG (operations) Waqar-Ud-Din Syed have lauded the performance of police team. The DIG directed all police officers to take strict action against liquor seller and drug dealers. He appealed the masses to cooperate with police to eradicate crime and maintaining law and order in the city. He asked the people to keep an eye in their surroundings and informed the police if found any suspicious activity in their area for prompt action and that the name of informer would be kept secret.

## FPCCI invites business community to share issues in regular meetings

DNA

ISLAMABAD, SEP 22 (DNA) – Being the apex body of Trade & Industry of Pakistan, FPCCI is always available to address the issues faced by the business community, said Sheikh Sultan Rehman Vice President FPCCI during the "Open House" discussion on the matters related to business, trade & industry organized at the Federation House Karachi. While conducting the program, Sheikh Sultan Rehman said that on the instructions of Mian Anjum Nisar President FPCCI, for the very first time FPCCI has taken the initiative to hold series of "Open House" discussions on the third Saturday of every month and invited the business community to utilize this platform for effective net-

working and addressing the issues. The purpose of these "Open House" sessions is to discuss any matter related to trade and industry and is not confined to any one topic which is usually the case with other programs. The session was attended by Mr. Naser Hyatt Magoon, Former President KCCI, Ms. Shabana Asif, SVP Women CCI South, Mr. Iftikhar Ghani Vohra Former SVP KCCI, Mr. Abdul Rehman Khan, Convener FPCCI Standing Committee on Small Traders, Mr. Amjad Rafi, Chairman Pak-Turkey Business Council of FPCCI, Mr. Shujaat Ahmed, Consultant from SDPI, Mr. Muhammad Ismail Kalpuria, Ms. Shafaq Zainuddin and Ms. Mahwash Syed. During the discussion, Naseer Hyatt Magoon said that it is time that small and medi-

um business owners must maintain documentation to avail the financing schemes from SBP. Amjad Rafi emphasized on the involvement of FPCCI and business community on important decision making. Iftikhar Vohra mentioned the issues of detention & demurrage faced by the importers while Shabana Asif highlighted the issues faced by the exporters and women entrepreneurs during the lockdown and demanded government to provide interest and collateral free loans to the women entrepreneurs. Shujaat Ahmed offered research assistance to the business community which can be utilized in the policy making on government level. Mahwash Syed said that the pandemic followed by the rain and urban flood-

ing has drastically damaged the small businesses in the country which need utmost attention of government authorities. Abdul Rehman Khan appreciated FPCCI on its efforts to provide support and cooperation to business community and recommended that government must provide zero rated loans to the small traders specially. Shafaq Zainuddin addressed the non-cooperative attitude of commercial banks in provision of financing loans to women and small business owners. The participants highly appreciated this initiative and said that "Open House" sessions will provide them an opportunity to share their views/input, interact and network with members of the business community.

## DOAM to host online Int'l training course

ISLAMABAD: Federal Department of Archeology and Museums (DOAM) has planned to arrange two-day online international training course on 'cultural heritage preservation' for young professionals from October 1st. According to an official of DOAM, the event is being organized with an aim to enhance skills of Pakistani youth for the actual usage of 3D photogrammetry for the documentation of cultural heritage. He said that young heritage professionals from Iran, Pakistan, Nepal and Cambodia would participate in the course being arranged with the support of Tokyo National Research Institute of Cultural Properties and Japanese Centre for South Asian Cultural Heritage. – APP



ISLAMABAD: WWF-Pakistan, Federal Directorate of Education sign Letter of Understanding to enhance capacity building & promoting sustainable practices among the youth by utilizing interactive & digital platforms. – DNA

## SC rejects appeal against DSP's promotion

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Tuesday maintained Punjab Service Tribunal's verdict while rejecting Punjab government's appeal against promotion of Deputy superintendent of police Tanveer Ahmed Bhatti. A five judge larger bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Gular Ahmed and comprising Justice Mushir Alam, Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan and Justice Qazi Muhammad Amin Ahmed heard the case regarding out-of-turn promotion in the Punjab Police. During the course of proceedings, Justice Ijaz-Ul-Ahsan asked why the officer was not promoted on the basis of his seniority while the department had also asked for promotion on the basis of seniority. The Additional Advocate General Punjab said that Tanveer Ahmed belongs to another region. He said that rules for promotion to pre-inspector posts were different. The Chief Justice asked what was the relation of the region as the rules for promotion would be the same in the whole Punjab. DSP Tanveer Bhatti said that he also belonged to Multan region from where other officers were promoted. He said that he had not been promoted since 2009 and 11 DSPs of his badge had been promoted. He said that he would retire on November 5 this year. – APP

## Phase III vaccine trial begins

From Page 01  
the study's principal investigator, Maj Gen Aamer Ikram, announced on Tuesday. Addressing a press conference alongside Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan, Maj Gen Ikram – who also holds the executive director position at NIH – said "it is an honour for us that we have launched the first-ever Phase III clinical trial of the coronavirus vaccine", formally called the Adenovirus Type 5 vector (Ad5-nCoV). He noted that three of the nearly seven vaccines currently in their Phase III clinical trials were from China. "CanSino Biologics Inc's vaccine is based on recombinant technology, which has a [deactivated] adenovector," he explained, referring to the mechanism of the vaccine developed by the Chinese biopharmaceutical company. "The virus vector and cell culture have been procured from Canada. After that, it is made into a vaccine which, through recombinant technology, creates antibodies," he explained. The study's principal investigator said the trial's first clinical phases saw tests carried out on animals and a subsequent Phase 1 clinical trial, which reviewed the vaccine's safety and efficacy on humans. The initial clinical trials were "done in China at the start of the year and it [the vaccine] was [found to be] safe and immunogenic". A Phase 1 clinical trial carried out in China "produced great results", Maj Gen Ikram said. Ikram explained that a Phase 2 trial – considered "a major trial" – was carried out on some 508 people and produced "great results as well and was published in Lancet, which is considered to be one of the top medical journals". The technology employed in the development of Ad5-nCoV was similar to the one used in the AstraZeneca Oxford trial – AZD1222 – except that the latter used the adenovector of chimpanzees virus and the Chinese vaccine uses a human vector, he added.

## No mercy for outlaws, says govt

From Page 01  
"In the past, energy was made expensive due to expensive contracts," he said, adding that the masses should be made aware of the reason why power was expensive before and the steps the incumbent government is taking to reduce the cost. Faraz said that the circular debt of the power sector has taken a hold of the country's economy. "Past agreements have mortgaged the country and now we cannot break them." The decisions of the Economic Coordination Committee were also ratified, Faraz said. Faraz, blaming the past governments, said that they had focused on producing energy and did not pay attention to the transmission and supply of power. "Line losses increased as [the past governments] did not focus on transmission [of energy]," he said.

## PMC Bill

**A**MIDST the chaos that ensued in the senate, when a deadlock was created over FATF related bills in the senate, the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) bill of 2020 was passed—abolishing the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) as a result. It was accepted on the promise of granting institutions increased autonomy to make decisions without the limitations imposed by the PMDC. However, many see this not only as a threat to the quality of students produced but also claim that without an oversight body that standardised fee structure, going to medical school becomes unattainable by many.

For years, the PMDC was criticised for shifting focus away from granting admissions to worthy applicants and towards maximising the numerical value of students. Similarly, the ease with which the council closed down colleges without justifiable reasons incurred major losses upon investors as well. To correct a faulty system, the PMC bill enables colleges to establish their own admission policies and fee structure. While this is a step forward, there are obvious points of contention.

Abandoning the centralised admission policy, according to which students were given admissions based on merit, would entail that profitable corporate interests would take precedence over the quality of education given to students and, consequently, their level of expertise as professionals. This is exemplified by the fact that colleges will be also able to determine a fee structure that escapes the bounds of governmental regulation. It is not long before either such a profession becomes out of reach for the masses due to unaffordability or institutions function without proper equipment and instruction—relying primarily on their affiliations. Thus, the inefficiencies are not resolved but have taken on different forms. Even if five yearly inspections are carried out by the government, as is being promised, not much stands to be affected except the worsening prospects of future students.

Before this bill becomes an act, the government needs to acknowledge opposition towards the establishment of the PMC and correct any notion of exploitation or corporate greed.

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## Rape cases on the rise

**I**T has been eleven days since the horrific motorway rape case took place and the key suspect in the case, Abid Ali, still remains at large while his accomplice Shafiq was arrested during a raid and confessed to the crime. That Abid was a known serial rapist who had recently secured release on bail from a local court after being caught for a robbery shows just how inept the policing and judicial system is at keeping dangerous criminals off the streets. During this 'manhunt', necessitated by the media coverage of the case, the resulting outrage and national protests that followed, there have been at least nine more incidents of rape in Punjab. CCPO Lahore, who blamed the victim of the motorway rape incident for what happened to her as she was 'out at night on a highway' should be asked whether or not the victim of another incident, where armed men broke into a house and gang-raped a woman in the presence of her children and husband in Sargodha, is also at fault for being brutally sexually assaulted as her family was made to watch. It is not as if there has been an unusual uptick in such crimes; they have been happening at the same rate for years in various parts of the country but are hardly reported because the victims and their families are either unwilling to register the case altogether due to the stigma attached or are simply unable to do so owing to a noncompliant local police station.

While the government is busy passing laws that will allow courts to hand down 'exemplary punishments' to convicted rapists, such as chemical castration or worse, the tally of victims of sexual assault continues to rise. These are systemic issues that require long-term reforms to fix. Simultaneously, there needs to be a national conversation about an educational initiative, especially in rural communities, aimed at eliminating a culture of misogyny that refuses to acknowledge women as equals, which in turn makes violence against them acceptable. Short of this, not much will change, and lives will continue to be unnecessarily destroyed.

## When will the world stop ignoring what is happening in Gaza?

Majed Abusalama



To Israel, Gaza is not a place where two million men, women, and children call home, but an "enemy entity" - an alien space whose inhabitants do not deserve to be treated with human decency. Israel's propaganda machine, with help from its allies around the world, works tirelessly to dehumanise the people of Gaza, brand them as senseless, violent "extremists"

**F**OR my family, and for the people of Gaza, August has been horrific. Israel bombed the Strip on an almost daily basis, making us feel like we were stuck at the epicentre of a never-ending earthquake. The explosions, at times barely a kilometre from our home, were so loud, my two-year-old niece could not sleep at night. Every time she heard a loud bang she quickly gathered her toys around her, as if to protect them from Israel's bombs.

Last month was indeed horrific, but it was not extraordinary in any way. Israel's soldiers, warplanes, drones and gunships have been harassing, intimidating, and killing the people of Gaza regularly, and with impunity, for decades. Israel's attacks are part of the daily routine in Gaza. To be able to survive, and to lead something that resembles a normal life, us Gazans have no choice but to accept as normal the violence being inflicted on us.

Growing up in Gaza, I always felt a sense of emergency. My family was always prepared for the worst, because the worst could knock on our door at any time, as it did during the attacks on Gaza in 2008, 2009, 2012 and 2014. As a child, I knew that living in fear every single day was not normal. In my heart, I rejected the normalisation of everyday horrors, because I did not want to lose touch with my humanity. Yet I eventually had to come to terms with the situation I was born into and my surroundings.

Now, my niece and thousands of other children living under Israeli siege in Gaza, are growing up with the same fears and the same sense of constant emergency. As they try to sleep through the sounds of bombs, and protect their toys from the horrors that are just outside the door, they are being forced to accept as normal a violent reality that no child should ever even witness. In recent years, there has barely been a day in which Israel did not bomb, shoot into, or physically invade what is not only one of the most densely populated areas on the planet, but also a place which has been besieged for more than 13 years, with major shortages of the basics required for normal human life.

Israel's colonial infrastructure controls the sky above us and the land and sea around us, and is even capable of penetrating into our most intimate spaces to show us its power. In Gaza, wherever you look, you see tools of oppression, occupation and urban warfare - border fences, separation walls, armoured trucks, warplanes and checkpoints shape the landscape we live in. Even

when you are at home, the whirring sound of military drones remind you that you are imprisoned, and you can be attacked at any moment.

I believe Israel makes a conscious effort to constantly remind Gaza Palestinians of its presence. By making its occupation so visible, and the power it has over us so obvious, it is sending us a message: We will never allow you to be normal people, and live normal lives.

To Israel, Gaza is not a place where two million men, women, and children call home, but an "enemy entity" - an alien space whose inhabitants do not deserve to be treated with human decency. Israel's propaganda machine, with help from its allies around the world, works tirelessly to dehumanise the people of Gaza, brand them as senseless, violent "extremists", and create the perception that Israel's occupation is "humane" and "civilised".

Of course, the reality is very different. And despite Israel's efforts to terrorise us into silence, we, the people of Gaza, are not willing to allow our occupier to tell our story. We turn our fears, vulnerabilities and frustrations into resistance and reach out to the world in every way that we can to expose our tragic reality, demand our rights and shame our oppressors.

Like many Gazans living on the Strip and across the world, I have spent a lifetime fighting Israel's colonial policies. I have been on the forefront of the Palestinian struggle for justice and freedom, first in my refugee camp in Gaza, and later Germany. For my efforts, I have been threatened, persecuted, intimidated and even shot at. But I never gave up, because I know resistance is the only way to ensure that there is a decolonised future worth living for me, my family and my beloved Gaza.

But, sadly, the world seems not to be interested in hearing us. Israel's continuing crimes against the Palestinians have been exposed, over and over again, by journalists, UN rapporteurs, activists and Palestinians themselves. Yet, most world governments did nothing to pressure Israel to stop this day. Some issued empty statements to "condemn" Israel, and "urge" it to stop its attacks against the Palestinians, but continued to give Israel diplomatic, political and military support. Others chose to remain completely silent and turned a blind eye to our sufferer, which is another moral betrayal.

But the international community cannot continue to ignore our plight. The UN said some three years ago

that it expects Gaza to become "unlivable" by 2020. Since then, Israel not only refused to take action to reverse Gaza's rapid deterioration into a post-apocalyptic wasteland, but intensified its attacks on the Strip, hindering efforts by activists, NGOs and locals to keep this open prison habitable for a little longer. With the novel coronavirus now spreading throughout refugee camps and communities across Gaza, we cannot afford to wait any longer for the world to acknowledge our suffering and take action.

Every year on May 15, Palestinians mark the Nakba, or "catastrophe", referring to the ethnic cleansing of Palestine and the near-total destruction of Palestinian society in 1948. Since that tragic day, Israel's primary strategic goal has been to keep Palestinians in a state of catastrophe. It has achieved this goal by building a colonial infrastructure to prevent us from escaping its structural violence.

Today, Israel is trying to maintain this state of catastrophe through regular military assaults, daily bombardments and aggressive surveillance. It is trying to force us into compliance by brutally attacking peaceful protests against its occupation and illegal settlement. It is trying to silence us through media campaigns that paint us as "terrorists" and "savages". It is trying to make us forget our humanity and stop fighting for our right to live freely and with dignity by restricting our access to electricity, forcing us to eat inedible food and drink poisoned water.

Israel has kept Palestine in a state of catastrophe for so long that our situation now seems "normal" to the world. But there is nothing normal about Israel's continuing efforts to destroy our communal and personal lives.

Palestinians will undoubtedly continue to resist Israel's colonial policies and build beautiful narratives of grassroots resilience. But we cannot win our righteous, just and moral fight for freedom, equality and dignity without the support of the international community, like it was the case in apartheid South Africa. This is why we call for the international community to sanction and isolate Israel for its repeated crimes against humanity in colonised Palestine. If the world continues to treat our situation as "normal" and fails to take action, it may soon be just too late to save my homeland and my people.

- Courtesy: Al Jazeera

## Islamophobia in the US presidential election

Nazia Kazi



Islamophobia is often mistakenly defined as anti-Muslim bigotry. But a better definition of Islamophobia would be systemic racism, ie, not a matter of individual attitudes. Thus, harassment or negative media portrayals of Muslims are symptoms of Islamophobia which is, at its core, rooted in practices of the state. Anti-Muslim sentiment in the US has meant a blank cheque for American war-making. As media scholar Deepa Kumar has pointed out, "the fear of Islamic terrorism is manufactured to grease the wheels of empire."

**W**ITH Barack Obama's victory in the 2008 presidential election, many in the United States hoped for the retreat of Bush administration policies that criminalised the lives of Muslims. Yet Obama's two terms did little to challenge the most devastating forms of American Islamophobia: war-making, policing and immigration policy. On the contrary, his presidency saw an eager expansion of Islamophobia.

Obama renewed and expanded the US Patriot Act. He classified Muslim civilians killed in US strikes as "enemy combatants". And his Countering Violent Extremism initiative functioned as a form of soft-policing in the lives of ordinary Muslims.

In his creation of a "kill list" and a sweeping provision allowing the worldwide indefinite military detention of US citizen terror suspects without charge, Obama did not just inherit Bush-era Islamophobia - he proactively expanded it. Twelve years later, American voters are once again asked to confront an overtly Islamophobic Republican administration. But it bears asking: what will a victory for Democratic candidates Joe Biden and Kamala Harris mean for American Islamophobia?

Islamophobia is often mistakenly defined as anti-Muslim bigotry. But a better definition of Islamophobia would be systemic racism, ie, not a matter of individual attitudes. Thus, harassment or negative media portrayals of Muslims are symptoms of Islamophobia which is, at its core, rooted in practices of the state.

Anti-Muslim sentiment in the US has meant a blank cheque for American war-making. As media scholar Deepa Kumar has pointed out, "the fear of Islamic terrorism is manufactured to grease the wheels of empire."

The US seamlessly took advantage of anti-Muslim sentiment after the 9/11 terror attacks to justify its 2003 invasion of Iraq. In painting the entire Muslim world as guilty, it mattered little which Muslim-majority country was invaded as retribution - not that any should have been.

So committed was the US to linking Iraq to 9/11 that it named a detention centre in Iraq after a fire marshal who died in the 9/11 attacks. The Department of Defense even named a bomb, dropped on Iraqi people in 2003, after a man who died on 9/11.

Not surprisingly, the ploy worked: in a study of Americans born after 9/11 I did for a forthcoming piece, one in five respondents believed the late Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was responsible for the attacks.

The Democratic Party establishment has been an eager participant in the devastation of Iraq. The 2016 Democratic National Convention featured Khizr Khan, who invoked the death of his son, a US army officer, in Iraq to both justify his support for Hillary Clinton and take a stance against the overt Islamophobia of Donald Trump.

To critics of the Iraq war, invoking Muslim participation in an anti-Muslim war to challenge Trump's Islamophobia was a perverse act of political pageantry on the part of the Dem-

ocrats. So it came as no surprise when the 2020 DNC once again showcased supporters of the Iraq war. At their helm stood Biden, whose disastrous involvement in Iraq stretches back to well before Bush's 2003 invasion.

Biden's VP pick, Kamala Harris, has proven to be an eager ally of the military. She voted against even a moderate cut in the gargantuan military budget in the middle of the COVID-19 economic crisis. Harris's cosy relationship with the hawkish Center for a New American Security promises a renewed sponsorship of an American militarism whose raw material is anti-Muslim sentiment.

The US's unwavering, bipartisan support for Israel remains an enduring symbol of American Islamophobia. To be clear, the Israeli system of settler colonialism cannot be reduced to Muslim-Jewish animosity or anti-Muslim violence. Yet one of the key weapons in Israel's arsenal, alongside the literal arsenal of US-funded weaponry, is Islamophobia.

Consider, for instance, the 2012 advertisements that appeared across American cities, urging people to support "civilised" Israel over "savagely" jihadis. Or the fact that America's most blatant Islamophobes are often also the most vocal supporters of Israeli militarism.

In 2014, with US support, Israel launched an assault on Gaza called Operation Protective Edge. After greenlighting the attack, Obama hosted a Ramadan dinner for Muslim American leaders. Countless Muslim and Arab advocacy groups urged a boycott of the event, condemning it as a ploy to distract from US state support for the violence perpetrated against Palestinians.

Under Trump, American support for Israel has continued unchecked. His first term alone has seen unwavering support for Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing government and its moves to annex the West Bank. Earlier, Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel enshrined the long-held US disregard for Palestinian existence.

Presidential elections consistently force voters to ratify US support for Israel. "Every time, every single time, it's some aspect of Palestinian freedom that must be compromised. Never the candidate's position. Never the system's inherent conservatism. Never the ongoing march of settler colonization. We're volunteering to be captured by the settler's notion of common sense," writes Palestinian American scholar Steven Salaita.

Trump's alliance with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi calls for obvious parallels between the two, particularly around their overt policies of Islamophobia. This was most apparent during Trump's February visit to India, during which sectarian violence in the streets of New Delhi revealed the ugly reality of Hindu supremacy in India. A Trump victory is sure to see the right-wing alliance between the two nations flourish.

With biracial Harris as running mate, Biden has invited identity-minded South Asians in the diaspora to sign on to his ticket. Shortly after her nomination was announced, Muslim American writer Wajahat Ali tweeted, "we're going

to have someone who knows her mirch and masala in the White House" and comedian Hari Kondabolu followed suit, saying "the fact there is a Democratic VP candidate who is a Black & Indian woman whose parents are both immigrants is a sign of progress. This does not mean she was my preferred VP candidate or someone whose actions as prosecutor I endorse. This is to recognize and appreciate that this is an important moment for a lot of people."

Yet there is little to suggest that Harris's biracial identity would be a sign of progress. In fact, a Biden presidency will likely mean a continuation of Trump-era support for Modi's ethnonationalist project of Hindutva, an ideology that has been calamitous for Muslims and caste-oppressed Indians. This became clear when Biden's primary campaign selectee Amit Jani, a vocal supporter of the right-wing ethnonationalist Indian government, as Asian American Pacific Islander Outreach Coordinator. In a particularly cruel twist, Jani's position included Muslim Outreach. Recently, a ranking member of Modi's far-right BJP party said, "We are naturally happy that someone with Indian ancestry is contesting the second topmost post in the USA."

Many worry that Harris's South Asian identity is being instrumentalised by the Democratic Party as a gloss for their tacit support for Modi's Hindutva ideology.

Regardless of the outcome of the 2020 presidential election, Islamophobia will remain the law of the land. This November, as in 2016, American voters get a right-wing ballot: decidedly anti-Black, pro-war, and anti-worker. The Democratic Party's strategy of courting the right has a deep history: Bill Clinton won part of the Republican vote, first, by executing a Black man with mental illnesses in 1992 and next, by playing on anti-Black tropes to gut America's welfare programme in 1996. Yet his soulful saxophone playing was enough to render him anti-racist. Today, Harris has a far better cover: a biracial Black and brown identity.

For those frustrated with this impasse, the moment calls for action outside of the electoral system. It asks Americans to build strong labour movements, which the Republicans and Democrats alike will attempt to undermine; to organise collectively and militantly against debt, war, and climate devastation, which both parties promote. And, if the "mirch and masala" celebrations sweeping Twitter are any indication, it is time to decisively reject the enduring use of brown skin to cover up Islamophobia.

Americans can choose to remain unimpressed by attempts to diversify a cabinet of imperialists and instead stand against the ever-expanding apparatus of military and police domination. We can choose to reject rejoinders to sign on with a lesser evil or to support "any functioning adult". Instead, it is time to remember that each election cycle asks earnest, thoughtful Americans to set aside their agitation and ratify a system that does not serve them. It is time, for once, to keep the spotlight on the most insidious and enduring elements of America's political system.

- Courtesy: Al Jazeera

## Briefs

## KSRelief signs \$46m deal with UNICEF for Yemen

DNA

RIYADH: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) on Monday signed a joint agreement with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to implement seven projects worth \$46 million. The agreement aims to support access for Yemeni children affected by the coronavirus pandemic to educational opportunities through remote learning. It also hopes to develop plans that allow children to safely return to school and train teachers to deal with the challenges from COVID-19. The agreement was signed via video call by KSRelief General Supervisor Dr. Abdullah Al-Rabeeah, and UNICEF's Representative in the Gulf region Eltayeb Adam. The agreement will "support Yemeni children's access to quality education opportunities by equipping schools, providing educational supplies to students and building the capacities of staff," Saudi Press Agency reported. "The agreement also includes enabling children and their families to access psychosocial support and mental health services." The projects will be carried out in cooperation with the Yemen's education ministry and provincial authorities in 20 Yemeni regions.

## Colombians protest against police brutality

DNA

BOGOTA: Thousands of Colombians protested Monday against police brutality and government policies, 11 days after the death of a man at the hands of police sparked demonstrations. Trade unionists and students led the rallies and marches, chanting slogans against police brutality, that culminated in clashes with police in the center of Bogota, the main protest hub. Demonstrators threw stones at police officers, who responded with tear gas and stun grenades, according to an AFP reporter. Police riot units intervened to contain "violent" actions in Bogota, as well as the northwestern city of Medellin and Pasto in the southwest, according to police chief Oscar Atehortua. At least nine people were arrested for ransacking banks and public facilities, Atehortua said. Police said that 5,600 people participated in 142 protests, but by the end of the day, attendance seemed slightly higher. Bogota experienced several days of unrest after a 43-year-old engineer named Javier Ordonez died on September 9 after being assaulted by two police officers. A viral video showed Ordonez lying on the ground, while police shocked him with a stun gun and beat him, which were the cause of his death, according to the prosecutor's office. After an 11-day break, students wearing masks took to the streets once more.

## Over 80 local and foreign Golfers turn up in Serena-hotels sponsored Golf event

Serena and RGC Invitational Golf Tournament held at Golf Club Rawalpindi; CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani says first event organized after COVID 19.

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels and Rawalpindi Golf Club (RGC) hosted the Annual Invitational Golf Tournament at Rawalpindi Golf Club as part of its Sports Diplomacy initiative, marking the welcome resumption of events after a long hiatus due to lockdown. Chief of Logistics Staff (CLS) Lt. Gen. Azhar Saleh Abbasi graced the event as Chief Guest. The tournament drew more than 80 golf enthusiasts from the military high command, diplomatic corps, foreign dignitaries, corporate and business sectors which included women golfers. CEO Serena Hotels South and Central Asia Mr. Aziz Boolani said that this was the first event to be organized after the Covid-19 lockdown period, and many more were being planned. He also thanked the RGC and the participants for their enthusiastic participation and excellent turnout. The dignitaries and participants expressed their pleasure at the chance of competing in pleasant environs



of the Rawalpindi Golf Club where the organizers were fully compliant with COVID-19 protocols. The winners in various categories were:

Maj. Gen. Tariq Qaddus and Maj. Haider Amjad (1st Net), Maj. Gen. (r) Tariq Saleem Malik and Lt. Col. Tariq Yaqoob (1st Gross) in the Amateur Category,

H.E. Dato Mahmud Saidin (1st Gross) and Mr. Aamir Shaukat (1st Net) in Diplomatic Category, Mrs. Tahira Nazir (1st Gross) and Mrs. Hussain Bano

(1st Net) in Ladies Category, Mr. Aftab Ahmed (1st Gross) and Mr. Alamgir Shah (1st Net) in Corporate Category while the longest drive award went to

Imran Janjua and closet to pin Mr. Haseeb Sultan. Mr. Aamir Shaukat was also awarded for a Hole in One. Serena Hotels routinely organizes and sponsors sports

activities like squash, tennis, hiking, polo, skiing etc. under its sports and adventure diplomacy banners to enhance well-being and enable sharing of the joys of sports.

## Effectiveness of reforms in plant quarantine analyzed

DNA

TASHKENT: President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a meeting to analyze the effectiveness of reforms in plant quarantine. The main goal of reforms in agriculture and the essence of the country's export policy is production of products that meet the requirements of the world market. In light of this, the plant protection sphere was reformed, the Plant Quarantine Inspectorate was organized. This agency is taking measures to introduce international standards, promote exports, conclude agreements

with foreign partners, create plant clinics and biological laboratories, introduce scientific achievements into the sphere, and train qualified personnel. As a result of the first steps in this direction, permits were obtained to export 78 types of goods to 19 countries of the world. A unified electronic system was introduced instead of dozens of paper documents for certification, and the processing time for exporters' applications was reduced from 10 to 1 day. At the meeting, the Head of the state got acquainted with the presentation of the activities carried out and outlined further tasks.

## Mozambique insurgency will deepen food insecurity into 2021: UN

MAPUTO: Escalating conflict and deteriorating food security in northern Mozambique, where more than 300,000 people have abandoned their homes and crops, could see "crisis" levels of food insecurity continue into 2021, the World Food Programme warned Tuesday. "We are deeply concerned about the unfolding humanitarian situation in Cabo Delgado where conflict and violence have left people without access to food and livelihoods," WFP spokeswoman Antonella D'Aprile said in a statement. "Latest findings from Famine Early Warning System (FEWSNET) indicate that

communities will continue to face crisis levels of food insecurity into early 2021," the statement said. Tens of thousands of people who have lost access to food, and income sources are being deprived of humanitarian aid in northern Mozambique as extremist militants intensify an Islamist insurgency. Since a spate of attacks on villages and towns in 2017, militants have killed more than 1,500 people and displaced over 300,000 according to WFP. The Al-Shabaab Islamist group has occupied a strategic port in the town of Mocimboa da Praia in the north since August 12. - APP

## EU tells UK to 'stop playing games' on Brexit

DNA

BRUSSELS: Senior EU and British officials will meet urgently next week on the Brexit withdrawal agreement, which has been threatened by London's attempt to override parts of the treaty, Brussels said Tuesday. "But please, dear friends in London: Stop the games. Time is running out," Germany's European affairs minister Michael Roth warned as he met colleagues in Brussels ahead of a summit of EU leaders on Thursday. EU Commission vice president Maros Sefcovic said he would meet senior British minister Michel Gove in Brussels on Monday, just ahead of Brussels' end-of-the-month deadline for London to drop a bill designed to rewrite the deal. Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government is pushing ahead with legislation designed to override parts of the treaty, an act which it admits breaks international law, and Brussels is furiously defending the deal. "The so-called Internal Market Bill worries us extremely, because it violates the guiding principles of the withdrawal agreement, and this is totally unacceptable for us," Roth said. Sefcovic said he would meet Gove as joint chair of the EU-UK Joint Coordination Committee overseeing the divorce agreement. However, "we will not be negotiating, but we are dedicated to its full and timely implementation - nothing more and nothing less." In parallel to the wrangling over the existing agreement, which Johnson signed last year and hailed as an "oven-ready" deal to get Britain out of Europe, EU and UK teams are negotiating a possible trade deal.

## World sees record weekly number of COVID-19: WHO

DNA

GENEVA: The coronavirus pandemic appears to be accelerating worldwide, with new cases soaring last week to a new seven-day high of almost two million, even as new deaths decreased, WHO statistics showed. In a fresh global update, the World Health Organization said late Monday that during the week ending on September 20, 1,998,897

new cases of coronavirus were registered around the world. That marks a six-percent increase over a week earlier and "the highest number of reported cases in a single week since the beginning of the epidemic," the UN health agency said. Since coronavirus first surfaced in China late last year, it has infected more than 31 million people around the globe and has killed nearly 962,000, according to an AFP tally from official

sources on Monday. Nearly all regions of the world saw new cases rise last week, WHO said, with Europe and the Americas seeing new cases swell by 11 and 10 percent respectively. Only Africa, which has remained relatively unscathed by the pandemic, dodged the upward trend, reporting a 12-percent drop in fresh cases from a week earlier. Even as cases shot up across much of the world,

the number of new deaths is going down, the WHO statistics showed. Last week, some 37,700 new deaths linked to the virus were recorded worldwide, marking a decline of 10 percent compared to the previous week. The decline was driven by the Americas, long the hardest-hit region, where new deaths were 22 percent lower than a week earlier, and by Africa where new deaths dropped 16 percent.

## No country should act like 'boss of the world': China

President Xi Jinping said no country has the right to dominate global affairs, control the destiny of others, or keep advantages in development all to itself

DNA

BEIJUNG: The Chinese president said Beijing will not allow any country to control the destiny of others and act like a "boss of the world," state-run media reported on Tuesday. Speaking at a high-level meeting to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the UN, President Xi Jinping said no country has the right to dominate global affairs,

control the destiny of others, or keep advantages in development all to itself, according to daily Global Times. "Even less should one be allowed to do whatever it likes and be the hegemon, bully or boss of the world," the newspaper quoted Xi as saying without naming any country, though apparently referring to the US as relations between the two economic giants are at a historic low currently. Calling for increased representation of developing countries in the UN, he

stressed that the world's largest organization should uphold the rule of law. "They must not be lorded over by those who wave a strong fist at others," Xi said. He added that relations among countries and the coordination of their interests must only be based on rules and institutions. Xi also emphasized that the major countries in the world should lead by example in advocating and upholding the international rule of law and in honoring their commitments. "There must be no practice of exceptionalism or double standards, nor should international law be distorted and used as a pretext to undermine other countries' legitimate rights and interests or world peace and stability," the president said. He stressed that the UN must promote cooperation as "Cold War mentality, ideological lines or zero-sum game are no solution to a country's own problems, still less an answer to mankind's common challenges". "To put into practice the principle of multilateralism, we must act, not just talk, there must be a cure, not just a therapy," he added. He lauded the role of the UN and its 75-year journey, saying his country firmly defended the central role of the UN in international affairs.



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## Briefs

## Trump to name nominee by week's end

DNA

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has said he will name his nominee for Supreme Court justice by the end of the week, and urged the Republican-controlled Senate to confirm his choice before the presidential election.

The plan has launched a high-stakes battle ahead of the 3 November vote.

Mr Trump wants to replace Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a liberal stalwart who died on Friday aged 87, with a conservative. He appears to have secured enough support in the Senate.

This would cement a right-leaning majority on the US's highest court, where justices serve for life or until they choose to retire. The ideological balance of the nine-member court is crucial to its rulings on the most important issues in US law, with decisions made in recent years on immigration, carbon emissions and gay marriage.

Democrats have criticised Mr Trump's plan, with presidential candidate Joe Biden dubbing it an "abuse of power". Meanwhile, Ms Ginsburg is set to become the first woman in history to lie in state in the US Capitol building later this week. Following her death from cancer, people around the country have been paying tribute to the prominent feminist, who served on the court for 27 years.

## First woman on Moon by 2024

DNA

NEW YORK: The US space agency (Nasa) has formally outlined its \$28bn (£22bn) plan to return to the Moon by 2024. As part of a programme called Artemis, Nasa will send a man and a woman to the lunar surface in the first landing with humans since 1972.

But the agency's timeline is contingent on Congress releasing \$3.2bn for building a landing system. Astronauts will travel in an Apollo-like capsule called Orion that will launch on a powerful rocket called SLS. Speaking on Monday afternoon (US time), Nasa administrator Jim Bridenstine said: "The \$28bn represents the costs associated for the next four years in the Artemis programme to land on the Moon. SLS funding, Orion funding, the human landing system and of course the spacesuits - all of those things that are part of the Artemis programme are included." But he explained: "The budget request that we have before the House and the Senate right now includes \$3.2bn for 2021 for the human landing system. It is critically important that we get that \$3.2bn."

## Venezuela, Cuba denounce US 'hegemony' in UNGA

NEW YORK: Venezuela has called for the world to fight "hegemony" and "imperialist ideas" while Cuba called the United States "the greatest danger to international peace and security" during the United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) virtual summit to mark 75 years of the global body. In a pre-recorded speech on Monday, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, recently accused by UN investigators of "crimes against humanity", denounced "the world of hegemony, the world of imperialism" and insisted on the need to be "united" in the face of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Venezuela supports a multipolar world, a renewed UN system, a system that knows how to enforce international law and protect the people of the world," he said, condemning attacks by the US on the World Health Organization, without explicitly naming the country. "This is not the time to insult, to threaten the WHO, it is now the time to unite in its favour," he said.

"The world defeated fascism 75 years ago. The world will also win against those who seek hegemony, against imperialist ideas, and it will be able to defeat neo-fascism," said the socialist leader, whose legitimacy in office is not recognised in the US and its allies. In his speech at the UNGA, Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla also criticised the US. — DNA

## LIBYAN DIALOGUE

## Comprehensive accord on transparent and objective criteria and mechanisms

Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Mr. Nasser Bourita, stressed, that the compromises born from the meetings of the two delegations of the Libyan High Council of State and the Tobruk Parliament have confirmed the Kingdom's belief that Libyans are capable of finding solutions to their problems

DNA

BOUZNİKA: The delegations of the Libyan High Council of State and the Tobruk Parliament announced in Bouznika, at the end of their meetings as part of the Libyan dialogue, that they reached a comprehensive agreement on the transparent and objective criteria and mechanisms to occupy the posts of Sovereignty.

Both parties also agreed to continue this dialogue and to resume these meetings during the last week of this month in order to complete the necessary measures to ensure the implementation and activation of this agreement, said the final joint statement read by Driss Omran of the Libyan House of Representatives, in the presence of Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Mr. Nasser Bourita.

The two parties to the dialogue called on the UN and the international community to support Morocco's efforts to create the right conditions and a conducive climate to achieve a comprehensive political solution in Libya, reiterating their thanks and gratitude to the Kingdom and His Majesty King Mohammed VI, May God Assist Him, for the support and assistance to overcome the Libyan crisis and achieve the hopes of the Libyan people and their aspirations to



build a civil and democratic State that enjoys peace, security and stability.

They also affirmed that their meetings, which took place in "a friendly and fraternal atmosphere marked by understanding and consensus", were held as an application of Article 15 of the Libyan political agreement reached in Skhirat and in confirmation of the conclusions of the Berlin conference support-

ing the political solution and on the basis of the relevant Security Council resolutions, and are explained by their awareness of the dangerous repercussions arising from the political and institutional division which has caused the citizen to lose confidence in the role of the legislative, executive and control institutions due to the poor living conditions at all levels.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Mr. Nasser Bourita, stressed, that the compromises born from the meetings of the two delegations of the Libyan High Council of State and the Tobruk Parliament have confirmed the Kingdom's belief that Libyans are capable of finding solutions to their problems without tutelage or influence as they are able

to determine the interest of Libya and the way to serve it. Speaking shortly before the reading of the final joint statement issued at the end of the meetings of the two delegations within the framework of the Libyan dialogue, Mr. Bourita noted that the Kingdom has always been convinced - which was also confirmed during the Bouznika meetings - that the High Council

of State and the House of Representatives are the cornerstone for any progress towards finding solutions to issues concerning the Libyan crisis.

He also stressed that the important compromises reached by the two delegations regarding the appointment to the posts of sovereignty are not a mere declaration of intentions or recommendations, but rather compromises and concrete decisions about institutions and issues that have a direct impact on the daily life of the Libyan people.

The Minister further congratulated the two delegations on these compromises, considering that the institutions subject to these decisions symbolize the unity of the State and that the unification of these institutions is an essential element of any future solution to the crisis in Libya.

He also praised the positive atmosphere and the spirit of fraternity and responsibility that reigned during these meetings, where the interest of Libya and its people took precedence over any other consideration. He also welcomed the compromises "which augur well and bring good news" to the Libyans.

In addition, Mr. Bourita expressed his thanks to all the countries and regional organizations that expressed their support for the Libyan dialogue in Bouznika and the efforts of both delegations to reach compromises.

## Pakistan should stop sectarian violence, Norway's scholars

DNA

OSLO: The Sunni and Shia religious scholars in Norway have jointly demanded the government to take urgent and serious steps to prevent the growing sectarian violence in Pakistan. This was stated during a meeting of a delegation of Shia's scholars based in the capital Oslo held with scholars of the Islamic Cultural Center of Norway (ICC) last week.

The Shia's delegation was included the director of religious affairs of the Organization Anjuman e Hussaini Norway Dr. Syed Zavar Hussain Naqvi, Maulana Syed Qasim Ali Kazimi, Allama Syed Mustafa Mataheri and Alama Ma'adli. Among the scholars associated with the Islamic Cultural Center were Pakistani-born veteran religious leader Maulana Mohbob ur-Rahman, newly appointed Imam of the Islamic Cultural Centre (ICC) Norway Maulana Salimullah Alvi, former Imam and eminent scholar Maulana Dr. Hamid Farooq and prominent religious scholars Maulana Syed Fazal Hadi and Maulana Muhammad Asjad.

During the meeting both sides expressed serious concern over the rising trends of

sectarian violence in recent weeks in Pakistan, saying sectarianism is extremely dangerous for unity of the Pakistani nation. In the meeting, the Shia's delegation also welcomed the new Imam Maulana of ICC Maulana Salimullah Alvi and expressed good wishes for him. On this occasion, the blasphemy of Ahl al-Bait Athar (a.s) and Sahabah karam (Rz) in Pakistan was also condemned and it was made clear that no one should blame any of Islamic sects for such blasphemy committed by the individuals. Such unacceptable acts of defamation have nothing to do with Islam and any Islamic sect, it is a personal and condemnable act of an individual. Participants of the meeting also condemned violent sectarian practices and sectarian discrimination and demanded that the government should seriously stop the sectarian violent and discrimination. The meeting also condemned a recent hate speech conducted by a so-called "Zakir" during the recent Muharram al-Haram in Islamabad causing shocking environment in Pakistan as the provoking speech allowed some elements to stir up the sectarian violence.

## 'US needs \$900B to restore pre-Covid debt'

DNA

NEW YORK: If the US wants to restore the nation's debt to pre-coronavirus levels, it will require spending cuts and revenue increases totaling around \$900 billion annually for 25 years, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) said in a report released Monday.

Based on its projections, the CBO found that if the US takes fiscal action starting in 2025, huge changes to spending and taxation would be required to stabilise the nation's debt at the pre-pandemic level of 79 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) - the total market value of all finished goods and services produced domestically by the country. While reducing the federal debt increases the resources available for private investment in capital goods and services, lower deficits and debt would eventually reduce prices and interest rates, which would then increase the resources available for private investment, household consumption and exports, it said.

## Palestine renounces Arab League Council chair

DNA

RAMALLAH: Palestinian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Riyad al-Maliki said at a press conference in the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah on Tuesday that the State of Palestine was giving up its right to chair the Council in light of the latest political developments. "This decision was taken after the Arab League Secretariat took a supporting position to the UAE and Bahrain, which normalized their relations with Israel in violation of the Arab Peace Initiative," he said.

"Palestine is not honored to witness Arabs scrambling towards normalization [with Israel] during its presidency [of the council]," he said. Maliki noted that Palestine, however, will not withdraw from the Arab League Council as such a move will create a vacuum and develop unfavorable scenarios. The top Palestinian diplomat underlined that normalization of ties with the Israeli regime constitutes a flagrant violation of

the decisions of summits convened under the Arab Peace Initiative.

The so-called Arab Peace Initiative, which was proposed by Saudi Arabia in 2002, calls on Israel to agree to a "two-state solution" along the 1967 lines and a "just" solution to the Palestinian refugee issue.

Maliki then praised the Arab states that have roundly rejected the possibility of normalization with the Tel Aviv regime, expressing hope that they will stand committed to their position. He also denounced the Arab League over dropping a Palestinian draft resolution in condemnation of the controversial agreement between the UAE and Israel.

The Palestinian resolution was voted down during a session of Arab League foreign ministers on September 9. The organization blamed the failure to adopt the document on the Palestinians, who said they would either accept a condemnation or no statement at all.

The vote was sharply condemned by all Palestinian factions, with senior Pal-

estinian Authority official Hussein al-Sheikh saying "the Arab League has not produced anything. It has given the entire region condemnations of everyone ad nauseum - except for Israel. This is a thunderous collapse, the use of 'national sovereignty' to justify subservience."

Days later, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu signed agreements with Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan as well as Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullah Al Zayani during an official ceremony at the White House. Palestinians, who seek an independent state in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, with East Jerusalem as its capital view the deals as betrayal of their cause.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas protested the normalization deals with Israel, saying they will be fruitless as long as the United States and the Israeli regime do not recognize the rights of the Palestinian nation and refuse to resolve the issue of Palestinian refugees.

## Turkey slams EU sanctions over Libya arms embargo

DNA

ANKARA: Turkey says the European Union's sanctions on a Turkish firm accused of breaking a United Nations arms embargo on Libya showed the bloc's double standards and biased stance. The EU on Monday froze the assets of Avrasya Shipping, whose cargo vessel Cirkin was involved in a naval incident between NATO members France and Turkey in June. The EU has accused the company of using the ship to smuggle weapons to Libya. Ankara denies the arms-trafficking claim and says the ship was carrying humanitarian aid. "The EU's IRINI Operation is rewarding Haftar, and punishing the UN-recognised Libyan government," Turkey's foreign ministry said late on Monday, referring to the EU's military mission in the Mediterranean to stop arms from reaching warring factions in Libya. Ankara has supported Libya's internationally recognised Government of National Accord (GNA) based in Tripoli in the west.

## Kenya's judge advises Parliament to dissolve

DNA

NAIROBI: Kenya's top judge has advised the president to dissolve the country's male-dominated Parliament, saying legislators failed to meet a constitutional provision which would allow for one-third of seats to be occupied by women. Despite Kenya's 2010 constitution stating no more than two-thirds of any elected or appointed body can be of the same gender, women hold 22 percent of seats in the country's lower house of Parliament, and 31 percent in the upper house. Court rulings since 2012 have directed Parliament to pass legislation to enforce the gender rule or risk being dissolved - but previous attempts have failed with female members of Parliament accusing male legislators of deliberately blocking efforts. In an advisory sent to President Uhuru Kenyatta on Monday, Chief Justice David Maraga said the failure to enact the legislation was clear testimony of legislators' "lackadaisical attitude and conduct" in relation to the two-thirds gender rule.

## President of Kazakhstan's statement at meeting to commemorate 75th anniversary of UN

DNA

NURSULTAN: President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev delivered a statement at the High-Level Meeting to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations. Here is the text of his statement. "Today we commemorate the historic decision taken in June 1945 to create a totally new organization as an outcome of the most devastating World War in the history of mankind. The United Nations as Dag Hammarskjöld famously underlined "was not created to bring us to heaven, but to save us from hell". Though conceived primarily as a system for collective security, the UN has in fact consolidated nations around much broader common aspirations and principles. The result has been an era of really active and broad international cooperation. However, the path has not been easy. 75 years were overshadowed by missed opportunities to find a common ground in advancing our shared goals and values, to lessen suffering in the world. But one learns from both failure and success. The history of the United Nations has been a period of intense collective efforts and rich learning: from decolonization to development, from child protection to climate



change, from health to human rights, from peacekeeping to peacemaking.

Over the last three decades, Kazakhstan has participated in endeavours of every major UN body - including the Security Council - in pursuit of a range of priorities including conflict resolution, non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament, combatting terrorism, interfaith and interethnic dialogue, as well as promoting the interests of Land Locked Developing Countries. When we look around us today, many new challenges - and some old recurring ones - threaten to drag us back in time. Multilateralism now faces greater risk than at any point since the end of the Cold

War. COVID-19 has proven surprisingly difficult to be overcome. A second arms race looms. Our strategic development goals are suffering setbacks.

Some argue that the ideals enshrined in the UN Charter are no longer realistic. As President of my country and former senior manager of the UN I strongly disagree. More than ever, we must give rein to the horse of our hopes, not pull back out of fear. We must galvanize efforts in pursuit of those shared ideals, not abandon them. We must continue to build a rules-based community, not return to lawlessness. This will not be easy. The next decade is crucial as we strive to implement the 2030 Agenda and simultaneously meet the crises of our time. This formidable goal demands a common endeavour and responsibility.

We commend strong leadership by Secretary-General António Guterres, and support his ongoing work to boost effectiveness, transparency and accountability of the UN. Kazakhstan adds its voice in a clear statement of commitment to the UN mission and Charter, and to the shared aspiration of building a more peaceful, just and prosperous world.

I am convinced that the United Nations as a single universal and most representative international organization is indeed indispensable. Thank you".

# Pakistan's legal system is obsolete and needs review, says Dr. Nudrat

I have worked on cases like Bayindir concerning an approximate claim of USD 800 million, Agility concerning an approximate claim of USD 650 million, and recently advised the government concerning Riko Dik dispute valuing approximately 6 billion dollars

**EXCLUSIVE**

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Nudrat E. Piracha has said the legal system left with Pakistan by the colonial masters has become obsolete. For instance, crucial laws like the Civil Procedure Code, 1908, Contract Act 1872 and Arbitration Act 1940 are three fundamental laws that exemplify failure of Pakistani laws to keep abreast of developments in the world. There is a need to introduce private and court-annexed ADR through state of the art facilities and national and international neutrals whose integrity and competence are of the highest levels. In addition, there is a need to revolutionize the court processes and judicial decision making to provide a system that can deliver. Various amendments have been made in the Civil Procedure Code in this regard which is a welcome initiative and a first step in this direction. There is a dire need for an ADR center that can provide ADR solutions for the needs of nationals and foreigners. Dr. Nudrat expressed these views in an interview with Daily Islamabad POST, CENTRELINE magazine and DNA News Agency. Dr. Nudrat E. Piracha is the first woman in Pakistan to have qualified as a Doctor of Juridical Sciences (S.J.D.), which is the highest degree in law awarded to people with excep-

tional academic and professional record. She is a Fulbright scholar, a Weinstein JAMS International Fellow for 2018, and the first lawyer from Pakistan to become a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK (FCIArb). She further said her area of interest has been alternative dispute resolution (ADR), which is a mechanism whereby disputes are resolved through the intervention of an independent third party, through amicable means. A society can survive with many failings but no society is sustainable without an effective justice system. The Pakistani justice system is broken and many laws underlying the processes have become obsolete. The rest of the world is centuries ahead in litigation system designs. To-date, according to a report published by the Pakistani Law Commission in July this year, 2 million cases are pending in courts. Nudrat said she intended to use her experience and expertise to set up institutions that outlive its founders and are based on strong ethical values and merit. 'I am in the process of formalizing a partnership with Septentrio Global Consulting and Samdani & Qureshi to provide, from under one roof, complete solutions to clients concerning their legal and financial advice and also to provide (through an affiliated center) ADR services for resolution and prevention of disputes to both government and private entities'. In the past, I have dealt with commercial and investment arbitrations and have cross border issues and transactions. I have worked



on cases like Bayindir concerning an approximate claim of USD 800 million, Agility concerning an approximate claim of USD 650 million, and recently advised the government concerning Riko Dik dispute valuing approximately 6 billion dollars. In Riko Dik case the UN tribunal now has issues stay orders in favour of Pakistan. Pakistan in international cases has lost signif-

icant battles before international forums. The resistance against ADR has been witnessed during its development stages in other more developed countries as well. There is a dearth of expertise in the area in Pakistan and people are comfortable with what they know and understand. It is often thought that the users of the system are not sufficiently trained to effectively pursue international ADR.

But there is a push towards ADR at the highest levels and ADR is the need of this time and age and cannot be avoided for too long. The stakeholders will have to appreciate its importance and mechanics in devising sustainable system designs.

Full interview shall be published in the October 2020 issue of CENTRELINE magazine.

## Briefs

### Soldier martyred in cross-border attack

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A Pakistani soldier was martyred at a military post in Bajur sector during firing that originated in Afghanistan, the army's media wing said in a statement issued Tuesday.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), 24-year-old Sepoy Sabir Shah embraced martyrdom due to the firing "from across the border in Bajur sector on Pakistan Army Post along the Pakistan-Afghanistan Border, late last night".

"Pakistan has been consistently raising the issue for border management on other side to avoid use of Afghanistan soil against Pakistan," the ISPR warned.

Earlier this month, the ISPR had said a rise in the "violent incidents on both sides of Pak-Afghan border" was meant to derail the Afghan peace process but vowed that both countries would defeat all spoilers.

### Districts mobilised in manhunt for Abid Malhi

DNA

LAHORE: Inspector General Punjab (IGP) Inam Ghani has tasked the police teams of all 36 districts of the province with apprehending the prime suspect in the motorway rape incident, it emerged on Tuesday.

The suspect, Abid Malhi, has been on the run and a special investigation team assigned to the job has so far failed to arrest him despite close to two weeks having passed since the shocking rape and robbery incident on the Lahore-Sialkot motorway, media reported on Tuesday. On September 9, Abid, along with accomplice Shafqat Ali, had allegedly gang-raped a woman stranded on the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway with her children before robbing her. The accomplice, Shafqat, is in police custody and has confessed to the crime. With the case still wide open nearly two weeks after the incident, the provincial police chief has written to all field formation commanders for assistance.

"Sanctuaries available to the above fugitive from law range from prisons, shelter homes, shrines, Imam-bargahs and madrassas, to moving theatres, circus, melas and Urs throughout Punjab," reads the letter.

## UAE envoy donates blood for thalassemia patients



SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem

Al-Zaabi visited Pakistan Red Crescent Society National Headquarters and donated blood for the thalassemia patients. PRCS Chairman Abrar Ul Haq and Secretary General Khalid bin Majeed re-

ceived the visiting dignitary on arrival at the NHQ. PRCS Chairman Abrar Ul Haq thanked the ambassador for his visit and also presented him a memento.



## Schools shut due to violation of SOPs: Shafqat

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood on Tuesday denied that schools were closed due to a surge in infections, chalking the move up to non-compliance to safety measures. Mahmood, addressing a press conference in Islamabad alongside Prime Minister Imran Khan's adviser on health, said that a review of the coronavirus situation would be conducted before reopening of primary schools on September 30. The education minister said that institutions that wish to conduct examinations may go ahead and do so; in light of the statistics, the government will not stop them. A meeting earlier in the

day reviewed the coronavirus situation and it was announced that students from Grades 6-8 will go back to school in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Azad Jammu Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan from today. Sindh, on the other hand, has decided not to reopen schools, despite the infection rate reportedly remaining the same. Dr Faisal Sultan, taking over the presser, said a strategy was devised to reopen educational institutions and that the National Command and Operations Centre (NOC) would review the country's infections daily and the results reported by testing centres near educational institutions that were allowed to open in the first phase.

## CPEC endorses Chinese food business in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: People associated with the hotel industry believe that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) significantly created huge opportunities benefitting the commercial entities on both sides of the border.

With the launching of CPEC in 2013, the visibility of the Chinese in public spaces has increased in the main cities of Pakistan. "I have been running Kim Mun restaurant for over 20 years, back then we only had 8 tables but due to support from the local people and love for Chinese food, now we were able to expand it," said Zhang Guo Gen, the restaurant's owner while talking to China Economic Net (CEN).

The restaurant in downtown of the federal capital is reopened and backed to business since the COVID-19 lockdown was eased by the government. When asked about the response from



local people being a Chinese in Pakistan, Zhang replied cheerfully "We have been living here as Pakistani for the past 30 years. Pakistani people are really friendly and welcoming, they never make you feel like an outsider. When inquired from Zhang about the business in Pakistan during Covid-19 period he told the CEN that We take public health and safety very seriously, this pandemic is a serious problem and unfortunately we do not know when it's going to end. According to Zhang, business is not as good as it used to be during the pre-CO-

ID period but now slowly people are becoming more confident at coming to the restaurant. We take utmost importance in terms of hygiene and cleanliness to ensure customers satisfaction of coming to our restaurant for food.

On Pakistan's handling of COVID-19 pandemic Zhang replied "I feel like the Pakistani government are doing a great job, I mean on a data perspective Pakistan is handling the pandemic really well." Pakistan as a country is very supportive in terms of new business but you have to understand who your target market is and just focus on it". The Kim Mun owner advised his countrymen who are interested to run a food business in Pakistan.

The inflow of Chinese nationals has greatly helped hotels and the restaurant industry to grow. According to the data from The Capital Development Authority (CDA) there are around 15 Chinese restaurants in total in the city while 12 among them were opened after 2013.

## No change in SC judges' retirement age

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Law and Justice Tuesday clarified that the ministry was not introducing any bill for the extension of retirement age of judges of the Supreme Court from 65 to 68.

In a statement issued here, the spokesman for the Ministry of Law and Justice said an old private member bill that was being considered by the Standing Committee on Law and Justice. The bill was neither introduced by federal government nor the ministry of Law and Justice.

"Ministry of Law and Justice and the federal government has never introduced any such bill in the past and is not planning to present any such bill now," the spokesman said. - APP

## China lauds President Alvi's remarks about CPEC

Wang said China firmly supports the CPEC development and stands ready to work together with Pakistan to act on our leaders' consensus

ISLAMABAD: China has lauded President Arif Alvi's remarks about China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), its role for boosting regional connectivity and benefits to Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics. Responding to a question during a briefing in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said the CPEC is an important pilot program of the Belt and Road Initiative and a flagship in China-Pakistan cooperation. He said since its launch six years ago, major progress has been achieved with a large number of projects starting construction or being completed and more than 25 billion dollars direct investment flowing into Pakistan. He said the completed projects have greatly improved transportation infrastructure and electricity supply in Pakistan and created over 70,000 direct employment opportunities. Wang said China firmly supports the CPEC development and stands ready to work together with Pakistan to act on our leaders' consensus. - DNA

## Russian envoy says Pak an important partner

The Ambassador stressed that Russia and Pak are on the same page about respecting the sovereignty of states in this multipolar world, and were against any steps taken in the guise of humanitarian pretexts

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies arranged a discussion session with the Russian Ambassador on the topic of "Pakistan-Russia Relations: Prospects for the Future."

H.E Danila V. Ganich, Ambassador of Russian Federation during the discussion highlighted that Pakistan is a valued and significant partner for Russia, given its role in regional politics, influence in the Muslim world and geostrategic location. The Russian Ambassador stated that Russia, like Pakistan, does not want an arms race in the region and outer space as well. He added that Russia is eager to invest \$1.7 billion in the Karachi-Lahore gas pipeline, which would be a landmark project for the progress of the region. The Ambassador stressed that Russia and Pakistan are on the same page about re-



specting the sovereignty of states in this multipolar world, and were against any steps taken in the guise of humanitarian pretexts. He also remarked that the present Afghan government does not reflect the aspirations of the Afghan people. He added that Russia, like Pakistan, does not want instability and chaos on its border, and underscored that several factors were hampering the current peace process, including upcoming US elections and the desire of Afghan government to preserve its power. Delivering his Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks, President CASS, Air Chief Marshal (Retd) Kaleem Saadat shared that while Pak-Russia ties may have had their ups and downs, they are deeply rooted. While discussing Kremlin's relations with India, especially in the arms sector, President CASS argued that there are certain times in history when one cannot remain on the sidelines, as this is not the time for ideological rigidity or commercial self-interests.

## 2 MQM workers sentenced to death

DNA

KARACHI: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday handed death sentences to two MQM workers, Abdul Rahman 'Bhola' and Zubair 'Charya', for their involvement in the deaths of over 260 labourers in the 2012 Baldia factory arson incident. MQM leader Rauf Siddiqui, who had been accused of being involved in the incident, was, however, acquitted by the court for want of evidence, along with Umar Hasan Qadri, Dr Abdul Sattar Khan and Iqbal Ateeb Khanum. Four others - Shahrukh, Fazal Ahmed, Arshad Mehmood and Ali Mohammad - were handed life sentences.