



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Malaysian ambassador interacts with Pak's businessmen, media

Qatar values its close ties with Pakistan



Pakistanis making mark in different sectors of life



Briefs

Pakistan army joins polio, tree campaign

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army joins National Polio and Tree Plantation Campaign. Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa planted a tree as part of Sarsabz-o-Shadab Pakistan and also attended a ceremony of polio free Pakistan. 29 million trees planted from 2018 onwards and 5 millions trees being planted in this monsoons by Pakistan Army formation as part of Sarsabz-o-Shadab Pakistan. FWO as part of "Green Motorways Initiative" planting around one million saplings astride its motorways in the next two and half years.

Karachi Chaman expressway approved

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has approved in principle to upgrade Karachi-Quetta-Chaman road to expressway, Special Assistant to PM on Information and Broadcasting Lt. Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa said on Wednesday. Asim Bajwa, who is also Chairman of the CPEC Authority, said in a tweet the 790 kilometers long road passes through the most neglected areas where accident ratio was the highest due to its poor condition. He informed that the National Highway Authority (NHA) had also posted an advertisement for hiring consultant for feasibility study. — APP

'PM eager to see me behind bars'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) President Mian Shehbaz Sharif has said that Imran Khan wants me to go behind bars and it won't matter if I have to go to jail again, we will keep raising our voices. PML-N leader Shehbaz Sharif has exposed ruling PTI's two years performance, raising the questions about different cases against it including the cases of Malam Jabba, helicopter, Aleema Khan and foreign funding.

Economic diplomacy vital: PM

Decision to establish "Economic Outreach Coordination Group" between the relevant Federal Ministries, Provincial Departments

SHUJAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan took important decisions regarding the promotion of economic diplomacy in the country. A meeting chaired by the Prime Minister on Wednesday decided to set up an "Economic Outreach Apex Committee" to promote economic diplomacy. Dr. Moeed Yousaf, Special Assistant for Promoting Economic Diplomacy, has been made the Focal Person. Decision to establish "Economic Outreach Coordination Group" between the relevant Federal Ministries, Provincial Departments and other agencies for coordination and achievement of targets was taken. Federal Ministers Muhammad Hammad Azhar, Senator Shibli Faraz, Syed Fakhr Imam, Fawad Ahmed, Advisors Dr Abdul Hafeez Sheikh, Abdul Razzaq Dawood, Special Assistants Dr Moeed Yousaf,

Dr Faisal Sultan, Syed Zulfiqar Abbas Bukhari, Chairman Board of Investment, Foreign Secretary And other senior officers attended the meeting.

The meeting presented to the Prime Minister a roadmap on the country's potential for the promotion of economic diplomacy, the challenges it faces and overcoming them. Addressing the meeting, Prime Minister Imran Khan said that promotion of economic diplomacy is a matter of urgency. He said that promotion of economic diplomacy would not only further strengthen bilateral relations with foreign countries but also take full advantage of the existing potential in the economic field. The Prime Minister directed that Pakistani embassies stationed abroad Focus on promoting economic diplomacy. The Prime Minister directed the Chairman Board of Investment to ensure the provision of all possible facilities to foreign investors who have expressed interest in various sectors.

Pakistan values ties with Qatar: Asad Qaiser

SAIFULLAH / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser says Pakistan attaches great importance to relations with Qatar and strongly desires to further cement them. Talking to Ambassador of State of Qatar Sheikh Saud bin Abdul Rahman bin Faisal Al-Thani in Islamabad on Wednesday, he said Qatar has always stood by Pakistan in every difficult hour. He opined that parliamentary cooperation between legislative bodies of both the brotherly countries would bring them more closer apart from benefiting from each other's experiences. The Speaker National Assembly invited Qatari investors to bring their investments in Pakistan to benefit from the conducive



environment for investment in Pakistan. Referring to the CPEC, he said the projects under the umbrella of CPEC will open new horizons for development in the region with creation of new investment and employment opportunities. He said that cooperation between Pakistan and Qatar in energy sector had helped to meet energy deficit in the country. Ambassador of State of Qatar Sheikh Saud bin Abdul Rahman bin Faisal Al Thani said that Qatar values its close ties with Pakistan. He said that his country

considers Pakistan, a brother and an important trading partner. He said that Qatar will continue cooperation with Pakistan in all fields. He informed the Speaker that Qatari investors want to bring investment in Pakistan in all sectors specially energy sector. He said that Qatar will continue all possible cooperation with Pakistan to strengthen its economy. He further informed that collaboration in diverse sectors of economy was being actively pursued at state Level from both sides.

William Todd new US envoy to Pakistan

WASHINGTON: William Todd, the Trump administration's nominated ambassador to Islamabad, has termed Pakistan an "essential partner" in the region and suggested that the US relations with India should not come at the expense of Pakistan. Addressing the Senate confirmation hearing on Tuesday, William Todd said that the US can have a strong relationship with both India and Pakistan. "Our hope is that both countries will take the necessary steps to reduce tensions, and as President Trump has offered, we are prepared to facilitate dialogue if both sides request it," he said, adding that to truly reduce regional tensions, and rebuild a strong relationship with Washington, Islamabad must take sustained and irreversible action against terrorism. While acknowledging Pakistan's sacrifices in the war on terror, the envoy-designate noted that the country has committed publicly to ensure terrorists cannot use its territory to operate. "Pakistan has taken important steps toward fulfilling that commitment but needs to continue that work," he said. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing pays a farewell call on Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. — DNA

Pak-China friendship exemplary: Qureshi

Shah Mahmood Qureshi congratulated the Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing on receiving Hilal-e-Pakistan Award in recognition of his services

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said on Wednesday that the leadership of Pakistan and China is committed to complete the second phase of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at the earliest. Talking to Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing, who paid a farewell call on him in Islamabad on Wednesday, he said this understanding came at his meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi during visit to Moscow. FM Qureshi said the

Qureshi greets Saudi Arabia

ABID RAZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Wednesday extended warm greetings to his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan, the people and government of Saudi Arabia on their 90th National Day. "We extend our warmth to FM HH Prince @FaisalbinFarhan, the people and the government of Saudi Arabia on their 90th National Day today. Let our strong affinities and historic bonds always underpin our abiding relations," he said in a tweet posted on his social media account.

long-lasting friendship of Pakistan and China has become an example in the world. Lauding the services of Yao Jing to strengthen the relationship between Pakistan and China, he expressed hope that the new Chinese Ambassador will continue to work with the same commitment. Shah Mahmood Qureshi congratulated the Chinese Ambassador for receiving

Hilal-e-Pakistan Award in recognition of his services. The Chinese envoy thanked the foreign minister for his cooperation during his stay in Pakistan. Earlier on Tuesday, President Dr. Arif Alvi had conferred the Hilal-e-Pakistan award on Chinese envoy Yao Jing at a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, in recognition of the services made by the outgoing Chinese ambassador for improving Pakistan-China relations. Later, the ambassador had called on the president and discussed matters

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Malaysian visas from next year

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The embassy of Malaysia may start issuing visas to Pakistani from next year. For the moment the visa service is suspended due to corona virus pandemic. According to diplomatic sources, a number of Pakistani including businessmen, media people and govt officials were keen to know as to when Malaysia shall start issuing visas. Sources say according to Malaysian authorities the Corona restriction shall remain in force till December 31, 2020. After that the Malaysian govt will decide as to when to allow foreign visitors. It may be mentioned here that the PIA is operating from Islamabad to Kuala Lumpur once a week, on every Friday. The frequency of flights is likely to increase after resumption of visa services.

Pakistan values ties with Norway, says Sanjrani



ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani said that Pakistan highly values its relations with Norway and desires to strengthen its relations in all spheres especially in political, economic and educational fields. Chairman Senate expressed these views in a meeting with Ambassador of Norway Kjell-Gunnar Erikson at the Parliament House on Wednesday.

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Two Army soldiers martyred

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Two soldiers of Pakistan Army have embraced martyrdom as Indian forces resorted to unprovoked firing in Deva Sector along Line of Control (LoC), said Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Wednesday. According to the ISPR, Sepoy Noorullah and Sepoy Waseem Ali have sacrificed their lives for the protection of the motherland. The Pakistan Army befittingly responded to Indian aggression and caused major loss to the Indian side. The latest ceasefire breach followed on the heels of another such incident on Sept 9 when Indian forces opened fire in the Bedori sector from across the Line of Control (LoC), resulting in the martyrdom of a Pakistan Army soldier. "Indian Army troops initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation (CFV) in Bedori Sector along LOC, targeting Pakistan Army posts and civil population.

Malaysian HC interacts with businessmen, media

The businessmen who attended the luncheon praised role of the high commission in strengthening bilateral linkages

EXCLUSIVE

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Malaysia Ikram Mohammad Ibrahim hosted lunch for the business community, media lawyers at his residence in order to recognize their services which they had rendered to promote relations between Pakistan and Malaysia. The High Commissioner introduced all guests one by one and talked about their contributions towards promotion and strengthening of bilateral relations. High Commissioner Ikram M. Ibrahim thanked his guests and deeply appreciated their contributions, which they had made to cement bilateral relations. The high commissioner also talked about various initiatives that he had taken in order to diversify and make bilateral relationship more meaningful. The businessmen who attended the luncheon praised role of the high commission in building and strengthening



bilateral linkages. They were of the view the Malaysian high commission in Pakistan spearheaded by High Commissioner Ikram Mohammad Ibrahim had done a lot in facilitating those seeking business opportunities in Malaysia and vice versa. Atif Ikram, former President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and



Industry and a well-known Pakistani businessman told this scribe that he had been doing business with Malaysia since long and was very much satisfied the way they have been treated and facilitated by the Malaysian officials both in Malaysia and Pakistan. The Senior Regional Manager of the

fly Dubai who also attended the lunch told that fly Dubai after a gap of three months had resumed its operations from Pakistan. He told that the airline was following all required SOPs adding even in future the airline would continue to extend maximum possible facilities to

its valued passengers. The guests enjoyed delicious Malaysian and Pakistani cuisines. The high commissioner assured to continue this tradition even in the coming days. **Full Coverage of the event shall be published in the October 2020 issue of CENTRELINE magazine.**

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ECC directs to ascertain liabilities payable by PSM — Page 08

Briefs

Police conduct raids to arrest rapists

DNA

KARACHI: The police on Wednesday conducted raids to arrest rapists in the gang-rape of 22 years old girl in Karachi. The girl was found unconscious on Monday in the Clifton area of Karachi and when the police found her. The 22-year-old had alleged to have sustained repeated sexual abuse throughout the night after she was abducted, the rape was also confirmed in the medical report. The police on the identification of the victim girl, raided at a flat situated in Khayaban-e-Nisbat, Clifton area of Karachi to arrest the culprits, but failed. The accused managed to escape from the premises. Later, the police also raided the houses of relatives of rapists but failed to nab the culprits. The police have claimed to obtained full details of rapists in the case. The medical report had confirmed that multiple culprits sexually assaulted her. Her case has been reported in Boat Basin Police Station and the ASP Clifton Zahida Perveen had been delegated to her case investigations.

Kite flying going unchecked in Attack

DNA

ATTOCK: Kite flying is going on unchecked in different parts of the Attock despite ban on kite flying. Kites can be seen on the sky in different localities of the District Attock despite the ban imposed on the activity. Kites of different sizes and colors could be seen flying in different parts of the district especially Pindi Gheb, Jand, Fateh Jang, Hazro the residents said. They expressed concerns over kite flying and use of metallic strings, banned by the administration. They said the metallic strings used for kite flying injured many persons during the last 30 days, adding that it could have resulted in life losses. Malik Fahad, a resident of Pindi Gheb said that shopkeepers having huge stocks of kites of all colours and designs and other stuff including threads and strings used in kite flying."

Anti-polio drive enters third day in Sindh

DNA

KARACHI: Anti-polio drive enters its third day in Sindh including Karachi on Wednesday. The drive to administered anti-polio drops to the children will continue till September 27 in the 29 districts of the province. The parents of the children under the age of five years have been urged to administered anti-polio drops to their children in a bid to save them from the crippling disease of polio. The health department has set target of 91,48,355 children to administer anti-polio drops. The polio eradication programme has put strict measures in place for all staff following the government's set guidelines on COVID-19 preventative measures. Last week, another polio case had been reported in Balochistan, taking the provincial tally of cases to 19. According to the health department, the case was reported in Qila Saifullah an area of Balochistan, where a 12-month old minor was confirmed battling with the crippling disease.



ISLAMABAD: Newly elected officials of ICCI for the year 2020-21, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan President, Ms. Fatima Azeem Senior Vice President and Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President, along with other officials posing for a group photo- – DNA

Pak Navy pledges support towards development of maritime, shipping sector

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi in his special message on this World Maritime Day said Pakistan Navy pledged full support towards development of maritime sector in general and shipping industry in particular. He said, "We also reaffirm our commitment and resolve for eradication of marine pollution for clean and green environment. I look forward to sincere efforts by all stakeholders to achieve sustainable

development in Pakistan's maritime sector," said a Pakistan Navy press release. World Maritime Day was celebrated every year on September 24 to focus on the importance of shipping safety, maritime security and marine environment. This year, the theme of World Maritime Day is 'Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet'. Shipping provides dependable connectivity and the most economical means of transporting goods: linking economies and communities across the globe. He said international economies were overwhelmingly

dependent on shipping activity which carried nearly 90 percent of global trade served by over 4500 major ports worldwide. Increasing traditional and non-traditional maritime security challenges as well as rising pollution levels were affecting freedom of navigation and marine environment, he added. Owing to their magnitude and diversity, there was a growing realization that no nation could tackle these challenges alone. It is thus a collective responsibility of all maritime nations to contribute and collaborate in countering maritime security

challenges besides adopting international regulations and best practices for promoting an environment conducive for sustainable shipping industry. "Pakistan is blessed with over 1000 Kilometers coastline. Sea trade is the backbone of our economy. Over 95 percent of our trade is through sea, yet Pakistani Flag carriers carry around 16 percent of our total seaborne trade. As the CPEC and Gwadar Port are set in motion, maritime activities in Pakistan are bound to increase manifold." There was a need to capitalize on the associated economic

opportunities which would only be possible by developing our maritime sector. In this regard, declaration of 2020 as 'The Year of Blue Economy' by the government of Pakistan is a step in the right direction, he added. Pakistan Navy, besides fulfilling its core responsibility of seaward defence, is leading the way to create maritime awareness in the country and promote Blue Economy. Pakistan Navy is enhancing regional maritime security through continuous constructive engagements with international partners and by undertaking

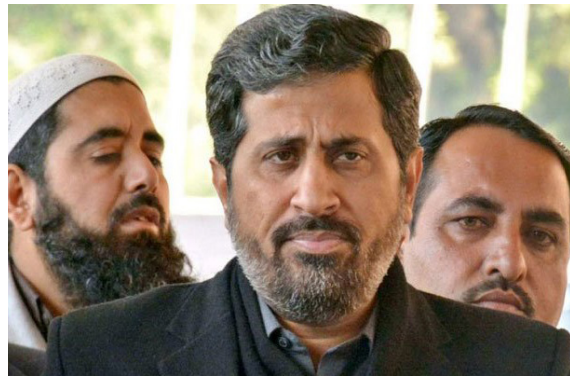
Regional Maritime Security Patrols. Coastal Security & Harbour Defence Force comprising a network of coastal security stations and a state of the art Joint Maritime Information and Coordination Centre at Karachi, duly supported by the Fleet, Pak Marines and SOF elements, are working day and night to ensure maritime security, maintain vigilance and respond to any emerging situation all along our coast. Pakistan Navy is laying special focus on reducing marine pollution and promoting safe and sustainable use of sea resources.

PRGMEA elects Adeeb as N zone chairman

DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Ready-made Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PRGMEA) has elected Adeeb Iqbal Sheikh as North Zone chairman for the year 2020-21. Those who were elected as ZMC (NZ) members include Muhammad Naseer Malik, Syed Emad Raza, Sheikh Farukh Iqbal Puri, Azhar Malik, Adnan Azmat, Kh Naveed Azam, Kh Aqeel Ashraf, Irfan Mahmood and Mrs. Sumaira Mushtaq. While addressing the AGM, the newly-elected zonal chairman Adeeb Iqbal vowed to promote the Association to the new heights. He thanked the members for reposing confidence on him to lead the PRGMEA. Adeeb Iqbal Sheikh said that it was an honour for him to assume the office of the NZ Chairman for the year 2020-21. He paid tribute to the outgoing zonal chairman Sohail A. Sheikh. He said that the outgoing body in his lead had been actively promoting the interests of the Punjab textile industry throughout 2019-20. Adeeb Sheikh vowed to continue with his efforts for the promotion and protection of the value-added textile industry. His top priority would be uninterrupted energy supply at regionally competitive prices to the apparel sector, resolution of tax related issues, and a favourable environment for the promotion of garment industry in Pakistan especially in Punjab. PRGMEA Chief Coordinator Ijaz A. Khokhar, PRGMEA former chairman Sajid Saleem Minhas, former zonal chairman Tariq Fiaz and Javed Iqbal Bhatti congratulated the newly-elected ZMC members and the zonal chairman, expressing the hope that the new team headed by Adeeb Iqbal Sheikh would continue the excellent work in the best interest of the entire value-added textile sector.

'Shehbaz unsuccessfully trying to politicize his possible arrest'



DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Fayyaz-ul-Hasan Chohan on Wednesday said that leader of opposition in the National Assembly and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shehbaz Sharif is foreseeing his arrest in cases pertaining to money laundering, fake TTs and corruption cases and is trying to unsuccessfully to politicize his possible arrest. Reacting to the press conference of the PML-N president, he said that today's presser before his possible arrest is a last ditch effort. The provincial minister said that the opposition leader was trying unsuccessfully to politicize his possible arrest. "Your arrest is not a personal wish or political revenge of Prime Minister Imran Khan, but it has become necessary for the courts and accountability institu-

tions due to your perpetual, radiant and unprecedented corruption," he said. Chohan went on to say that the younger Sharif's claims of not committing corruption of even a single penny tantamount to deceiving people, adding that he embezzled trillions of dollars, euros, dinars, dirhams and rupees. The provincial minister said that the PML-N president was trying hard to douse the fire initiated by his elder brother former PM and party supremo Nawaz Sharif and his niece Maryam Nawaz, adding that the elder Sharif's speech in the opposition's All Parties Conference (APC) wasted his two years of hard work. "Shehbaz Shahbaz Sharif had made a fuss over the country's economy when coronavirus pandemic broke out," he said but by the grace of Almighty Allah and PM Imran's policies the government passed this test.

Widow gang-raped by 'estate agent: Police

DNA

KARACHI: A widow has registered a case against two men in Surjani Town police station for being subjected to gang-rape by an estate agent and his accomplice in Karachi. Police officials told a private channel that a widow alleged for being gang-raped by an estate agent and his accomplice when he went to the office for getting information about a plot. She stated in her complaint that she lived in a rented house and employee at a local factory. "Two men including the estate agent gang-raped me when I went to the estate agency for getting information about a plot," she stated in the First Information Report (FIR). The local police station commenced an investigation into the incident. Earlier on Tuesday, a girl had been abducted by three unknown assailants riding in a car near Clifton last night who had meted out sexual assault on her throughout the night. The girl was later found unconscious by police officials who recorded her statement and set her for medico-legal upon her allegation of sexual abuse. A medico-legal report to ascertain sexual assault allegations in 22-year-old girl abduction case confirmed on Tuesday she was gang-raped. Her case had been registered in Boat Basin Police Station and the ASP Clifton Zahida Perveen was delegated to her case investigations.



ISLAMABAD: President National Club Shakeel Anjum in a meeting with Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Senator Shibli Faraz. – DNA

Court turns down Zardari's plea for quashing references

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An Islamabad accountability court on Wednesday turned down former president Asif Ali Zardari's plea for quashing three supplementary references against him. The court announced its verdict in the Park Lane, mega money laundering, and Thatta water supply references. The PPP co-chairman can't be acquitted in the fake bank accounts references, observed the court, summoning him and other accused to appear

on September 28. The court will now indict the accused in the three references. Accountability Judge Azam Khan had earlier this month deferred indictment of the PPP co-chairman in the Park Lane supplementary reference after he moved an application requesting deferment of framing of charges until his plea for quashing the reference is decided. Asif Ali Zardari was indicted in the main Park Lane case on August 10. However, he is yet to be indicted in the supplementary reference that the national graft bust-

er filed against him and 19 other accused in the case. According to NAB, the Park Lane company was used as a "front company" to siphon off ill-gotten money. He along with his sister Faryal Talpur has also been named in the money laundering case involving Rs4.4 billion embezzlement. The Thatta water supply company case pertains to illegal award of a contract by the Sindh Special Initiative Department for water supply scheme in Thatta to a private contractor, Harish & Co.

Gandapur hails Turkish President

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Ali Amin Khan Gandapur Wednesday expressed his gratitude for Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for once again raising his voice in support of the rights of Kashmiri people during address to the UN General Assembly (UNGA). Turkey has always supported Pakistan's stance on Kashmir and the entire nation values it's role on the Kashmir issue, the minister said in a statement issued here. – DNA

FBR submits report on Cerina Isa's properties to SC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has submitted a report before the Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC) regarding properties and tax details of Cerina Isa, wife of the apex court Judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa. According to sources, the FBR has submitted the report, seeking payment of Rs 35 million tax dues from Cerina Isa, to the Registrar of the apex court. The report quoted the worth of the properties held by Cerina Isa to Rs 104.6 million and further claiming that only the money

trail of properties worth Rs 23 million was found. The FBR, according to sources, claimed in its report that they had sent a notice to Cerina Isa for payment of the remaining tax dues. The 250-page tax report carried details of the properties held by the wife of Justice Qazi Faez Isa. It is pertinent to mention here that the Supreme Court (SC) on June 19, dismissed the presidential reference against Justice Qazi Faez Isa after declaring it 'invalid'. An 11-page short order was also released by the top court which nullified the presidential reference against Justice Isa besides

ordering Inland Revenue Commissioner to issue a notice to the judge's family members including his wife and children within seven days to seek details of his properties. It stated that Justice Isa's family will file a response to the notice and no delay should be made over anyone's absence from the country. The apex court also issued directives for the submission of a report from the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) chairman within 100 days, otherwise, it will be forwarded to the head of SJC besides summoning clarification from the revenue board.

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Briefs

'Magic Mountain' nearing completion

ISLAMABAD: Malam Jabba, situated at above 9,000-feet altitude, will prove to be a game-changer in promoting adventure tourism in the valley of Swat after completion of an initiative named as 'Magic Mountain'. The 'Magic Mountain' is being set up at Malam Jabba by the private sector to promote thrilling winter sports among youth, besides imparting quality training under a conducive environment. The project is nearing completion and to be launched by the end of next month, Samson Group of Companies Spokesperson Samar Sabeen told media. She said 'Magic Mountain' was the first ski resort in Pakistan that would offer an ideal place to the budding sportsmen for learning multiple kinds of snow and winter sports such as skiing and snowboarding. The spokesperson said the 'Magic Mountain' covered around 150 Kanals of land that was just a five-minute drive away from 'Malam Jabba Ski Resort'. The gentle slopes and small ski lifts were installed at the park to facilitate the beginners so that they could learn snow games easily. Sabeen said the mountain would be a perfect place for tourists and adventure seekers to visit and stay as it would offer multiple facilities ranging from accommodation to sports club. – APP

Police arrest 14 bootleggers, drunkards

RAWALPINDI: The Police through crackdown against anti-social elements on Wednesday have arrested 14 bootleggers and drunkards besides recovering 68 liters liquor and two liquor bottles from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Gungmandi police conducted a raid and arrested Zafar and another accused and recovered 20 liters liquor from them. New Town Police held Zohaib Abbasi and Muhammad Suleman for having 10 liters liquor. Pirwadhai police rounded up Zulfarnain and seized 20 liters liquor. Similarly, Kalar Syedan police conducted a raid and netted two bootleggers namely Shafique and Toqeer for carrying 20 liters liquor. Sadiqabad SHO and his team arrested four namely Urbaz Khan, Alian, Siam and Shehryar and recovered five liters liquor. Waris Khan police nabbed Tamoor Tariq for having three liters liquor. Murree police held two drunkards, Asim and Waseem Sajjad and seized two bottles of liquor. Separate cases have been registered against all the accused and police started further investigation. CPO appreciated the performance of police and directed the police officials for high vigilance and monitoring against those involved in anti-social activities, the spokesman added. – APP

CTP urges bikers to use safety helmets

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) urged upon the motorcyclists to use safety helmets and side mirrors as the use of helmets by the motorcyclists has caused considerable reduction in major head injuries in road accidents. According to a CTP spokesman, the CTP had launched a special campaign under which the motorcyclists without 'safety helmet' were being checked and penalized. He said, the motorcycles of a number of violators were also impounded in different police stations. He informed that all the Inspectors and Beat Incharges had been directed to check those flouting the rules and not wearing safety helmets while driving motorbikes. Special checking was being conducted at main roads particularly Mall Road, Peshawar Road and other roads, he added. – APP



ISLAMABAD: The UAE Ambassador in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Hamad Obaid Alzaab meets Gen. Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and discusses general situations, joint work and cooperation, and ways to enhance bilateral partnership. – DNA

PNCA dent a loss of billions to national art treasure

Speaking at a webinar organized by (Devcom-Pakistan), Pakistan's top realm artists said it had never happened in the history that the paintings donated to a national gallery were claimed by any of his heirs and returned

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's legendary artists have requested Prime Minister Imran Khan and the chairman National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to urgently take notice of the heinous art crime done by the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) by removing ten classic paintings of A. J. Shemza from the National Art Gallery (NAG) and handing over to a woman claimed to be the niece of the late artist A. J. Shemza. Speaking at a webinar organized by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) on Wednesday and hosted by journalist and broadcaster Munir Ahmed, Pakistan's top realm artists said it had never happened in the history that the paintings donated to a national

gallery were claimed by any of his heirs and returned. Renowned artist and former Director General PNCA Naeem Tahir said in principal it should have not been done. Once the artist has donated any of his/her work to the national gallery, it becomes the national treasure. No one has the right to claim it as their property and no one has the right to take any decision to return it whatsoever the conditions might be. He said sometimes artists donate their work verbally and sometimes with a written letter. Whatever the condition may be, once it is entered in the inventory of the art gallery, it becomes the national asset. Then no one has the right remove it in any condition and get it out of the gallery. It is heinous crime. Naeem Tahir said he never heard about any controversy around

Shemza's paintings throughout his career that is spread over five decades. However, there were some cases of theft of paintings which were taken to investigation by the inquiry committees. Some 'culprits' were also identified before I left PNCA as the director general. He said only Prime Minister and NAB could be able to recover the paintings if they intend to add only if the artworks are not transported to any foreign country. All the airports and dry-ports shall be informed accordingly. Another renowned artist and chairman of the National Artists Association of Pakistan (NAAP) Mian Ijaz ul Hassan said. "I am witness to A. J. Shemza's paintings exhibition of 1985 organized in Lahore. As many as 100 paintings were put on display. Each painting was priced between PKR

4000-5000, and now a single painting is worth of millions, and total loss to the nation is of billions. Just be permanently on display, Shemza donated ten of his paintings to the National Art Gallery as many other artists have done including myself, said Mr Hassan. He said "It is the prestige for artists if they their work is displayed permanently on the walls of the national gallery. Some artists work is also purchased for the galleries if there are sufficient funds are available. But, once donated or sold to the gallery, no heir has the right to reclaim art piece in any condition. PNCA has done an intolerable crime. The worst part of the crime is that Federal Minister Shafqat Mahmood is silent on it despite the NAAP has written a letter to him on the issue. It speaks volumes of connivance." Jamal Shah said it was only 2017

when PNCA received a letter from the "heirs" of Shemza and a notice from late Asma Jahangir for the return of the paintings. But when asked any proof that it was loaned to NAG, they never came back with any evidences. "I had a PNCA Board meeting on the issue, all the members had a unanimous decision that the Shemza's paintings are a national treasure now after he had donated it to the NAG, and they cannot be returned to any of his 'heirs'. I had some untoward conversation with Federal Minister Shafqat Mahmood then on the issue. But I did not compromise on it," said Jamal Shah. He said, recently Shemza's painting was sold at a very high price auctioned by the Christie's in the UK. It seems to be a filthy game of people in power and Shemza's "heirs" to make money and depriving the NAG of an art treasure.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassadors of European Union & its Member States met with Minister for Education Shafqat Mahmood. – DNA

Ehsaas online portal serving beneficiaries

All applications received at Ehsaas offices are being listed and scrutinized according to the agreed protocols and formal responses will be returned soon to all concerned. All people with biometric challenges who will apply through this new application portal will receive new disbursement messages with date and bank branch details

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The online portal opened by Ehsaas continues to facilitate the emergency cash eligible beneficiaries faced with the problems of bio-metric verification and death of eligible family member, as a part of its measures to resolve payment issues. According to an official source, the families of dead beneficiaries and those facing problems regarding bio-metric verification can submit applications to the new portal <http://complaints.pass.gov.pk/> in a simple three-step

process. The emergency cash transfers under Ehsaas have sun-set countrywide on September 15 officially, however, disbursements to families of dead beneficiaries and those confronted with biometric verifications will go on till September 30, 2020. All applicants with issues in biometric payments can now create their applications by entering Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) number and contact number on the portal. The portal instantaneously auto-generates the unique reference number for each applicant after submission of application.

In line with rule-based procedures, applicants are being contacted by Ehsaas on the phone numbers keyed in at the time of web-applications. The second section of the portal defines the application process to accommodate families of dead beneficiaries. Heirs of dead beneficiaries have to send written applications for payment facilitation in the name of Dr. Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation along with the CNIC details of dead family member, death certificate duly vetted by

NADRA and CNIC details of eligible heir directly to Ehsaas offices at, F-Block, Pak Secretariat, Islamabad. All applications received at Ehsaas offices are being listed and scrutinized according to the agreed protocols and formal responses will be returned soon to all concerned. All people with biometric challenges who will apply through this new application portal will receive new disbursement messages with date and bank branch details from 8171 service and the process is being expedited nationwide to facilitate easy payments.

Man arrested at Islamabad airport

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Airports' Security Force (ASF) personnel have arrested a man at Islamabad airport for carrying 30-bore pistol and 25 bullets in luggage while departing to United Kingdom (UK) en route Abu Dhabi. A 30-bore pistol and 25 bullets have been recovered from a Abu Dhabi-bound flyer by security officials during scanning of his luggage. The passenger is identified as Fawad Shah, said the airport sources, adding that he along with his sister was departing to United Kingdom (UK) en route Abu Dhabi. After taking into custody, the ASF officials have handed him over to the airport police station and allowed the woman to go to her house, sources said. Earlier in August, the Airport Security Force (ASF) had seized six bullets from Sharjah-bound flyer's luggage at the Multan International Airport. According to ASF officials, six bullets had been found in the luggage of a passenger during checking at the airport. The woman in her initial statement told the officials that the bullets were mistakenly placed in his luggage. She tendered a written apology and was allowed to board her flight.

Police arrest journalist outside IHC

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police arrested a reporter of private television channel who had arrived at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) to cover hearing of an appeal filed by Maryam Nawaz against her conviction in the Avenfield corruption reference. The journalist Ehtisham Ki-yani working with Channel 24 was arrested by police deployed for security and was shifted to Ramna police station. He was stopped at a police checkpoint outside the court where he introduced himself but was detained by officials. After arresting him, police claimed that Ki-yani was carrying weapons. Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Athar Minallah took notice of the incident and summoned high-ranking officials of the capital police and ordered Ki-yani's immediate release. – APP

Government prioritising health sector: CEO Health

More than 50 doctors, dental surgeons and gynaecologists have been appointed who will soon join their duty places

DNA

ATTOCK: Chief Executive Officer Health Dr. Muhammad Sohail Ejaz Awan said on Wednesday that this government is according priority to health sector to ensure maximum health facilities to the people specially those living in far flung areas. He said that the vacant seats of doctors and paramedics are being filled on merit in a transparent manner. He said that more than 50 doctors, dental surgeons and gynaecologists have been appointed who will soon join their duty places. While giving details of the doctors recently appointed, he said that seven doctors and one dental surgeon has been appointed in DHQ Hospital Attock, three doctors in THQ Hospital Hasanabdal, nine doctors including one gynaecologist in THQ Hospital Pindigheb, three doctors in THQ Hospital Fatehjang, two doctors in THQ Hospital Hazro, four doctors each for BHU Maghian, Nilhad, Jatial and Tarap, one dental surgeon for BHU Ghourghushti, 11 doctors for Rural Health Centres which include Chhab, Domel, Bahtar, Rangoo, Domel and seven doctors for rural dispensaries which include Pind Sirhal, Sidrial, Kahal, Barwala, Humak, Jangal and Tawal have been appointed.

Islamabad

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Briefs

Cement export increase 5.60pc

ISLAMABAD: The exports of cement from the country witnessed an increase of 5.60 percent during the first two months of ongoing financial year (2020-21) as compare to the corresponding period of last fiscal year.

The country exported cement worth US \$ 44.540 million during July-August (2020-21) as against the exports of US \$ 42.149 million during July-August (2019-20), showing growth of 5.60 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

In terms of quantity, the exports of cement increased by 29.35 percent by going up from 1,064,154 metric tons to 1,376,536 metric tons, according to the data. Meanwhile, on year-to-year basis, the exports of cement increased by 28.93 percent during the month of August 2020 as compared to the same month of last year.

The exports of cement from the country during August 2020 were recorded at \$21.585 million against the exports of \$16.742 million in August 2019. On month-on-month basis, the exports of cement however decreased by 5.85 percent during August 2020 as compared to the exports of \$22.925 million in July 2020, the PBS data revealed.

The country trade deficit witnessed reduction of 8.32 percent during the first two months current fiscal year (2020-21) as compared to the deficit of the corresponding period of last year. The deficit during July-August (2020-21) was recorded at \$3.382 billion against the deficit of \$3.689 billion, the data revealed. – APP

Pak-China friendship exemplary: Qureshi

From Page 01
pertaining to bilateral relations between the two countries. Talking to the Chinese ambassador, President Alvi had said that China was a close friend, which has always supported Pakistan on all issues of national interest.

On the occasion, 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 the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020.

AIOU introduces four diploma programs

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has introduced PGD programs for professional development in four fields. According to a press release on Tuesday, these programs exclusively focus on developing professional competence and expertise of skilled individuals in their relevant fields of specialization in accordance with the latest trends of job market economy. The primary objective of these programs is not only to enhance job value service of the professionals but also to enable them to contribute towards social and economic development of the country in the best possible manner.

Eligibility criterion for admission in these PGD programs is 14 years of education including BA/BSc, B Com, BBA as well as 2 year associate degree program with at least 45 % marks. The duration of these programs is 1 year and deadline for the submission of application is 15 October. Application can be submitted through online system.

After completing the online application form, fee can be deposited in any of the branches of ABL, MCB or FWB till October 15. Admission fee can be deposited after 48 hours of completing online application form. It is mandatory to update admission fee depositing details on the website. The procedure for online application submission is given in the university prospectus to facilitate the applicants. – APP



ISLAMABAD: the Ambassador of Spain Manuel Duran participated in the International Day of Peace organized impeccably. A very positive message aimed at the youth of Pakistan. – DNA

‘Black money obtained from money laundering was used by Shehbaz Sharif’

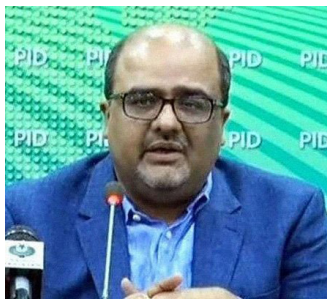
Talking to media in Islamabad on Wednesday, he said National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has filed money laundering reference against former Chief Minister Punjab Shehbaz Sharif and his children in a Lahore based NAB court

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister s Advisor on Interior and Accountability Shahzad Akbar has said that former rulers have committed money laundering in an organized manner and the black money obtained from money laundering was used by Shehbaz Sharif.

Talking to media in Islamabad on Wednesday, he said National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has

filed money laundering reference against former Chief Minister Punjab Shehbaz Sharif and his children in a Lahore based NAB court. He said soon they will likely be indicted in this regard. He said they used Telegraphic Transfer (TT) or fake foreign remittances to launder money abroad. He said the NAB has made 177 such incidents part of the reference. He said there are 16 accused in this reference, including Shehbaz Sharif and his family members, 10



accomplices, and four approvers. He said billion of rupees were

laundered through front men and personal servants. He said the Federal Investigation Agency has detected money laundering of 9.5 billion rupees in Ramazan Sugar Mills, owned by Shehbaz Sharif family. Shahzad Akbar also asked Shehbaz Sharif whether or not his sons Hamza Shehbaz and Salman Shehbaz have been running a network of kickbacks in Punjab from 2008 to 2018; whether he has not been getting benefits from this black money and how your family

affords living in London and what is their business in the United Kingdom. Responding to a question, Adviser on Accountability and Interior Mirza Shahzad Akbar said the government made public the sugar inquiry commission's report and the legal action was taken against the persons involved. He said the process of accountability will continue without any interruption and those involved in the corruption will be held accountable.

PM reviews availability of wheat, sugar prices

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has directed to ensure availability of sufficient stock of wheat and sugar at affordable prices in line with the requirements of the commodity in the country. He was chairing a meeting in Islamabad to review availability of wheat and sugar and their prices in the country.

The Prime Minister was apprised that 400,000 metric tons of wheat has so

far been imported by the private sector, while one million metric tons of the commodities will arrive in the country next month. Chairman Trading Corporation of Pakistan informed that 1.5 million metric tons of wheat is being imported by government for which a tender to procure 330,000 metric tons has been floated, while more tenders will be offered soon. The Prime Minister directed that he should be regularly kept apprised of the progress in import of wheat.

Pakistan plans sending 100,000 workers to Kuwait: OP&HRD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is planning to send around 100,000 skilled workers to Kuwait aims at boosting its remittances, for which a formal request has been made with the authorities concerned in the gulf state, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) said on Wednesday.

“A formal request to this effect has been forwarded to the authorities concerned in Kuwait and reply is still awaited,” a senior officer of the ministry told APP. Highlighting the ministry's efforts for increased remittances in the country, he said Pakistan had great workforce potential in all trades and the government was exploring new avenues to create jobs for skilled manpower in different countries. He said the government had also stepped up efforts for early signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Pakistan and Kuwait for enhancing and streamlining Pakistani manpower export

to the country. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on OP&HRD Sayed Zulfikar Abbas Bukhari had recently held a meeting with Labour Minister of Kuwait on the sidelines of 5th Ministerial Session of Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) to discuss the issues faced by Pakistani workers and urged him to facilitate the Pakistani workers, he added. To a query, he said Pakistani workers, even without signing of a state-to-state MoU between Pakistan and Kuwait, could go to Kuwait for employment under employer-employee agreement. The officer said the government had recently signed an agreement with Kuwait to send its healthcare professionals to the gulf country. He said Kuwait had already agreed to recruit as many as 444 Pakistani medical professionals including doctors, paramedics and nurses. Arrangements in that regard were being finalized to send the skilled workers to Kuwait at the earliest.

Lok Virsa to hold “Sufi Sangat” today

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

SC issues notice to NAB over Khursheed Shah's bail petition

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A Supreme Court bench on Wednesday issued notice to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on bail petition of People's Party leader Syed Khursheed Shah in assets beyond means case. Khursheed Shah's counsel Barrister Raza Rabbani informed the court that his client has been in jail for last one year and sought the court to grant him bail. Shah's counsel requested the bench for fixing the hearing of the case in the ongoing week. Justice Umar Ata Bandial said that the bail petition could not be

heard this week, while next week several benches will be in Quetta.

Barrister Farooque Naik who is also representing Khursheed Shah, asked the bench to fix the date of the next hearing of the case. “I am pleading several important cases and those court hearings also required my presence,” he informed the bench.

NAB Additional Prosecutor General said that the Sindh High Court in its verdict had granted bails to nine accused of the case. The accountability bureau has filed appeals against the SHC decision seeking hearing of these appeals. The bench adjourned hear-

ing for two weeks adding that the hearing will be in the week, starting from October 05. The court also directed for hearing of NAB appeals against bail of nine accused in the case.

It is pertinent to mention here that the anti-graft watchdog had filed assets beyond means reference of Rs 1.23 billion against Syed Khursheed Shah and 17 co-accused. The accountability court had granted bail to Shah in December after the accountability bureau's delay in filing reference against him. However, the Sindh High Court (SHC) Circuit Bench Sukkur later suspended the accountability court's bail orders.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman of Inquiry on enforced disappearances presiding a meeting to review the progress of cases of alleged disappearances pertaining to Islamabad capital Territory. IG of Police (ICT), senior officers from chief commissioner office and intelligence agencies are also present. – DNA

SECP senior officers served notices over data leak

After the news of data leak circulated, the security arbiter had taken notice of the development and issued show-cause notices to its 10 officers directed them to revert to the committee with their written response by Sept 29

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Securities Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued show-cause notices to its senior officers including additional and joint directors in connection with an investigation into data leak.

It emerged that the show-cause notices were served to Addi-

tional Director Market Surveillance Arsalan Zafar, Joint Director Information Technology (IT) Muhammad Sohail, Deputy Director IT Hamad Ahmed, Assistant Joint Director Companies Registration Sadiq Shah, Assistant Joint Director Companies Registration Adil Ali and Jamal Zaidi. Earlier on Tuesday, it emerged that a total of 10 SECP officers

had been served show-cause notices in order to probe the sensitive data leak.

After the news of data leak circulated, the security arbiter had taken notice of the development and issued show-cause notices to its 10 officers directed them to revert to the committee with their written response by Sept 29.

In the federal cabinet meeting yesterday, the members had also

held discussions over the data leaks of Securities Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) in the meeting where the ministers recommended the premier for releasing the order to publicise its inquiry report.

Faisal Vawda had said that facts should be unveiled before the nationals as important revelations were made in the inquiry report regarding the son of Za-

far Hijazi, whereas, many people belonging to Jang Group were also involved in it. The federal minister had claimed that some government lawmakers were having sympathies for the persons involved in the data leaks.

PM Imran Khan had also hinted to publicise the inquiry report of SECP data leak in order to uncover the facts.

‘Smuggling reduce substantially’

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Commerce and Trade Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi Tuesday said that smuggling has reduced substantially due to effective measures for its eradication which has supported local industry and would be instrumental for promoting economic activities and businesses in the country. He expressed these views while presiding over the SSC on Commerce & Trade here at Parliament House. Mirza Muhammad Afridi appreciated the measures taken in this regard and said that the sick units needed to be facilitated to ensure their revival.

The Committee was apprised about the problems faced by the farmers due to inadequate prices of tomato, onion despite good production during the current season. The Committee was also briefed about the steps being taken for exploring new markets for dates, tax evasion on computer, laptops and other IT equipments, as well as the issues of under invoicing.

The Chairman and members of the Committee said that the basic purpose was to protect the local industry and its production for overall progress of the country.

Senator Mir Kabeeer Ahmad Muhammad Shahi said that due to import of the fruits and vegetable from neighboring countries the local farmers from Balochistan do not get adequate prices of apple, grapes, onion and tomatoes. He said that Ministry of Commerce & Trade should take measures for protection of local farmers and utilization of local production before importing such items. – APP

Polio refusal cases covered

RAWALPINDI: The district administration on Wednesday covered a number of polio refusal cases after convincing parents on vaccination of their kids.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) Saddar paid a visit to Dhoke Imam Din and Jarahi areas and administered anti-polio drops to four children whose parents refused of vaccination to their children.

Meanwhile AC Taxila visited Union council jalala and administered anti-polio drops to children of reluctant parents with the help of local Ulemas and Imams of the masajids.

The AC said that people should avoid negative hears regarding polio drops because the drops of polio vaccine could save our children from lifetime disability.

Incharge anti polio drive of district health authority Chaudary Muhammad Hussain told APP that a five day anti-polio campaign started in all tehsils and towns of the district from September 21 is underway in full swing.

He said over 600,000 children have so far administered the polio vaccine out of the set target to cover more than 875,000, adding 3000 mobile health teams were operating in the district to complete the task of immunization.

Hussain said that Standard operating procedure (SOPs) regarding COVID-19 were also being followed to ensure the safety of polio teams during the drive. He said a healthy child was essential for a healthy society and this message should be conveyed in every nook and corner of the district. – APP

Pak-China friendship exemplary: Qureshi

From Page 01

pertaining to bilateral relations between the two countries. Talking to the Chinese ambassador, President Alvi had said that China was a close friend, which has always supported Pakistan on all issues of national interest.

On the occasion, 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 the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020.

Opposite directions

THE talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government led by President Ashraf Ghani are not going well. After the elaborate ballroom function, attended by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, some days ago in Doha, there has been no real progress in the process, which is intended to bring a lasting peace to Afghanistan and to its people. Instead, we are told the two sides are diametrically opposed to each other, and that the Taliban are not willing to agree to any kind of ceasefire.

The issues created by the Taliban's crackdown on these groups were, of course, visible during their previous tenure in power. Women are alarmed that there may be a return to those days, although the Taliban say that under Sharia law, they will permit education for women. By May next year, there has to be a complete pull out of foreign troops from the country. Most American troops will have left by November this year. It is therefore an urgent necessity for the Afghan people to themselves discover some way to move towards a peaceful settlement of the civil war that has torn their country apart. The Taliban have consistently refused to recognize the government of President Ghani, and say that it is simply a puppet regime set up by the US. Other analysts would agree. But the Taliban had told the US they would talk to this government, and the problems being faced now suggest that there are flaws in the process negotiated by the US and facilitated by Pakistan.

So far, there seems to be no real willingness to move towards anything that can bring calm and lasting agreement in Afghanistan. There are too many differences between the views held by both sides. The Afghan government is clearly displeased with the direction in which the talks are headed, as are the Taliban. And because of this breakdown, the US will not be happy either. A failure in Afghanistan would reflect extremely badly on it. But most important of all are the Afghan people. They cannot afford another failure in the process and another war which further wrecks their country and puts people in very real danger.



‘Anti-state’ label

THE government's reaction to Nawaz Sharif's scorching speech at the opposition's multiparty conference on Sunday is sadly not unexpected in the current polarised atmosphere, but that makes it no less objectionable.

At a press conference on Monday, senior federal ministers including Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Asad Umar, Fawad Chaudhry and Shibli Faraz accused the speakers at the MPC, particularly the former premier, of being 'anti-Pakistan'. They claimed the opposition was promoting the enemy's agenda by levelling allegations against national institutions like the army, NAB and ECP. Mr Umar also said the MPC was proof that Prime Minister Imran Khan was right when he said at the beginning of his tenure that "the opposition has everything at stake ... and when accountability moves forward, they will all get together".

With the political discourse having become increasingly reductive, it now takes very little for wild allegations of being 'anti-state' to be bandied about. The shameful precedent that began with the sister of this country's founder being declared a foreign agent in a state-sponsored advertisement campaign during Gen Ayub Khan's government has come of age in a political arena where healthy debate seems a passé concept. The prime minister has also repeatedly alleged the same self-interest on their part, particularly in connection with the passage of FATF-related legislation. There are serious charges of corruption against several leading opposition figures, including Mr Sharif, and they must face them in a court of law, regardless of the outcome.

Meanwhile, if, as his ministers maintain, the prime minister is indeed the one in the driving seat, he should put a stop to his predecessor being denounced as 'anti-state' and accused of trying to please India by criticising the army. It is a repugnant line of attack. The former appears hell-bent on pursuing the current mode of accountability while the latter believes it is being unfairly hounded and that the government would not last a day without the support of extra-constitutional forces. They would do well to consider that it serves our enemies well when our leaders engage in such recrimination. We lost this country's eastern wing nearly four decades ago amidst precisely such vicious rhetoric and politics of vilification. This must stop now.

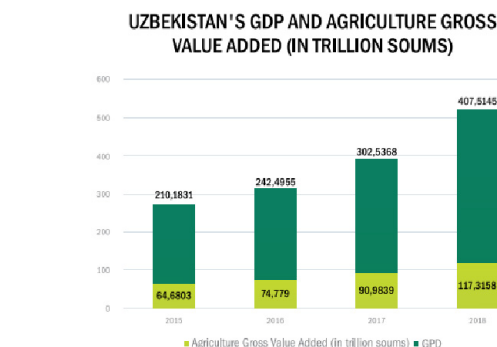
President Mirziyoyev's vision on agricultural reforms

Lt. Col. Khalid Taimur Akram (R)



Uzbekistan has strived for self-sufficiency in production and food security fields and the recent trends suggest that the country has been able to achieve this goal. Uzbekistan's agricultural policy has undergone significant changes after His Excellency Mirzeziyov became the President. The country adopted a more liberal economic approach and abolished state-controlled agricultural enterprises and the collective sector

AGRICULTURE is one of the basic and vital sectors of the national economy of Uzbekistan and is considered as a backbone of the social, economic, and cultural development of the country. The agricultural sector in Uzbekistan is not just associated with providing food for the populous, the sector also provides the raw material for the progress and development of various industries. It is crucial in providing employment opportunities for the nation, therefore holds immense significance for the economic development of the country. Being one of the biggest industries, the agriculture sector is one of the top priorities for key reforms in Uzbekistan. The government pays great attention to the progress and development of the agricultural sector and is continuously taking measures to further strengthen and enhance its efficiency. Uzbekistan's GDP and agriculture gross value added For the development in this extremely important sector, the Government in Uzbekistan under the meticulous and visionary leadership of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan - His Excellency Shavkat Mirziyoyev, has attempted to diversify agricultural policy and is extensively working on to bring radical reforms in the agricultural sector by transitioning into a liberal market economy. Efforts to optimize the effects of the reformed agricultural sector, new agribusiness enterprises, and industrial progress were the key achievements of public policy. As a result of the gradual transition strategy, Uzbekistan created its own expanding agricultural input-output market. To ensure food security in the country, the Government has increased wheat-growing areas and developed wheat production technologies, launched a quota-based system for cotton and wheat producers, reformed land ownership



and tenure, and introduced a new type of farmers who acts independently under governmental support. The growing effect of economic diversification is mitigating the risk of the deterioration of the quality of life in the whole region. Over the last two decades, the agricultural sector in Uzbekistan has managed to maintain stable growth constituting an annual 6-7%. To diversify its economy, the country has adopted a more effective and competing strategy to overcome the issues faced by the agricultural sector.

Challenges to the Sector

The agricultural sector in Uzbekistan faces several challenges including population growth, climate change, desertification, deforestation, and scarcity of water for irrigation due to shared rivers among all five Central Asian Republics. The agricultural sector in Uzbekistan has experienced a significant slowdown in the recent past, however, due to progressive policies of the current leadership, the country has managed to raise the impetus for economic and agricultural development.

1. Food Security

Food security is another important challenge in Uzbekistan. Major factors affecting food security include population growth, low incomes, increased demand for land, water, and energy resources, and increased risk of climate-change-related threats from droughts, flooding, hail, etc. In recent years, as a result of a series of measures to bolster food security in the country, Uzbekistan has strengthened its position in the world, gradually improving its position in the Global Hunger Index for 2019, where Uzbekistan is now ranked 49th out of 119 countries.

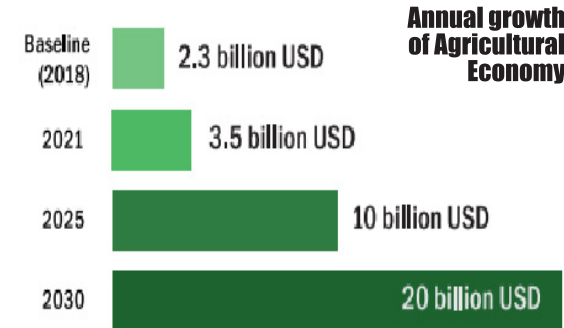
2. High-Cost Low Profit

An important factor in ensuring agricultural competitiveness is the development of more integrated and efficient value chains. The initiative of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev "from field to the consumer" has created a unique chain of collection, transportation, storage, processing and certification of products for end consumers, which significantly increased the competitiveness and profitability of Uzbek agricultural producers. To attract investment in the infrastructure of the agri-food market, new financial instruments are being actively developed, the business climate has been improved and targeted measures have been developed aimed at expanding the agri-food sector and promoting the development of more integrated and accessible value chains.

Reforms

Agricultural development through multidimensional reforms in Uzbekistan underwent series of market-oriented reforms such as the introduction of business activity, different types of land ownership, permit to use natural resources for agricultural businesses, different types of agro-industrial plants, financial and technical support of the government. Multifaceted reforms have led to improvement in all aspects of the life of the population and an increase in economic performance. Crop diversification, yield maximization, and land use optimization frameworks were launched and have been operating in some parts of the country with considerable successes which can be seen in enhanced life quality of the population, market saturation, and ongoing industrial modernization programs.

This allowed the diversification of the agricultural sector by developing animal husbandry, poultry farming, fish farming, horticulture, gardening, and beekeeping. Decreasing rate of poverty, quality growth, and economic activeness in people's life reflects the socioeconomic wellbeing. To bring a progressive change in the agricultural sector, several important reforms have already been introduced. This includes the abolition of the export monopoly of UzAgroEx-



port which previously controlled all agri-food exports from Uzbekistan and the abolition of the system for the mandatory sale of 25% of hard currency earnings. Due to the introduction of a liberal economic system, today exporters are allowed to keep 100% of the value of their income. Liberalization of the transport service is another important aspect in this regard which has provided the agri-food exporters to use any form of transportation to move their products for export which was previously restricted to using only the national railroad system. To make the trade environment more conducive, the government in Uzbekistan has established a number of "greencorridors" at various Uzbek border crossings, to ensure the smooth passage of agri-food products both into and out of the country. Furthermore, the elimination of minimum export prices; the removal of full prepayment requirements for export contracts; and a significant improvement in access to credit for horticulture agribusinesses to invest and modernize all are aimed at improving productivity, quality, and diversity of products grown and traded.

All of these changes have significantly improved the efficiency of agri-food trade flows both from and to Uzbekistan.

Baseline (2018) 117,3 trillion soums (14 billion USD)



nificantly, the government launched a process for the design of a new agri-food development strategy.

3. Farming

Uzbekistan has strived for self-sufficiency in production and food security fields and the recent trends suggest that the country has been able to achieve this goal. Uzbekistan's agricultural policy has undergone significant changes after His Excellency Mirziyoyev became the President. The country adopted a more liberal economic approach and abolished state-controlled agricultural enterprises and the collective sector. The farmers were given more liberty by providing ownership to them and above all new technologies were adopted by the government to revolutionize this extremely important sector. Currently, more than 67,800 agricultural farms are operating in Uzbekistan. In the year 2018, 17500 new farms were established in the country and the agriculture sector provided employment opportunities to more than 250 thousand people. Uzbekistan has introduced a system of preferential crediting of agricultural projects and expanded service networks in rural areas. Under this, the government supplies fuel and lubricants, biological and chemical fertilizers, plant protection products, seeds, and others to the farmers.



1. Cotton Sector

Cotton production is of particular importance in achieving sustainable economic development of the country. It is known that Uzbekistan is one of the leading places in the production and export of cotton fiber. The government has also introduced a commercialization program that promotes the establishment of integrated private sector cotton clusters, and in 2019, these new cotton clusters were responsible for managing over 50% of the cotton-growing areas in Uzbekistan.

2. Wheat Sector

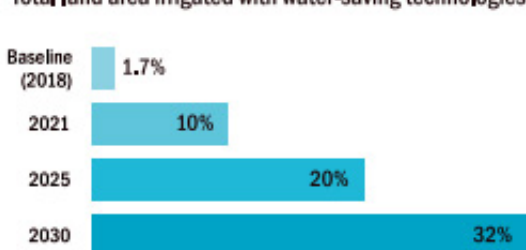
In the wheat sector, significant reform progress has also been made in recent years, including the removal of the state price subsidy for 'social' bread. This inevitably led to an increase in average household expenditures by 4% which was compensated for by the introduction of social measures to support targeted vulnerable households. To stabilize the market, wholesale market prices for flour were fixed in 2018. Subsequently, in 2019, the state wheat procurement price was increased, as part of a gradual policy of closing the gap between state and world market prices to be introduced over the next two years, thereby allowing for full liberalization of the wheat sector by 2022. Most sig-

4. Horticulture

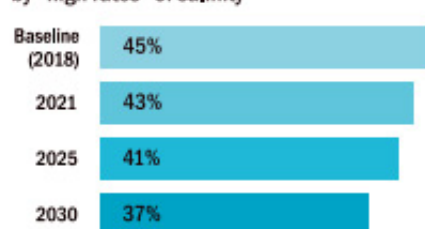
The share of horticulture in agricultural exports has increased rapidly in recent years. In 2017 horticulture exports rose to 43% and in 2018, to over 60% of total agricultural exports, with much of this export growth coming from non-traditional markets in East and South Asia. This emerging trend signals the beginnings of a very significant opportunity for the agri-food sector which will be further accelerated through targeted policy reforms and the attraction of new investment. Despite the declared hunger in the world caused by the coronavirus pandemic, Uzbekistan, under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, has made significant progress in strengthening not only its food security, but is already ready to offer the world high-quality and environmentally friendly products that do not contain GMOs. This is a vivid evidence of the effectiveness of reforms carried out under the leadership of the President in all sectors of life, since success in agriculture cannot be achieved without diversifying the economy, supporting domestic producers and other complex issues affecting all sectors of industry and financial structures of the state.

– The writer is Executive Director of CGSS

Total land area irrigated with water-saving technologies



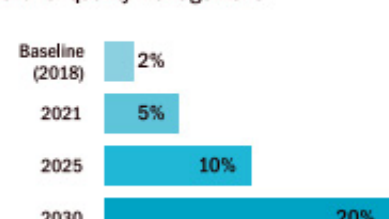
Reduction in total % of land affected by "high rates" of salinity



Total farmland area under production for state procurement



Increase in the number of farmers applying Good Agriculture & Environmental Practices and International standard for quality management



Briefs

Pakistan confirm Zimbabwe series

KARACHI: Pakistan cricket authorities confirmed Wednesday they would host Zimbabwe for a series of three one-day internationals and three Twenty20s starting next month. The tour will take place under "bio-secure" conditions to prevent the risk of spreading the coronavirus, officials said.

England became the first country to hold international cricket matches during the pandemic, when they hosted the West Indies, Pakistan, Ireland and Australia between July and September. Players underwent regular tests and were not allowed to leave the bubble of the stadium and hotel.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said it has consulted with England on virus safeguards and will be putting measures in place for a national T20 event starting September 30. By the time Zimbabwe arrive October 20, "we would have gained enough experience on bio-securing arrangements," said Zakir Khan, the PCB's director of international cricket.

Zimbabwe will bring a 32-member squad to cater for both formats as well as for the intra-squad warm-up matches. Following 10 days in quarantine, Zimbabwe are scheduled to play the first one-day international in Multan on October 30. Games will be played in closed stadiums. The other two ODIs will also be in Multan on November 1 and 3. The three Twenty20 internationals will be played in Rawalpindi on November 7, 8 and 10. Pakistan has seen a gradual decline in Covid-19 cases in recent months and almost all government lockdown measures have been lifted. —APP

Russian frigate and civilian vessel collide

DNA

COPENHAGEN: The merchant vessel 'Ice Rose' and a Russian warship have collided in the southern part of the Sound Strait near Denmark, the Danish Armed Forces have reported. The country's military did not report the Russian ship's name and did not say whether there were any casualties. According to the vessel tracking website MarineTraffic, the Marshall Islands-flagged cargo ship was sailing from St. Petersburg to Gothenburg in Sweden. It is currently listed as being anchored in the Sound Strait with Danish and Swedish patrol boats present nearby. The Danish Army said they will not allow 'Ice Rose' to proceed until its seaworthiness is assured. The cause of the incident is unclear. According to Danish media, there was low visibility in the Sound Strait due to dense fog. The Russian Navy did not comment on the reported collision. — APP

2-state solution only way to peace: Jordan's king

DNA

NEW YORK: Jordan's King Abdullah II said Tuesday that a two-state solution is the only way to end the conflict between Palestine and Israel. "The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is the only conflict that started with the establishment of United Nations and still being exacerbated to this day," Abdullah said while addressing a virtual 75th session of the UN General Assembly. "The only path towards a just and permanent peace must result in establishing the sovereign and independent Palestinian state that is liveable and on the borders of the 4th of June 1967 with Eastern Jerusalem as its capital and to live in security and peace beside Israel," he said. The king also said that there will not be an end to the conflict without preserving Jerusalem as a city for peace to all mankind. The General Assembly meetings opened Sept. 15 and are scheduled to conclude Sept. 29.



ISLAMABAD: Indonasion nationals taking part in a performance held at the embassy. — DNA

UNODC, WCO and CCP join hands to check inbound illicit substances

Smugglers have long been using legitimate cargo to cover their illegal shipments. The high volume of global trade consignment movements makes it particularly hard for Customs and law enforcement officers to spot illicit loads tactfully concealed in an apparently legitimate consignment

ANSAR M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Country Office Pakistan – the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the UNODC Container Control Program (CCP), in partnership with national counterparts Anti-Narcotics Force, Civil Aviation Authorities, and Pakistan Customs inaugurated its 3rd Air Cargo Control Unit (ACCU) at Islamabad Airport. The Unit is tasked to profile inbound and outbound air consignments and identify and stop those that may carry illicit substances. Smugglers have long been using legitimate cargo to cover their illegal shipments. The high volume of global trade consignment movements makes it particularly hard for Customs and law enforcement officers to spot illicit loads tactfully concealed in an apparently legitimate consignment. To address this challenge, UNODC and World

Customs Organization (WCO) developed the Container Control Programme concept and methodology which invests on human resource development and training profiling experts. The aim of the Programme is to bring the best of counterpart agencies together and streamline the focus of the Unit on risk analysis, joint profiling and targeting in an inter-agency setup.

The UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme was initiated in 2004 and Pakistan was among the first countries to join the initiative, with the first unit being established in Karachi seaport. With promising results of the Karachi Port Control Unit, Pakistan volunteered to be the host of the very first CCP Air Cargo Control Unit at Karachi International Airport. Thanks to contributions by the Government of Denmark, Karachi ACCU was established in 2016. Lahore ACCU followed in 2018 with Japan and United States of America being its major donors.

The inauguration of Islamabad ACCU marks the 3rd operational Air Cargo Control Unit in Pakistan after Karachi and Lahore, expanding the initiative to all three major airports of the country. The investments by both Pakistan, international donors, UNODC and WCO in setting up ACCUs started to payoff and show excellent results. In 2019, the Units in Pakistan stopped 40 attempts of narcotics trafficking resulting in seizures of total 128 kg Heroin, 25 kg Cocaine, 303 kg Ketamine and 9 kg Methamphetamines. Most frequent destination of these seizures were United Kingdoms (19 cases), Canada (5 cases) and Malaysia (3 cases).

"The success of the Container Control Programme in Pakistan is a result of the great commitment from national counterparts" said Mr. Jeremy Milsom, UNODC Representative for the Country Office in Pakistan during his opening remarks. "This is a great example where the joint initiative of UNODC and WCO flourishes through national

counterparts' reception, collaboration and appreciation" Mr. Milsom continued. The event was also a venue to pay a sincere gratitude to the Governments of Japan and the United States of America, the major donors to the establishment of Islamabad ACCU. H.E Mr. SHINDO Yusuke, Charge d' Affaires ad interim of Japan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in his speech mentioned, "strengthening aviation security to prevent trafficking of illegal items is one of the major challenges not only for Pakistan but other countries as well. Here, I would also like to mention that stability and peace is one of the important pillars of the foreign policy of Japan. The Government of Japan continues to contribute to the stability based on laws and regulations in various countries."

Other major donors of the Global Container Control Programme include Australia, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, and United Kingdoms.

US wages economic war against Iran, says Rouhani

DNA

TEHRAN: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani criticized Wednesday new US sanctions against Iran, according to the official IRNA news agency. "The US has waged an economic war against Iran by sanctions on the dollar, banking ties, economic institutions, and business companies," Rouhani said at a cabinet session. He said Iran was under economic sanctions since 1980, but the economic war has begun in 2018. Underlining that a US resolution proposed to the UN Security Council to extend the arms embargo on Iran was rejected, Rouhani said:

"This victory and success belongs to the great Iranian nation." Tensions between the two sides have escalated recently, especially after the UN Security Council rejected a US demand to extend the UN arms embargo on Iran, which ends in October after more than a decade. While the US has moved alone to trigger the snapback of all UN sanctions on Iran, including the arms ban, Tehran has dismissed the move and showed readiness to resume arms trade in October. Experts believe the issue of arms trade could push the two sides to the brink of confrontation in the run-up to the Nov. 3 US elections.

Turkey to host Hamas, Fatah for Palestine unity talks

DNA

ANKARA: Turkey is hosting another round of Palestinian unity talks between rival factions Hamas and Fatah, following recent deals that earned Israel wider recognition with Gulf countries. President Mahmoud Abbas called Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday and extended his appreciation for hosting the talks and urged Ankara to help the negotiations. A Turkish official, speaking on condition of anonymity due to government protocol, told

Middle East Eye that Ankara wasn't directly involved in the negotiations but was encouraging both sides to establish a unity government and jointly defend Palestinian rights. Some observers pointed out that Abbas, who used to have a distant relationship with Erdogan, turned to Ankara due to recent actions by Arab states that have alienated the Palestinian leadership. "Palestinians used to hold these talks in different cities such as Beirut. But we don't give any significance to the choice of venue as Istanbul. It is up to them to decide where to talk," the official said.

Uzbekistan reveals its COVID-19 data for Sep 23

DNA

TASHKENT: The number of confirmed coronavirus cases for September 23 in Uzbekistan increased to 53,051, media reports with reference to the statistics of the Uzbek Ministry of Health. To date, 49,224 patients have fully recovered in the country, while 443 have died. At the moment,

3,384 patients are treated in medical institutions in Uzbekistan in accordance with the standards. From October 1, all border crossing points in Uzbekistan will be open for road, rail, and air transport. Under the instructions of the President of Uzbekistan, unlimited movement of vehicles, as well as local air and rail travel in Uzbekistan, was re-

sumed since August 15, 2020. Also, from August 17, 2020, Tashkent resumed public transportation. The activities of preschool educational organizations and general education schools in a traditional and remote form is allowed from September 2020 in accordance with the opinions of parents and proposals of local councils of deputies. Citizens are required to wear

masks when entering public transport (buses). The first case of coronavirus infection in Uzbekistan was detected on March 15 in the laboratory of the Research Institute of Virology; it was an Uzbek woman who returned from France. The Ministry of Health later announced that her son, daughter, husband, and grandson also tested positive for coronavirus.



RABAT: Pakistan's ambassador to Morocco Hamid Asghar Khan had excellent discussions with the Director General of the National Library of Morocco. They agreed to sign an MOU in order to organise cultural activities on the excellent premises. An accord for collaboration on the preservation of old manuscripts will also be signed with the Pakistan National Library. The restoration works and preservation facilities are most impressive. — DNA

EU plans tougher controls in migration policy

The recent fires that destroyed the Moria camp in Greece, housing more than 12,500 migrants and refugees, was "a stark reminder we need to find sustainable solutions, said Ursula

DNA

BRUSSELS: The European Union has called for a compulsory system across the bloc to manage migration, after years of division over how to respond to a big influx of migrants and refugees. The German-backed pact would require all 27 EU countries to take part. Member states would either agree to take in asylum seekers or take charge of sending back those refused asylum. European Commission head Ursula von der

Leyen called it a "European solution... to restore citizens' confidence".

The recent fires that destroyed the Moria camp in Greece, housing more than 12,500 migrants and refugees, was "a stark reminder we need to find sustainable solutions," she added. Ever since the influx of over a million migrants and refugees in 2015, mainly via Italy and Greece, the EU's 27 states have been divided over how to respond, and the new pact has already attracted criticism. Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz cast doubt on the idea of distributing asylum

seekers across Europe. "It won't work like this," he told the AFP news agency.

Italy and Greece have accused wealthier northern countries of failing to do enough, but a number of Central and Eastern European nations have been openly resistant to the idea of taking in a quota of migrants. The new pact, which has been pushed most strongly by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, proposes a "fair sharing of responsibility and solidarity between member states while providing certainty for individual applicants". There would be:

New compulsory pre-entry screening involving health, identity and security checks. A faster asylum border process involving decisions within 12 weeks and swift returns for failed applicants. The EU's 27 countries would have "flexible options" for how to take part, so countries such as Hungary and Poland that have refused to take in arrivals in the past would be asked to help in different ways. Taking in recent arrivals "Sponsoring" returns - ensuring on behalf of other states that people refused asylum are sent back. Providing immediate operational

support. Each state would be legally required to contribute their "fair share" - based half on GDP, and half on population size. The European Commission president said the new pact would "rebuild trust between member states" and strike the "right balance between solidarity and responsibility". EU Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson said she guessed that not one of the member states would be satisfied with the pact, "but I think we would have 27 member states and parliament that would say it's worth working on this".

'Brussels, not UK threatening Irish peace'

DNA

LONDON: The UK government insists it is the European Union that poses a threat to the Good Friday Agreement as London itself pushes new legislation that would breach the Northern Ireland protocol. Britain's Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab was quoted as saying on Wednesday that he told the US government during a recent visit to Washington it was the EU, not the UK, that was threatening the agreement that brought peace to Northern Ireland. New legislation proposed by the British government would breach the Northern Ireland protocol, which seeks to avoid border checks between Northern Ireland and EU member the Republic of Ireland after the UK's withdrawal from the bloc.

US Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden warned London last week that it must honor the Good Friday Agreement as it withdraws from the EU if the UK wants a separate trade deal with Washington.

Raab said on Thursday, however, that Northern Ireland's 1998 peace agreement was not at risk from London's move to withdraw from the bloc. "The Good Friday agreement is not in jeopardy... We've been crystal clear all along, we're committed to it," the foreign secretary told CNN. "We want to resolve the issues with our European partners, but there is not going to be any hard border [in Ireland], certainly not applied by the UK," he added.

Japan to reopen borders for all countries in Oct

DNA

TOKYO: Speculation is rife that, in a long-awaited move, Japan is readying to relax its strict entry restrictions on foreign nationals to allow more new visa applicants to seek entry clearance. Citing several government sources, several nationwide media outlets reported Wednesday that in as early as October the country will start allowing entry for residents with permission to stay more than three months and international students, regardless of where they come from. However, the planned change will not cover tourists. Under the current travel restrictions, which have been met with harsh criticism from Japan's foreign community and international business groups, travelers from 159 countries and regions have been denied entry in principle.

Briefs

OLX
introduces
advertising
tool

DNA

LAHORE: OLX, Pakistan's number one marketplace, has introduced an advertising tool to help small and medium businesses in Pakistan to proficiently plan and execute their online marketing campaigns. This new tool named as 'Self-Serve', will allow small and medium businesses to promote their products and services to almost 950,000 daily active users visiting the OLX platform, which accumulates to over 12 million users in a month. Reaching out to such a huge audience in the most efficient and cost-effective way can enable these businesses to multifold their revenues by generating new customer leads.

The OLX Self-Serve tool lets SME advertisers flexibly design customized campaigns focused on achieving specific objectives. Besides, it also enables the advertisers to optimally plan their campaigns and tune their efficiency by using filters such as audience targeting, budget range and campaign duration, in a few simple steps. The OLX marketplace currently has 14 diverse classified categories, ranging from mobile phones and electronics to cars, property, home appliances, fashion etc. This helps advertisers target their online campaigns towards the most relevant category as per audience interest.

While speaking about this platform, Farhan Khan, Country Head Sales at OLX Pakistan said, "OLX Self-Serve platform has been designed to assist small and medium scale businesses promote their products and services to a large set of audience without hassle. Through this platform, SMEs will be able to target the right audience, generate leads and expand their business. Our support for these businesses to thrive and prosper using this platform will remain available at all times."

Janjua urges
European
companies
to invest in
Pakistan

DNA

BRUSSELS: Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union Zaheer A Janjua has urged European companies to invest in Pakistan which offers a number of incentives to foreign investors. During a virtual meeting with a leading Belgian manufacturing company Ontex Group in Brussels, he said Pakistan is considered to be the top investment friendly destination in the region with its investor-friendly policies. The Ambassador said the government has identified Special Economic Zones with lucrative investment opportunities while Export Processing Zones are also being established to increase exports.

Alexander Lukashenko sworn
in as president of Belarus

There were soldiers around and streets were closed but it took everyone by surprise. It was a modest affair, not like the huge spectacle it usually is. It is a sign of a president feeling the pressure

DNA

MINSK: Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has been sworn in for a sixth term, the official news agency Belta reported Wednesday. The inauguration took place in secret and with no prior announcement. Hundreds of top government officials were reportedly present for the ceremony held in the capital, Minsk. During the ceremony, state media reported that Lukashenko placed his right hand on the constitution and swore to "serve the people of the Republic of Belarus, respect and protect rights and freedoms of people and citizens." German government spokesman Steffen Seibert said Wednesday that the ceremony

in Minsk has "no legitimacy" and that Germany does not recognize Lukashenko as the president of Belarus.

The ceremony would normally have been publicized in advance as a major state occasion. However, Lukashenko's disputed election victory on August 9 has unleashed weeks of mass protest across Belarus. "This wasn't an act by someone who is confident of own support. We thought it was dress rehearsal," said DW correspondent Nick Conolly in Minsk. "There were soldiers around and streets were closed but it took everyone by surprise. It was a modest affair, not like the huge spectacle it usually is. It is a sign of a president feeling the pressure," he added.

"It's a sign of weakness from the government

which will motivate the protesters."

Following the clandestine inauguration ceremony, the Belarusian opposition called for an "immediate civil disobedience campaign." Pavel Latushko, an opposition politician, said the ceremony was like a secret meeting of "thieves." social media. "Where are the jubilant citizens? Where is the diplomatic corps?" Latushko posted on Belarusian authorities have responded to the demonstrations with violent crackdowns and mass arrests. Many top opposition figures have been exiled or detained. Lukashenko has been in power for 26 years. The opposition says the recent election was rigged. Much of the international community also rejected Lukashenko's claim that he won the election with 80% of the vote.

Last month, the EU said the election was "neither free or fair." Belarusian opposition leader, and Lukashenko's election opponent, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, traveled to Brussels on Monday in a bid to convince the EU to follow through on sanctions the bloc threatened last month in response to the crackdown.

On Wednesday, German government spokesman Seibert said that Germany supported activating sanctions against Belarusian officials as soon as possible, adding Berlin regrets that the EU's foreign ministers have yet to agree on moving forward. A proposed list of some 40 Belarusian officials to be hit with travel bans and asset freezes has yet to be approved by all member states, with Cyprus being the last holdout.

Greco-Turkish
talk for eastern
Mediterranean

DNA

ANKARA: Turkey and Greece have agreed to resume talks aimed at addressing their contested maritime claims in the eastern Mediterranean and Aegean. The talks will take place in Istanbul at a date to be announced. A statement from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's office said both Turkey and Greece were ready to restart talks. Earlier, Erdogan held a video conference meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and European Council President Charles Michel. During the meeting, Erdogan also called for a regional conference that would gather all sides involved in the dispute, including Turkish Cypriots, and said the "momentum" for dialogue should be protected," according to the statement.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Ali Hosseini called on newly designated Spokesman of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Zahid Hafeez. – DNA

Egypt: Dozens
arrested as anti-Sisi
protests continue

DNA

CAIRO: Egyptian security forces detained at least 150 people over their participation in anti-government protests on the anniversary of the 20 September anti-corruption movement, launched by the self-exiled whistleblower Mohamed Ali.

Meanwhile, protests in several villages continued for the third day on Tuesday evening, calling on President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to step down. According to videos posted on social media by Ali and activists supporting his calls, hundreds took part in demonstrations in Cairo, Giza, Fayoum, Al-Minya, Luxor and Aswan and chanted slogans calling for Sisi's departure.

The protests, although small in size, were significant due to the government's ban on protests and crackdown on all forms of dissent. Ali also

called for a "day of anger" protest on Friday to demand Sisi to leave.

Ali, now based in Spain, ignited rare protests in September last year, triggered by videos exposing corruption by the president and his entourage. Ali, the previous owner of an Egyptian construction company, claimed to have witnessed corruption by Sisi during years of cooperation with the army in the implementation of a large number of construction projects. This time, Ali had asked Egyptians to participate in protests on Sunday, to demonstrate against commodity price hikes and the ongoing demolition of houses constructed without licensing or on farmland. The demolition campaign had reportedly affected hundreds of thousands of low-income Egyptians, who were facing either eviction or paying a fine to reconcile with the state.

Poisoned Navalny
discharged from
Berlin hospital

DNA

BERLIN: The German hospital treating Russian opposition leader Alexey Navalny for poisoning said on Wednesday that his condition has improved enough for him to be released, and suggested a "complete recovery" from the nerve agent was possible. Navalny, 44, spent 32 days in treatment in Berlin's Charite hospital, 24 of which were in intensive care, before doctors deemed his "condition had improved sufficiently for him to be discharged from acute inpatient care". The hospital said that based on Navalny's progress, treating physicians believe that "complete recovery is possible," but added that it "remains too early to gauge the potential long-term effects of his

severe poisoning".

Navalny, the most visible opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin, was flown to Germany two days after falling ill on August 20 on a domestic flight in Russia. German chemical weapons experts have determined he was poisoned with the Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok – findings corroborated by labs in France and Sweden.

In his first blog post since emerging from a coma, Navalny said on Monday that the three European labs had found Novichok "in and on my body". He noted that Russia had still not opened an investigation but that he "did not expect anything else". Navalny aides said on Thursday that German experts found Novichok on a water bottle taken from the hotel room where he stayed before being taken ill.

'Israel's
occupation
defies
consensus'

DNA

DOHA: Despite international consensus that the Palestinian cause is justified, the international community is helpless in the face of Israeli intransigence and persistence in occupying Palestinian and Arab lands, Qatar's emir said.

Besides imposing a stifling siege on the Gaza Strip, Israel continues a policy of expanding settlements in flagrant violation of international law, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani told the 75th session of the UN General Assembly via video link.

"The lingering of the Palestinian cause without a just solution and Israel's continued settlements and creation of pretexts on the ground without being deterred pose the biggest question mark on the credibility of the international community and its institutions," al-Thani stressed.

We Don't

COVER UP THE
FACTS

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Kashmir still a burning
issue, Erdogan tells UNGA

The Turkish leader also criticised the "countries that have declared their intention to open embassies in Jerusalem, in violation of United Nations resolutions and international law"

DNA

NEW YORK: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday raised the Jammu and Kashmir issue in his address to the United Nations General Assembly, calling for the resolution of the decades-old dispute between Pakistan in India in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The Turkish leader also criticised the "countries that have declared their intention to open embassies in Jerusalem, in violation of United Nations resolutions and international law", accusing them of making the Palestinian conflict "more complicated" to resolve.

Last year, Erdogan had also called for dialogue for the solution of the Kashmir issue in his address to the 74 session of the General Assembly. He had stressed that stability and prosperity of South Asia could not be separated from the Kashmir issue.

Addressing the 193-member gathering on Tuesday, Erdogan reminded the international community that the Kashmir dispute was still a "burning issue", while the unilateral steps taken by India on August 5 last year further

complicated the problem.

"The Kashmir conflict, which is also key to the stability and peace of South Asia, is still a burning issue," Erdogan said. "Steps taken following the abolition of the special status of Jammu-Kashmir further complicated the problem," he added. "We are in favour of solving this issue through dialogue, within the framework of the United Nations resolutions and especially in line with the expectations of the people of Kashmir," the Turkish leader said. On domestic issues, Erdogan called for "sincere" dialogue to settle the growing row with Greece over energy search in the eastern Mediterranean. "Our priority is to settle disputes with sincere dialogue, based on international law and on an equitable basis," Erdogan said. Erdogan said Turkey, a Nato ally, also said that the Palestinian conflict could only be resolved with the establishment of an independent, sovereign, and contiguous State of Palestine based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. Earlier in the day, leaders of the world's two largest economies, China and the US, laid out their competing visions as relations between the two

plunged to their worst level in decades as the coronavirus tensions aggravating their trade and technology disputes.

US President Donald Trump used his General Assembly speech to attack China's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, saying that Beijing must be held accountable for having "unleashed this plague onto the world".

By contrast, China's President Xi Jinping struck a conciliatory tone in his pre-recorded virtual address, calling for enhanced cooperation over the pandemic and stressing that China had no intention of fighting "either a Cold War or a hot war with any country".

Trump, facing a November re-election with his country dealing with the world's highest death toll from the contagion, accused Beijing of allowing people to leave China in the early stages of the outbreak to infect the world while shutting down domestic travel.

In an implicit rebuke to Trump, President Xi called for a global response to the coronavirus and giving a leading role to the World Health Organisation (WHO). "Facing the virus, we should enhance solidarity and get through this together," he said.

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

APNS

آپ نیشنل نیوز روز سروس ایس

Briefs

4 PIA loaders
arrested over
jewelry theft

DNA

KARACHI: Four members of the Pakistan International Airlines' (PIA) cargo handling staff have been arrested for allegedly stealing gold ornaments from a passenger's luggage. The stolen jewelry has been recovered from their possession, according to a PIA spokesperson. The arrested staffers, who have been working as loaders on a daily wage, had stolen jewelry from the luggage of the passenger who travelled to Toronto from Allama Iqbal International Airport, Lahore via the airline's July 19 flight. During interrogation, they confessed to having committed the crime. The spokesperson said the PIA administration has written to the employees' contractor to have them sacked from their service. Last year in Nov, the PIA had handed over five of its employees to police over their alleged involvement in stealing valuable items from a passenger's luggage. A woman passenger of PIA flight, PK-356, from Karachi to Peshawar had registered a complaint that her gold jewelry, cash and other valuable items were missing from her luggage. The national flag carrier's security and vigilance teams took swift action over the complaint and after a comprehensive investigation found the five suspects guilty of stealing.

Sub-committee
to scrutinize
1 billion \$
Chinese grant

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Committee on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Wednesday formed a sub-committee to scrutinize the utilization of \$1 billion grant extended by the Chinese government under CPEC. The grant was given to support under developed areas of Pakistan. The sub-committee would scrutinize the socio-economic development projects being executed in selected districts of the country to reduce poverty under the \$1 billion grant. The sub-committee would be presided over by Noor Alam Khan while Mehnaz Akber Aziz, Raza Rabani Khar, and Zahid Akram Durrani would be the members of the committee. Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission Dr Muhammad Jehanzeb and Secretary, ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Mathar Niaz Rana briefed the committee on different projects under CPEC. The agenda items on ML-1 project was deferred and will be taken up in the meeting scheduled for on Thursday (Today). The Ministry of Railways was directed to come up with a comparative study of the original PC-1 and the revised one having details of financial action plan with time lines. — APP

ECC directs to ascertain liabilities payable by PSM

ECC also granted that waiver of guarantee fee on foreign loans of K2/K3 projects. According to a report prepared by PAEC and EAD, there will be a benefit of Rs.0.07/KWh to the general public by the waiver of this fee

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet here at the Cabinet Division. ECC considered and approved 2 technical supplementary grants (TSGs) for the Ministry of Interior amounting to Rs.111 million for clearing various liabilities of the ICT administration. Two other TSGs were approved for Islamabad High Court (Rs.102 million) and National Heritage & Culture Division (Rs.8.5 million) for various expenditures. ECC also granted that waiver of guarantee fee on foreign loans of K2/K3 projects. According to a re-

port prepared by PAEC and EAD, there will be a benefit of Rs.0.07/KWh to the general public by the waiver of this fee. For the centralized procurement of the vaccines under the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), ECC approved the shifting of Federal EPI from development to revenue expenditure with an allocation of Rs.9, 903.195 million through TSG for vaccine procurement in CFY to avoid interruption in the immunization program. Now the vaccine shall be procured by the Federal EPI on behalf of the provincial governments and later reimbursement shall be made by Punjab and Sindh government and deduction at source from the shares of KP and Balochistan for their respective vaccine shares will be made. In order to increase the share of manmade fibers (MMF) in the

textile goods for better unit prices in the international markets, product diversification and most importantly, value addition, the Additional Customs Duty (ACDs) and Regulatory Duty (RDs) on selected HS codes of textile sector was allowed to be removed. The total revenue impact of these exemptions will be Rs. 533 million. ECC allowed notifying the Kharlachi Border Crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan as a rebateable border point for export of goods to Afghanistan. Earlier the opening of this border point helped in the release of congested transit trucks at the Afghan border due to Covid-19 restrictions. ECC allowed the exemption from re-lending of the funds for Pakistan National Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for Covid-19 to cover the country's requirements

for 12 months through emergency operations. In order to administer the program Asian Development Bank shall provide a loan of US\$ 100 million and an additional US\$ 5 million will be from the government of Norway as a grant administered by ADB. ADB has already signed a loan agreement with the Ministry of Economic Affairs to finance the said project. Two separate summaries were presented in the ECC today from the Ministry of Industries and Production for the disbursement of salaries of the employees of Pakistan Steel Mills and for clearing the liabilities of the retired employees of the Pakistan Steel Mills who have not approached the Court (Sindh High Court). ECC approved an amount of Rs. 3850 million due to the employees of PSM for the financial year 2020-21 to be dis-

bursed every month. However, on the second summary, though the ECC agreed in principle that the dues to the retired non-litigant employees should be paid, the forum decided to seek a detailed report from the Ministry of Industries and Production on the nature of liabilities due to PSM on account of retirement dues, the liabilities that will accrue as a result of the retrenchment plan and other expenditures on account of utilities or any other charges due on PSM. It is pertinent to mention that the forum was briefed that earlier this month the retired employees of the PSM were already paid Rs. 12.741 billion as retirement dues but the Court has asked to pay the non-litigant retired employees as well that will further add Rs.11.68 billion to the expenditure of the Federal government.

PM approves
One Window
Complaint
System

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD Prime Minister Imran Khan has approved the establishment of One Window Complaint System under which all the complaint cells of federal departments will be linked with Pakistan Citizens Portal. Prime Minister's Performance Delivery Unit has been directed to determine modalities in consultation with all concerned organizations, chalk out integration plans and get it completed within sixty days. According to the PM office, thirty-three complaint cells of federal departments will initially be linked to Pakistan Citizens Portal. This will strengthen the complaint registration system as well as prove to be useful to effectively address the public grievances. The Prime Minister Office said that all sorts of the public complaints will be addressed on merit.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Bosnia Sakib Foric called on leader of the House in the Senate of Pakistan Dr. Shahzad Waseem, on Wednesday. — DNA

PML N leader Zubair
met COAS twice: ISPR

Meanwhile Mohammad Zubair confirmed that he met with the army chief but he did not ask for any favour for Nawaz family

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa met PML-N representative Mohammad Zubair twice in the past two months, confirmed DG ISPR Major General Babar Iftikhar on Wednesday. The military's spokesperson, speaking to a news channel, said Ex-PM Nawaz Sharif and his daughter, Maryam Nawaz were discussed during the talks. The meetings, Gen Babar Iftikhar said, were held at Zubair's request. The first of the two meetings took place at the end of August — in which ISI chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed was also present — while the second took place on September 7. The army chief made it clear during the meetings that legal problems will be solved

by the courts and that political problems should be handled by the parliament. "The army chief had said that the armed forces must be kept away from these talks," said the DG ISPR. Meanwhile Mohammad Zubair confirmed that he met with the army chief but he did not ask for any favour for Nawaz family. He said he has very old relations with General Bajwa.

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ANF seizes contraband
items concealed in
water geyser

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Intelligence Wing on Wednesday recovered contraband items worth millions of rupees in Karachi and arrested an accused. Sources privy to the development said that raid was carried out at a water geyser and tandoor warehouse in Karachi's area of Clifton. The contraband items were to be exported to Qatar after concealing them into a water geyser, when the ANF team raided at the warehouse and arrested an accused named Mushtaq. The recovered contraband items are said to be worth millions of rupees in the international market. Earlier on January 22, A team of Anti-Narcotics Force seized 142kg of narcotics from two vehicles at GT Road. As per details, the ANG the intelligence wing thwarted a bid to smuggle 58 kg of hashish and 84 kg opium in raids at two vehicles at the GT Road. — DNA

TBTT
creating
thousands
of green jobs

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam Wednesday said 'Ten Billion Tree Tsunami' Programme would create thousands of green jobs for unemployed youth. He expressed these views while talking to journalists at a local hotel, According to details received here, he appreciated the role of KP government in TBTT and said it has a lion share. — APP

Solar power systems donated by
China benefit Pakistani families

The local govt and residents say they are eager for more, as the lights have helped mitigate the impact of frequent power failures

DNA

BEIJING: Solar photovoltaic systems and LED lights donated by China to Balochistan province have been welcomed by the local government and residents. China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment donated 4,000 sets of solar photovoltaic systems and LED lights to the province. Installed in homes and local institutions in Gwadar, it is estimated they will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by around 3,000 metric tons over the next 15 years, China Daily

reported on Wednesday. The local government and residents say they are eager for more, as the lights have helped mitigate the impact of frequent power failures. "I felt so excited," Wahag Baloch told a local news portal when recalling the day he fixed the solar panels to his home and turned the light on for the first time. He said local people had grown used to blackouts. Due to limited local infrastructure and extreme weather, his family sometimes went without power for up to 48 hours. When electricity was available, it was often only for a

few hours. "Now I have solar, there is light in my house 24 hours a day," he said. "It's good. Lights are superb." But he said some families were still plagued by frequent power failures, and he hoped they could also benefit from donated solar photovoltaic systems and LED lights. Fang Jiawei, an executive with Zhejiang Yankon, China's largest producer of energy-saving lights, who is responsible for implementing the donation project in Pakistan, said representatives of local communities and institutions were all lobbying for such facilities. The donation of the solar

photovoltaic systems and LED lights is just one of the latest examples of China's efforts to help developing countries strengthen their ability to face the challenges brought about by climate change. The ministry said China has signed Memorandums of Understanding on climate change cooperation with 37 countries, with materials worth over 1 billion yuan (\$147 million) donated to help mitigation and adaptation efforts. In addition to solar photovoltaic systems and LED lights, donations have included microsatellites and electric buses.

Saudia announces
visa services from
Karachi consulate

DNA

KARACHI: Saudi Arabia has announced to resume its visa services from its consulate in Karachi from September 28. A handout issued from the consulate said that after resumption in services, they would start issuing regular work visas, iqamas, and re-entry visas. "For revalidation of visa, the applicant had to submit the passport along with other documents," it read and further asked the applicants to approach concerned officials for a refund of the visa fee. It is pertinent to mention here that Saudi Arabia has lifted the ban on international flights coming from

Pakistan after success in controlling coronavirus outbreak. In a NOTAM (Notice to Airmen), the Saudi Arabia government has banned all flights coming from India, Brazil, and Argentina over their failure to control COVID-19 outbreak. "We cannot risk the lives of our citizens by allowing flights from India, Brazil, and Argentina", the NOTAM read. Meanwhile, the Kingdom has lifted travel restrictions from Pakistan after it managed to contain the spread of coronavirus in the country. Saudi Arabia had already decided to lift travel restriction in the kingdom from 01 January 2021, imposed earlier owing to COVID-19 pandemic.

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