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Armenia an obstacle to peace; Turkey backs Azerbaijan

World living in shadow of unclear catastrophe: UN



EU humanitarian aid mobilizes 5 mln for health service



Briefs

Dr Abdullah Abdullah arrives today

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation (HCNR) of Afghanistan Dr. Abdullah Abdullah on Monday will arrive here on a three-day visit. He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation including prominent members of the High Council for National Reconciliation. It will be Dr. Abdullah Abdullah's first visit to Pakistan in his capacity as Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation. During the visit, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah will call on President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan and would have interaction with the Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani, Speaker of the National Assembly Asad Qaisar, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi and other dignitaries. Foreign office spokesperson said in a press release on Sunday. Dr Abdullah would also deliver a key-note address at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad and also have interaction with the media.

Pull-out to harm Afghan peace: Imran

Says negotiation deadlock better than bloody battlefield stalemate

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan said, "On September 12, delegations from the Afghan government and the Taliban finally sat down in Doha, Qatar, to begin negotiations toward a political settlement that would bring the war in Afghanistan to an end. In an opinion in Washington Post, the premier said, "With the exception of the resilient Afghans themselves, no people have paid a higher price for the conflict in Afghanistan than the people of Pakistan. Through decades of conflict, Pakistan has dealt with the responsibility of taking care of more than 4 million Afghan refugees. Guns and drugs have also flowed into our country." Imran Khans said, "The wars have disrupted our economic trajectory and radicalized fringes of our own society. The Pakistan I had known growing up in the 1960s and 1970s changed in some deeply unsettling ways." This experience taught us two important lessons. First, that we were too closely intertwined with Afghanistan by geography, culture and kinship for events in that country not to cast a shadow on Pakistan. We realized Pakistan will not know real peace until our Afghan brothers and sisters are at peace, he added.

Prime Minister Imran Khan's complete article on Page 5



Shibli all praise for PM's vision

FIAZ CHAUDHAR / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz on Sunday said statistics of coronavirus cases and recoveries vindicated successful vision of the Prime Minister Imran Khan. In a tweet, he said that time had proved that the opposition's allegations and fears regarding the pandemic were wrong. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan's hallmark was to perform in difficult situations. The minister said from health to livelihood, the government's policies yielded positive results. Quoting figures, Shibli Faraz said that in Punjab province, total registered cases of coronavirus were 98,864, while in Sindh 135,246. Similarly, in Punjab total deaths due to the pandemic were 2229, whereas in Sindh 2477 corona-related deaths were reported.

Azerbaijan declares martial law

BAKU: Azerbaijan on Sunday declared martial law and a curfew in capital Baku and several other cities, as fighting with Armenian rebel forces in Nagorno Karabakh claimed military and civilian casualties on both sides. "Martial law will be introduced as of midnight as well as a curfew from 9 pm to 6 am," in Baku, several other cities and districts that are close to the Karabakh front-line, presidency spokesman Hikmet Hajiyev told journalists. - APP

Armenia biggest obstacle to peace: Turkey

DNA

ANKARA: Spokesperson of Turkish Ministry of Foreign has expressed concern over Armenian attacks on Azerbaijani areas. In a statement the spokesperson said, "We learnt that Armenian Armed Forces launched an intense shelling with heavy arms on Azerbaijani army, in Kapanll village of Tartar district, Çıraklı and Ortakerent villages of Aghdam district, Alhanlı and Şükürbeyli villages of Aghdam district and Çocukmercanll village of Cebrayll district in violation of the ceasefire along the contact line. Continued on Page 08

Pak condemns Armenia attack on Azerbaijan

Pakistan fully stands with the brotherly nation of Azerbaijan

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has expressed deep concern on the deteriorating security situation in Nagorno-Karabakh region. The intensive shelling by Armenian forces over the weekend on civilian populations of Azerbaijani villages of Terter, Aghdam, Fizuli and Jabrayil region is reprehensible and most unfortunate. This could compromise peace and security of the entire region. Armenia must stop its military action to avoid further escalation. Pakistan stands with the brotherly nation of Azerbaijan and supports its right of self-defence. We support Azerbaijan's position on Nagorno-Karabakh, which is in line with the several unanimously adopted UN Security Council resolutions.

NUML, Pak-Turk school sealed after virus cases

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The District Administration Islamabad has sealed campuses of NUML University and Pak Turk schools as virus cases have been reported in these institutions. According to notification issued by the District Magistrate Hamza Shafiqat on Sunday, both the educational institutions have been sealed and students barred from coming to these institutions. Sources, say the decision has been taken a number of corona virus cases were reported from these institutions. These institutions will remain closed until further orders.

Palestine indebted to Pak

President of Palestine said all regards and respect to your Excellency for giving comprehensive, speech to the UN General Assembly session

FARRUKH SHAHZAD



ISLAMABAD: President of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas thanked to the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan for showing his support for establishment of an Independent State of Palestine at UNGA. President of Palestine said All regards and respect to your Excellency for giving comprehensive, speech to

the UN General Assembly session, where you truly presented the legitimate demands of Palestine and its people to the International World.

On behalf of the Government of Palestine and its people I heartily thank Your Excellency for your great stance towards establishment of an Independent State of Palestine with Jerusalem Al-Quds as its capital. We Palestinians always receive great support from Government and people of Pakistan on all the forums of the World, we are proud of having such support for Palestine.

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Briefs

Pakistani Hindus end protest

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Hindu Council has announced that it will be ending its protest outside the Indian High Commission in Islamabad, the council's president, Ramesh Kumar Vankwani said on Saturday. Thousands of Hindus from across the country gathered outside the embassy on Thursday. They staged a sit-in calling out the Indian government over its lack of investigation in the killing of 11 migrant Hindus in India's Jodhpur.

On August 9, a Hindu family that had migrated to Lodta Haridasot were found dead at their residence in a village under mysterious circumstances. The protesters have accused India's secret service of poisoning the family and have demanded a detailed investigation into the case. "We have decided to end the protests for now," Vankwani said. "But this is just a warning for the Indian forces and government. If our demands are not met, we take our protest to the Wagah Border," he warned.

He added that they will file a petition over the matter in court. "We have prepared a declaration resolution resolve and have pasted a copy of it outside the Indian Embassy as well." He told the minister that the daughter of the deceased head of the family, Shrimati Mukhi, had filed an FIR in Sanghar over the incident, nominating the RSS and BJP for their involvement in the murder of her family members.

PM address at UNGA hailed in KP

DNA

PESHAWAR: People of all walk of life here Saturday night highly appreciated the address of Prime Minister Imran Khan at United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and termed it as per wishes and aspirations of the people of Pakistan and Kashmir. Provincial Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, Mohibullah Khan told APP that Prime Minister Imran Khan has deserved full credit and appreciation for highlighting the brutalities and atrocities of the occupational forces in the Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir at UNGA in a very bold and effective manner. He said Kashmir was a flashpoint between the two countries on which four wars have already fought and its resolution was must for lasting peace in South Asia.

Iftikhar greets all newly elected office bearers

DNA

LAHORE: President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday greeted all the newly elected office bearers of chamber of commerce and Industry across the country. In a felicitations letter addressed to all newly elected Presidents, SVPs, VPs and executive committee members throughout the country, he said that private sector which is back bone of the economy must live upto expectations and aspirations of the nation by safeguarding the interests of business community in true letter and spirit. He said that fairly competent educated candidates enjoying good repute and the highest degree of integrity were voted to power in chamber election for gigantic task of promotion of trade and accelerate the pace of industrialisation in post covid 19. He assured that Prime Minister Imran Khan will continue to take all stakeholders into confidence prior to policy formation for yielding better results.



ISLAMABAD: Members of the outgoing Executive Committee of ICCI posing for last picture with outgoing President Ahmed Waheed. – DNA

Plea bargain is a conviction, says Chairman NAB Javed Iqbal

NAB approves plea bargain applications of the accused and receives less amount from the looted money

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Corruption is the mother of all evils which is one of the main hurdles in the progress and prosperity of the country. NAB was established to eradicate corruption and to recover looted money from corrupt elements and deposit in national exchequer. NAB through its "Accountability for All" policy not only apprehended big fish, besides recovering looted money in billions and deposited the looted money in the national exchequer.

NAB not only vowed to ensure accountability of all and sundry but

also successfully implemented his policy across the board. He has persistently monitors the performance of NAB Headquarters as well as all Regional Bureaus of NAB. The officers are being conveyed about their strengths and weaknesses in order to have better performance but also told to overcome their shortcomings. NAB had itself prescribed ten months time to complete the process of initiating complaint verification, inquiries and investigations to filing a reference and if need the same duration is increased in order to have a logical conclusion of mega corruption cases. NAB has further activated prosecution and opera-



tion divisions of NAB by appointing new investigation officers and law officers and provided them training on modern lines in order to inquire and pursue all cases vig-

orously in respected courts including cases of white collar crimes. An accused can apply for plea bargain as per clause 25-B of NAB ordinance. NAB receives his receipt of plea bargain request, examines the plea bargain application as per law. The liability of the accused in determined on the basis of his looted money with markup and after determination total liability of the accused, NAB informed total liability to accused and if agreed to return looted money with mark up from the date of money looted he has looted, NAB forward the request of Plea Bargain of the accused along with his total liability for final approval of the respective

Accountability Courts. The respective Accountability Courts accord the final approval of plea bargains of the accused. It is not correct that NAB approves plea bargain applications of the accused and receives less amount from the looted money. The Honorable Accountability Courts approves the plea bargain of the accused requesting approval of plea bargain. The accused whose plea bargain is accepted by Accountability Court not only confesses his guilt in writing but also agrees to return all looted money. Therefore it is totally wrong that after approval of plea bargain requests from Accountability Court, plea bargain means leaving the culprit Scot free as Plea bargain is deemed conviction.

PM effectively presented sentiments at UNGA: Chohan



ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Fayyaz-ul-Hassan Chohan has said that Prime Minister Imran Khan effectively presented sentiments of Muslims across the globe in his address to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Talking to APP on Sunday, he said the prime minister stressed addressing the rising Islamophobia in the societies besides urging the need to resolve outstanding disputes, especially the Kashmir and Pal-

estine issues. PM Khan, as a true statesman, spoke at length on various issues faced by the world and their solutions which have been hailed by the international leaders, adding that the premier underlined the need to overcome poverty, climate challenge and Islamophobia in the world. The provincial information minister said the premier, during the UNGA address, also stressed the need to meet the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic challenge through collective global strategies after the world had been forced into an unprecedented unity to fight the virus. "As a true servant of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Prime Minister Imran Khan said the world would have to understand it that blasphemous caricatures of the Holy Prophet could not be allowed under the garb of freedom of speech," said the minister.



ISLAMABAD: Aajmal Baluch President all Pakistan Anjman Tajran presenting Flower Bouquet to Newly elected Traders Welfare Association Furniture Market Islamabad. – DNA

Dukhtran-e-Pakistan launches Kisan Ki Beti Project

DNA

SAHIWAL: Center of Excellence, Dukhtran e Pakistan Punjab has patronized the Community Development Foundation (CDF) and Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at Netsol (BIPP) for launching pilot project Phase of "KISAN KI BETI" in collaboration with major partners like Women Economic Development Initiative Punjab (WEDIP), Agri-Byt, Government of Punjab's Women Development Department (WDD) on 24th of September 2020 at 4:00 PM at Conference Hall, Anaya Chinese Restaurant, Sahiwal.

MRS MUNIBA KHAWAR (Provincial Coordinator Punjab for Dukhtran e Pakistan) and Mrs Shafqat Jabeen (District Coordinator Sahiwal, Dukhtran e Pakistan) patronized the launching ceremony in conference hall of a local Hotel in Sahiwal wherein Mrs Maryam Khan, (CEO Kisan Ki Beti), Dr Ejaz Sundhu (Burki Institute

of Public Policy), COO, Women Economic Development initiative Punjab, and regional and district heads from Khanawal and Bahawalnagar attended the maiden conference of Kisan Ki Beti Programme. Major aim of the project is to improve the living standards of rural women especially KISAN KI BETI and people living in marginalized areas of Punjab Pakistan through skills training, business competences, entrepreneurship, education and support. Muniba Khawar and her team earns lot of accolades from The Diaspora of Sahiwal for launch-

ing this project which is "Women becomes the center of professional excellence in agricultural, Social, cultural and economic development from the perception of economic growth" Project will generate the bigger outcome through collective mission KKB is committed great success for women in the agricultural sector which is defined as its primary responsibility by securing women at larger scale with their needs and interests mutually across all programs and projects. Skills and knowledge are the engines of economic growth and social devel-

opment of any country. KISAN KI BETI (KKB) program is the best example as a value added product to produce best results in rural areas of Punjab Pakistan with special focus on Farmers' Daughters. Project core teams have collected ground information under the set framework with time lines in which they found major gaps and deficiencies for this segment of society which are unable to speak only because of the profession of their father or bounding from the forefathers to face lot of social and cultural barriers, in result a large number of women youth sitting at

home, having no skills, not much educated and not even secure for their marriages as well. The Pilot Project will start from September 2020 to December 2020 in three major districts like Sahiwal, Jangh and Toba Tek Singh is being launched. First phase from JAN 2021 to December 2021 in 20 districts is being imitated at large level and will be handled by Community Development Foundation CDF, Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at Netsol (BIPP) and other valuable partners locally and nationally across Pakistan. The "KISAN KI BETI"

project is to communicate information about effective business education programs related to enterprise development and make possible efforts as starter ups by daughters of Farmers. The areas of intervention of the upcoming project are located in 20 Districts of Punjab Pakistan, with the target of 15000 families and more than 30000 young females living in rural areas, often in conditions of poverty and vulnerability, with low or no possibility to afford education, entrepreneurship programs along with safety and security for their selves and their families. This platform for rural women will help women earn in four ways (1) Earning through certified vocational courses (2) Selling their own local brands as entrepreneurs (3) Link them with local markets (4) Providing access to online selling especially Agriculture based products and engage them in agriculture activities .



FDA crackdowns on illegal housing schemes

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: On the directions of Faisalabad Development Authority Director General Muhammad Suhail Khawaja, the FDA enforcement team has sealed the offices of four illegal housing schemes and demolished illegal structures of these schemes during on-going operation against unapproved housing schemes. The enforcement team has also taken the possession of 4.48 kanal land specified for public building at a housing scheme. According to the details, the FDA enforcement team under the supervision of State Officer Imtiaz Goraya, check the legal status of housing schemes being established at different localities and found that the housing schemes Millat Garden, Adan Valley, Azafi abadi at chak Nos 110 JB and 121 JB were being developed without approval of FDA. On this, the team immediately sealed the offices of these illegal housing schemes and demolished illegal structures by using heavy machinery. In an other action, the FDA enforcement team took possession of 4.78 kanal land specified for public utility services at housing scheme Sitara Gold Satayana road.

Operation against encroachments

MUHAMMAD TAHIR

FAISALABAD: A grand operation led by Assistant Commissioner City Ayub Bukhari against encroachment in Kachehri Bazaar. The operation is being carried out on the orders of the Supreme Court against encroachments. The operation is being carried out by heavy machinery in collaboration with the Civil Defense Department, Corporation Police and other agencies. More than 50 shops were demolished during the operation. The shops that were demolished were located on government land. The average cost of a demolished shop was Rs.500 MILLION per shop. Land worth about was relinquished due to encroachments Assistant Commissioner AC Syed Ayub Bukhari Told In connection with the orders of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the operation against encroachments And they say that we have started the operation from Kachehri Bazaar Will continue until the markets are clear Supervised the operation outside Pakistan Model School near Kachehri Bazaar Gurdwara Gully People who have occupied illegal government space should vacate it themselves If the administration comes to this place and performs the operation, then all the expenses will be incurred. The occupier will have to be lifted. The people of Lalpur want to see Faisalabad in the same condition as before. It is difficult to pass through the markets. People have encroached and damaged the beauty of the city. Ongoing campaign to free the markets from the occupation mafia and restore them to their original condition. When we try to be good people, we become a good nation. And we will not allow anyone to take illegal action.

First-ever brain tumor operation

DNA

SUKKUR: A woman was successfully operated for her brain tumor, a first time in the history, at the Gambat Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) in Khairpur by neurosurgeon Dr Amjad Qureshi. Talking to journalists on Sunday, the Neurosurgeon Dr Amjad said a young woman from Badah, Larkana had visited GIMS Khairpur with complaints of severe pain in the face preventing her from opening her mouth for the last six months. He said after MRI and CT scans established the presence of a brain tumor behind the right eye. Dr Amjad said she later visited GIMS, Khairpur where under the guidance of Director Dr Raheem Bakhsh Bhatti, conducted a surgery. The neurosurgeon said the surgery has been a success and the patient was feeling better. She would now be sent for further treatments, including radiation and chemotherapy.

Briefs

CCP conducts inspection of PSMA offices

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has carried out a search and inspection of Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) Lahore and Islamabad offices as part of an ongoing inquiry into possible anti-competitive activities in sugar industry.

The CCP authorized its officers to 'Enter and Search' PSMA premises under Section 34 of the Competition Act, 2010, following indications of PSMA's anti-competitive activities including, but not limited to, collective stoppage of crushing in season 2019-20, collective rise in prices of sugar, and collective refusal to supply sugar to Utility Store Corporation (USC) as recently reported, said a press release issued here.

Two different teams, authorized by the Commission, simultaneously carried out search in PSMA's Islamabad and Lahore premises and impounded the relevant record. Through its various enforcement orders, the CCP warned industry associations from indulging in activities which may violate the Competition Act. The rule of thumb is that the associations are not allowed to discuss, deliberate or share sensitive commercial information that may allow its members, who are competitors, to coordinate business policy or discussion on economic aspects. The CCP, as part of its statutory mandate under the Competition Act, strives to eradicate anti-competitive practices in all sector of economy. - APP

AIOU exams to start from Monday

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) will commence examination of programs offered in the first phase of autumn semester 2020 including Matriculation, FA, and ATTC from Monday (September 28). Roll Number slips were being dispatched to all enrolled students at their postal address, a press release said on Sunday.

The same along with date-sheet has been placed at the University's website www.aiou.edu.pk. On the special directions of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia ul Qayyum to setup examination centers at the nearest places for convenience of students, the University has setup centers at union council level across the country. Controller Examination, Dr. Malik Tauqeer Ahmed Khan said following the directives of VC AIOU, wearing of mask is mandatory for staff and students. To observe social distancing, one chair would be left vacant between every two students. Strict vigilance would be observed in examination centers to ensure transparency and for the purpose special teams have been constituted. Controller Examination said downloaded roll number slips from varsity website would also be acceptable at all examination centers. - APP

MCI, CDA to explain grounds conditions

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Standing Committee on Climate Change directed that MCI and CDA to explain the grounds and conditions on which the area of land at Margla Hills was given on lease to Monal Restaurant and Gloria Jeans. On the briefing of Sindh departmental representative about the Solid Waste Management, the Committee showed its concerns that the waste is being dumped near the populated areas. The Hon. MNAs/Members Tahir Sadiq, Rai Muhammad Murtaza Iqbal, Ms. Andleeb Abbas, Dr. Seemi Bokhari, Ms. Aliya Hamza Malik, Engr. Sabir Hussain Kaim Khani, Ms. Tahira Aurangzab, Ms. Shaista Pervaiz, Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Mr. Zulfiqar Bachani, Ms. Shahida Rehmani, Mr. Afreen Khan and Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change besides the senior officers from the Ministry with their staff attended meeting here. - APP

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Families of diplomats posing for a picture on the occasion of sun set dinner hosted by Luqman Ali Afzal, CEO and Founder of Monal Group, at Monal, Pir Sohawa. Monal is fully operational after COVID period. - DNA

Mayor for improving sanitary condition in capital markets

Anser Aziz ordered the Directorate of Municipal Administration to fix the faulty street lights so the people can easily go out from their houses during night hours and walk around the area

STAFF REPORT/AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: Mayor, Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation (IMC), Sheikh Anzar Aziz has directed the authorities concerned to improve the sanitary condition in the markets of federal capital to provide clean and tidy environment to the visitors.

During his visit at various markets in the sectors, the other day, he expressed annoyance over the poor cleanliness conditions at the area and reprimanded the sanitation staff for showing slackness in their duties.

"No negligence will be tolerated in providing facilities to the residents of Islamabad," he remarked. He also visited sector, I-8, I-9 and I-10 to review the water situation, on complaints of the locals and

instructed the water supply directorate to resolve the issues of residents at earliest and take actions against those workers who remained absent on duty.

Aziz ordered the Directorate of Municipal Administration to fix the faulty street lights so the people can easily go out from their houses during night hours and walk around the area. He was accompanied by directors, including, Sanitation, Environment, Water Supply, Sewerage and National Disaster Management Authority.

Meanwhile, a number of shopkeepers complained of declining business while criticizing the slackness of the corporation. Despite having the first-ever local body system in place, the federal capital is giving a shabby look due to stench emitting garbage heaps and overflowing sewers at its al-



most every market and bazaar, they regretted. The filthy markets of various sectors including G-6, G-7, G-8, I-9, I-8, H-9 and others are contrary to the present government's slogan of Clean, Green Pakistan due to bad sanitary conditions, civic agency inertia and lack of public awareness. Markets like Melody, Sitara, Aabpara and Karachi Company have gradually lost their splendour where once residents of lower middle class resorted for food and

shopping. "When the first-ever local body got elected in Islamabad, I was confident that the basic amenities would be provided to the residents but I was wrong," Farhan Munawar, a shopkeeper in Karachi Company market said while expressing his dismay over the prevailing hygienic and sanitary condition.

Pointing out the irregular visits of sanitary workers, he said they dumped waste within the market vicinity and burnt when it turned into small mound. The move disturbed the customer influx due to pungent smell of the smoke, he added. Raheem Shah, another shopkeeper at Aabpara Market narrating the same story said he had lodged several complaints at different forums but to no avail.

Contrary to the ground situation, a senior official in Sanitation De-

partment of the MCI claimed that the cleanliness drives were being carried out in every market of the city on regular basis.

He said the sanitation department was ensuring collection and disposal of garbage in Markaz of every sector of the capital city including sectors of G, H, I and F series. The official said sixty per cent of the markets' garbage comprised green waste and collection of such type of trash was not the responsibility of sanitation wing of MCI.

However, he said, now the department was lifting every type of garbage from the markets due to shortage of staff in other formations of the MCI.

To a query, he said, some two years back the MCI had installed the waste bins in Jinnah, Super and Melody market, but they were removed by the shopkeepers.

Literary ceremony at PUCAR

RAWALPINDI: Literary organization Halqa Ilam o Adab in collaboration with Punjab Council of the Arts arranged a literary ceremony in honor of senior poet Dr Farhat Abbas followed by a poetic recital.

The ceremony was presided over by Prof Jalil Aali and Member Punjab Assembly Seemabia Tahir was chief guest. Chairman Halqa Ilam o Adab Arif Farhad anchored the ceremony. Addressing at the occasion, Member Punjab Assembly Seemabia Tahir said that it was a positive sign to start literary activities after COVID-19 which affected every walk of life.

She said that Dr Farhat Abbas has prominent place in Urdu literature. The other speakers including Prof Jalil Aali, Naseem-e-Sahar, Qayyum Tahir, Hassan Abbas Raza, Ayesha Masood Malik said that Dr Farhat Abbas has rendered tremendous services for Urdu literature. His poetry and prose are appreciable. After literary ceremony, a poetry recital was also held in which Tahir Baloch, Rehman Hafeez, Nasir Mungal, Naseer Zinda, Nusrat Yab Nusrat, Khalid Saeed, Riffat Waheed, Naseem Bukhari, Muzamil Abbas, Nasir Ali Nasir and other poets recited their poetry and received thunder applause. - DNA



Concession on vehicle token tax

RAWALPINDI: Excise and Taxation Department Rawalpindi has advised the citizens to avail the opportunity and pay vehicle token tax till Sept 30 to avail special concession up to 25 percent. According to Assistant Excise and Taxation Officer (AETO) Rawalpindi Sohail Shahzad, the department had announced concession for vehicle owners and they were offered special concession up to 25 percent on payment of token tax through online service E-Pay till Sept 30.

Sohail Shahzad, the Excise and Taxation Department, Punjab on the special directive of the Punjab government had announced a new policy to facilitate the vehicle and property tax owners. They can pay their property and vehicle token tax through e-pay and avail the special concession. - APP

Pakistan facing drought due to global warming: Zartaj Gul

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul has said that Pakistan was mainly faced with drought due to global warming which was leading to mass migrations and urbanization in the country. She told that as result of these issues, the cities came under population pressure which further multiplied social problems there besides urban flooding.

In a talk show programme of a private news channel on Saturday night, the minister said that the levels and quantities green gases, particularly Carbon Dioxide and Methane were reducing due to growing use of man made things with the population

growth in the world.

Zartaj Gul stressed upon expediting the work on the summery moved by her Ministry for early formation of Water Table Regulatory Authority to control lowering of water table in the country.

She told that the government after formation of Smog Commission in Punjab last year, had given three years time to refineries to upgrade their systems and use only recommended quality of diesel to get rid on 20 percent air pollution by refineries.

Campaign against use of plastic bags was successful in federal capital but it faced hurdles in provinces due to 18th Amendment, she expressed. - APP

CDA plans to make Saidpur more attractive

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has planned to take initiatives to convert capital's recreational place Saidpur village into an attractive tourists resort. According to an official of CDA, several suggestions were under consideration to implement with inputs from locals.

The main aim of the project was to do necessary maintenance of this village, he added. He said that the work to convert Saidpur village into a multicultural and historical tourist attraction was started by Capital Development Authority (CDA). In 2006, the Saidpur Village was remodeled as an Arts and Crafts Village by CDA with an aim to preserve its centuries-old cultural heritage and promote tourism in the area, while allowing visitors to have a glimpse of rural life of Pakistan in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the capital city.

He said Saidpur as a model village had become an attractive place for a large number of tourists that highlights the importance of the site. He said that hundreds of tourists visit the village daily to enjoy a wide and varied spectrum of quaint buildings showcasing ancient civilizations.

He added the village is now an excursion point for local and foreign visitors who make their way to the village to witness the stark contrast between city and village life. - APP

Playback singer Munir Hussain remembered

ISLAMABAD: Eminent Pakistani playback singer Munir Hussain was remembered on his 25th death anniversary on Sunday.

Munir Hussain was born in a musical family. Legendary music director Rasheed Atthay was his uncle and two other big names in music world, music director Saffar Hussain and Wajahat Atthay were his cousins.

He had a singing career of almost four decades and sang from his first film till his death. His peak period was from 1957-65 and he was the second most popular playback singer after Saleem Raza. He suffered after the dominance of Masood Rana, Ahmad Rushdi and Mehdi Hassan. He sang almost 200 songs in his first two decades but only less than 50 songs in his last two decades. Film Heer Ranjha's (1970) duet with Madam Noorjahan was one of his mega hit song in this period.

"Way Wanjli waleria, Tun Tan Moh Lei O Mutiar..." His introduction as playback singer was with a mega hit song from film Saat Lakh in 1957.

"Qarar Lootnay Walay, Tu Qarar Ko Tarsay..." Before the release of this film, he got fame with some super hit songs from Punjabi film Nooran (1957)..

"Panchhi Tay Pardesi, Pyar Jaddun Panday.. Ik Beri Wich 2 Sawar, Ik Pardesi Ik Mutiar..."

His all time best song was "Dilla Thehar Ja, Yaar Da Nazara Lain Day.."

in film Mukhra in 1958.

He was also honored to sing the most popular film Qawwali "Na Milta Gar Yeh Toubha Ka Sahara Ham Kahan Jatay.." in film Toubha (1964). - APP

Islamabad Police arrested 14 criminals, narcotics recovered

Sabzi Mandi police arrested accused Umer Hayat and recovered stolen mobile phone and cash from him while police also arrested accused Sarfraz and recovered 520 gram hashish from him

STAFF REPOT

ISLAMABAD, Islamabad police have arrested 14 criminals from various areas of the city and recovered stolen car, mobile phones, cash, narcotics as well as other weapons from their possession, a police spokesman said. According to police, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan

ordered crackdown against criminal elements. Following these orders, DIG (Operations) Waqar-Ud-Din Syed has directed all zonal officers to accelerate their efforts to curb the crime in the city.

As per directions, SP (City) Omer Khan constituted special team under supervision of ASP Dr Akeela including SHO Kohsar police station, Sub-Inspector Shabbir Tanoli, Sub-Inspector Nawaish Khan along with other offi-

cials who successfully arrested a bootlegger identified as Khalid Mehmood Khan and recovered 50 wine bottles from him. Police team arrested accused Khadam Hussain and recovered six wine bottles from him.

Meanwhile ACLC police team arrested car lifter namely Noor and recovered stolen car from him. Aabpar police arrested accused Ghulam Rasool allegedly involved in theft case. Bani Gala police arrest-

ed accused Muddsar Mehmood and recovered one 30 bore pistol along with ammunition from him. Karachi company police apprehended an accused Irfan and recovered 115 gram heroin from him.

Tarnol police arrested accused Azkar and recovered 120 gram heroin from him. Sabzi Mandi police arrested accused Umer Hayat and recovered stolen mobile phone and cash from him while police also arrested accused

Sarfraz and recovered 520 gram hashish from him. Shams colony police arrested accused Taj Akber and recovered one 12 bore gun from him. Shahzad Town police arrested Jameel and recovered 1250 kilogram hashish from him.

Khanna police arrested accused Abdul Ghafar and recovered 435 gram heroin from him. Lohibher police arrested Hamza Javaid for his alleged involvement in a theft case.

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Briefs

PAL to host
3rd China
South Asian
Literature
Forum

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) will host 3rd China South Asia Literature Forum to enhance literary relations between writers of the China and South Asian Countries in October. The forum is being aimed to strengthen and promote the mutual learning of civilizations and literary interaction between South Asian Countries.

Allocation of tasks regarding the arrangements of this literature forum were taken into the consideration, an official of PAL told APP on Tuesday. He said that China Writers Association (CWA) established first China South Asia Literature Forum in 2016. He said that there are six founding members of the forum including China Writers Association (CWA), Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL), SahityaAcademi, India, Nepal Academy, Nepal, Bangla Academy, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka Academy. The literature of these South Asian countries have enriched the splendour of Asian culture through continuous interaction, he said. 1st China South Asia Literature Forum (5-9 November 2017) was held in Chengdu while 2nd China-South Asia Literature Forum 915-20 October 2019) was held in Kathmandu, Nepal by Nepal Academy and 3rd Forum China South Asia Literature Forum will be held in Pakistan, he stated. - APP

MoCC
committed for
'Clean Green
Pakistan'

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Climate Change is committed for 'Clean Green Pakistan' as various campaigns launched to clean the environment in several districts including federal capital.

According to a senior official of the Ministry, he said Clean and Green Pakistan initiative would also work on ailing societal issues such as proper sanitation, solid waste and liquid disposal management and safe drinking water. Adding that he said institutions such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was already working on a number of projects related to crisis management and environmental changes.

Their focus was to bring rural communities together and train them to conserve natural resources and at the same time working on providing equal opportunities for women he said. Their ongoing project includes a group of women from rural areas building and repairing houses affected by floods he added. - APP

'Clean Green
Sweet Pakistan'
campaign to be
launched soon'

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam Sunday announced that the government would soon launch a campaign on 'Clean Green Sweet Pakistan' in order to enhance honey bee production capacity in the country. In a tweet, the SAPM said that the discussion has been held in detail with official of NAVTEC, Engineering Council, Arid Agriculture University and Bee farming experts in this regard. He said that this campaign aimed at producing huge amount of honey, would be linked with billion tree tsunami tree plantation country-wide. "We identified three plants included Whortleberry tree, Rubinia tree, and Russian Olive which was found in large amount in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and northern areas of Pakistan," he said.

"We were making a complete plan to launch this campaign through forming a working group. Pilot group projects was also initiated in Mianwali 'Kundia Forest' where whortleberry farming in full swing," he said. The wild honey existed at Kala Chitta range in Attock with a huge amount and known to be important exportable item. "We are also focusing on its internationally branding and establishing a laboratory in private sector to provide certification besides ensuring its quality for international export," he said. - APP

COMSATS celebrates United Nations'
South-South Cooperation Day

Webinar was hosted at the Secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), Islamabad, and was entitled "Current Challenges: Imperative of South-South Cooperation"



DNA

ISLAMABAD: COMSATS joined the global efforts of United Nations in favor of promoting South-South Cooperation by holding a webinar involving experts from Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and Pakistan. The webinar was hosted at the Secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), Islamabad, and was entitled "Current Challenges: Imperative of

South-South Cooperation". Following senior officials and representatives shared their intellectual inputs during the webinar: H.E. Mr. Chad Blackman, Barbados Ambassador to United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, Switzerland; Mr. Denis Nkala, Regional Coordinator/Representative, Asia Pacific Regional Office, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC); Senator Hazel Thompson-Ahwe of Trinidad and Tobago; and Ms. Ellen Thom, Technical Officer, Reproductive Health at World

Health Organization Pakistan. Their talks shed light on various dynamics, opportunities and challenges related to South-South Cooperation and highlighted its growing importance in view of the ongoing pandemic. Some issues highlighted included: Need for microfinance opportunities for the most vulnerable nations; clearer cooperative mechanisms; reducing reliance on the North; and re-assessment of expertise, issues, priorities and timelines in the region (South). Institutions of the South were urged to work in cooperation with IGOs like

COMSATS to fight global issues such as climate change and pandemics. Mutual cooperation and support was considered absolutely necessary for achieving the global agenda of 2030 in these challenging times. Strong-ercollaborations and partnerships in health sector were urged. COMSATS' perspective came from Ambassador Shahid Kamal, Advisor on Climate Change and Environment, and Engr. Qaiser Nawab, who introduced COMSATS as an active proponent of South-South Cooperation and

highlighted its pivotal role in harnessing South-South cooperative efforts in the region. It was noted that COMSATS' mandate of South-South cooperation is a manifestation of solidarity among people and countries of the South and encourages interventions for cooperation for self-reliance among nations as well as national development. With South-South Cooperation at the core of its operational mechanism, COMSATS is contributing greatly to the Global Development Agenda 2030 of UN.

FPCCI says LNG
imports should not be
discouraged

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) on Sunday asked the government to identify the elements blocking import of LNG as winter sets in while the gas utilities have become a liability. The gas sector will become another white elephant for the masses and business community eroding their competitiveness therefore it must be fixed without delay said Vice President FPCCI Qaiser Khan Daudzai. The gas sector circular debt has jumped to Rs250 billion due to lack of reforms, inbuilt inefficiencies, theft and mismanagement and the country will face a massive gas shortfall as the demand jumps during the winter therefore the government should take required steps without delay. In absence of any major discovery during last few decades the former government

initiated the LNG project and later allowed private sector to import gas, he added. The FPCCI VP said that the private sector and some multinational companies tried to bank on the opportunity and invested billions in it but the powerful bureaucracy will not allow them to start their operations which is keeping consumers from affordable gas. Khan Daudzai noted that gas bureaucracy wants to continue their monopoly over distribution of gas and it has not accepted the decision of the government. He asked the government to address the reservations of industries, and CNG sector, about the Gas Infrastructure Development Cess (GIDC). The government should find some acceptable solution of GIDC without delay otherwise it will increase the cost of doing business and add hundreds of rupees to the price of urea which will damage our limping agriculture sector adding to food insecurity.

Mafia damaging agri
sector, stoking poverty

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Convener FPCCI Central Standing Committee on Insurance Dr. Murtaza Mughal on Sunday said the most important sector of agriculture is crumbling due to the indifference of authorities. Profiteers are also hurting this sector and keeping millions hungry for illegal profits resulting in the problem of food security, he added. Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that millions are facing hunger which cannot be resolved through policy intervention. He said that

this sector is called the backbone of the economy but it is unable to provide required raw material to the industrial sector or feed a growing population. Dr. Murtaza Mughal who is also President of the Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) said that agriculture can only be revived when issues like fake and sub-standard pesticides, seed, middlemen, food mafia and high cost of inputs is tackled. Loansharks have also played their role in destroying this critical sector while some wealthy industrialists have also targeted this sector to make billions overnight, he observed.

PM urged to form a commission
to probe lost paintings

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Artists and art experts have urged the Prime Minister Imran Khan to form an independent high level commission to probe the case of Anwar Jalal Shemza's paintings scandal and other 137 lost paintings from the National Art Gallery (NAG), being run by the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). Speaking at the webinar, the participating artists and art experts agreed to have judges, former director generals of PNCA, senior artists and art experts and representatives of the investigation agencies and a rep of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) as members of the proposed inquiry commission. The participants suggested that the proposed commission should be directly under the prime minister office for independent and fair probe.

The participants also showed their grave concerns over NAB taking no action on the sorry affairs being questioned by everyone. They said the apex cultural organization of the Pakistan government would become useless if urgent steps

are not taken by the prime minister. Hosted and conducted by journalist and broadcaster Munir Ahmed, the webinar was organized by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) on Sunday.

Well-known artist and former director general PNCA Jamal Shah termed the PNCA recent rebuttal over the Shemza's paintings scandal as a bunch of lies. He said the present PNCA chief should have made public all the decades old correspondence or any letters written to the Pakistan government by his wife asking to return AJ Shemza's paintings if she has any. She has committed a severe crime on the shoulders of the PNCA present BOG which should be probed by a high level independent commission under the supervision of the Prime Minister's office. He said that Naeem Tahir and Mian Ijaz ul Hassan have already stated the facts about the Shemza's donation to the national art gallery. They also see connivance in the return of the Shemza's paintings. On the other hand, renowned Pakistani artist Mansur Rahi has refused to accept any responsibility for the decision to return AJ Shemza's

paintings as a chairperson of the PNCA BOG committee. "I attended one where I spoke about the art collection and art stuff and the importance of the national art gallery. I have hearing deficiency these days, Hajraa (his wife) facilitated me in learning what was happening there. They never asked me to join them again for any meeting but one day a PNCA staff came over and asked me to sign a paper as I had attended a meeting. I signed it without asking Hajraa to read it to me as she was sleeping," Rahi said. Nahida Raza, Ahmed Habib, Riffat Khat-tak, Samia Nazir, Riffat Ara Baig, Zainab Qayyum, Shagufta Khan, Sumera Shehzad and several other artists also supported the suggestion to form a high level independent commission under the Prime Minister Office to have transparent probe on the lost paintings and the scandalous case of AJ Shemza's paintings.

In a separate statement, Jamal Shah has said, "I had abstained from issuing any statement as former DG PNCA but the new regime is desperately trying to hide their not-so-sincere designs by blaming previous regimes for being negligent hence here is my version."

Pak supports Afghan led -Afghan
owned peace process: Asad

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser Sunday said that Pakistan fully supported an Afghan led-Afghan owned peace initiative. He said that a peaceful Afghanistan was in the best interest of Pakistan and the region, said a press release issued here. He opined that people of Afghanistan and Pakistan regardless of ethnicities were bound together by everlasting cultural, religious and historic affinities. The speaker said that visit of Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation to Pakistan would be a milestone in cementing Pak-Afghan relations. He said that regular engagement at political and functionaries level had foiled foreign attempts to disrupt the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. He said that parliamentary interaction would further augment the those relations. Referring to the foreign aggression on Afghanistan three decades ago, the speaker said that Pakistani whole-



heartedly welcomed their Afghan brethren. He said that with the advent of peace in Afghanistan, the government of Pakistan would further facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees to their homeland. Responding to a question, the speaker said that he was a proponent of

bringing changes in the naturalization laws for giving national status to Afghans born and bred in Pakistan.

He said that he would support a parliamentary discourse in that regard. Referring to Pak-Afghan trade, the speaker said that the trading communities on both sides could play a pivotal role to boost their national economies. He said that being President of the Pak-Afghan Parliamentary Friendship Group, he had constituted task forces of the Group to address the Pak-Afghan border entry and issues confronted by traders at border. He said that the recommendations had been sent to the government and almost 80 percent of the recommendations had been implemented. The speaker said that proposed changes in Pak-Afghan visa policy would soon be approved by the federal cabinet. - APP

Kaavan towards his new journey of Cambodia

Popularly known as 'the lone elephant', Kaavan has been in the country since 1985 when it was given by the Sri Lankan government as a calf only a year old. In 1990

ISLAMABAD: Having spent more than three decades in Pakistan, Kaavan, the lone elephant is finally going to start his new journey of natural habitat in Cambodian wildlife park with his new buddies leaving a tale of happiness and sorrow behind in Capital's Marghzar Zoo. Popularly known as 'the lone elephant', Kaavan has been in the country since 1985 when it was given by the Sri Lankan government as a calf only a year old. In 1990, he got a partner named Saheli who died in 2012 and since then Kaavan has been lonely. Wildlife officials cited Kaavan's "increasingly violent" behavior, which was mainly due to the death of his mate, as the reason he was bound.

In 2002, zookeeper used to, temporarily, chained him due to increasingly violent behavior. Outrage over the treatment of Kaavan at the capital's Zoo went global several years ago with a petition garnering more than 200,000 signatures after it emerged he was being chained up. Kaavan became the subject of a high-profile rights campaign after it was revealed in 2015 that he was regularly being chained for several hours a day. He was obese, terribly lonely and in the need of



foot care which cannot be provided at the Islamabad zoo due to lack of facilities. Following the outcry, Islamabad High

Court in May ordered wildlife authorities to free and transport Kaavan to a sanctuary where he could be well taken care of.

The move would allow Kaavan to go into its natural habitat where he would interact with over 80 pachyderms in the Cambodian park under the care of wildlife experts.

The judge also instructed that all the 878 other animals held in Islamabad's zoo be relocated within 60 days of the order.

The ruling was celebrated with enthusiasm in Pakistan and by Kaavan's campaigners across the world. American music icon and animal rights activist Cher also shared her delight on her twitter account after the court ordered freedom for Kaavan.

Earlier this month, a team of veterinarians from Four Paws International, a global animal welfare organization, came to Islamabad to examine Kaavan to see if he was fit to travel. After the checks, which confirmed Kaavan was strong enough to relocate to an animal sanctuary in Cambodia, Dr. Amir Khalil, FOUR PAWS veterinarian and mission leader said that due to malnutrition and lack of physical exercise, Kaavan showed visible signs of obesity.

His nails were cracked and malformed which could be attributed to the inappropriate flooring and structure of his enclosure. To solve this issue, he needed to go through a long-term foot care program, which could not be performed in Marghzar Zoo.

3 Afghanis
arrested
for robbing
residents

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Three Afghan national were arrested for robbing residents of Islamabad, the police confirmed on Saturday. The suspects had been declared 'wanted' by the police few months back. According to the police, they have seized stolen mobile phones, motorbikes, weapons and cars from their custody. "The men used to escape to Afghanistan after committing the crime," Islamabad Additional Superintendent Jaffar said, adding that Rawalpindi police had also been on the lookout for them. "The suspects were very dangerous. They used to rob people at gunpoint from Sector I-8, I-9 and the IJP Road," he added. The suspects have been sent to jail for an identification parade.

RPL educates
400 rice
growers

ISLAMABAD: The major rice exporter of the country, Rice Partners Limited (RPL) has organized training workshops for 400 rice growers to educate them on water saving techniques, Crop management for ensuring sustainable rice production and food security in central Punjab including the district Sheikhupura.

The Rice Partners Limited (RPL) in collaboration with Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation and Mars food organized capacity building workshops for 400 farmers in different four phases in different districts of Punjab especially Sheikhupura, said a statement issued here on Sunday.

In these workshops' farmers were trained for gaining better yield for super basmati following the globally recognized, responsible and ecofriendly methodologies of Sustainable Rice Production. The Senior Scientist, researchers and advisor on rice production, Dr. Riaz Mann explained that there is a huge cushion between potential and actual yield of basmati rice at farm level and there is dire need of narrowing this gap with best agronomic practices.

He explained that our farmers are much behind in tapping the potential of super basmati variety as well as in maintaining quality standards demanded by the international rice market especially the EU.

He also discussed in detail about the requirement of the international market for rice regarding water saving and quality standards, maximum residue limit in rice grain so that farmers could furnish themselves with improved rice farming system and equipped themselves with latest cost effective farming techniques to become at par with the world.

IIUI holds
Swot analysis
workshop

DNA

ISLAMABAD: International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) held a day long Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis workshop as a preparatory exercise for university strategic plan. During the workshop, Deans presented SWOT analysis of their respective faculties followed by question answer sessions. The workshop, at Faisal Masjid Campus was chaired by IIUI President, Dr. Hathal bin Hamoud Al-Otaibi. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Hathal said that renewal of infrastructure, preparation of strategic plan and academic excellence will be points of prime focus.

He stressed upon commitment to produce best research and further improvement in academic excellence. He hoped that International Islamic University would be among leading universities of world in future. Dr Hathal emphasized that it was a dire need to be revamped as per global needs to meet lofty goals and objectives of the university. President IIUI assured of maximum support for the progress of university. "To meet the contemporary requirements, we need to think out of the box" he added. President IIUI furthered that constructive thinking will be encouraged. Dr Hathal while appreciating active participation, vowed that merit will be the cornerstone of university's progress policy.

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Strong words

PRIME Minister Imran Khan addressed – virtually – the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, being held under special pandemic rules in New York, with strong words. He primarily directed his focus, as most of us had expected, towards India and the ongoing policy of the Narendra Modi government. Prime Minister Imran Khan spoke about the atrocities in Kashmir and urged the world to raise a strong voice against what is happening in the occupied territory. He said that without the world's help the Kashmiris will continue to suffer. Khan also spoke about the racism directed against Muslims in India and the difficulties caused by this. He said that the RSS, backed by the ruling party, stands responsible for these outrages.

The words are important because they show that Pakistan is not willing to accept India's position without a strike back. India has year after year accused Pakistan of terrorism. It is time Islamabad spoke out given what is happening in India, and voiced its thoughts directly and clearly. Imran Khan chose to do so, and this is welcome. Aside from India and the happenings there, which include increasing hostility towards Pakistan, Imran Khan also spoke on Palestine, and said that his country would not give up defending the rights of Palestinians or their struggle. These words come at a time when more and more Muslim countries, including the UAE and Bahrain have signed normalization agreements with Israel in Washington. Such agreements divide the Muslim world and show a lack of unity. This lack of unity has let down the Palestinians in the past. It is letting down the Kashmiris today. Imran Khan made this quite clear in his firmly worded address. We hope that his words will have an impact. Certainly, the UN needs to take heed of them given that it has in a number of resolutions, guaranteed the safety and integrity of Kashmir. It now needs to act on these resolutions. Pakistan has refused to give up its resolve to fight on behalf of the Kashmiri people. It is continuing to do so despite the odds and despite what seems to be a lack of interest for the rest of the world. The speech by Imran Khan was strong and did not mince any words. We hope that it will be heard in New Delhi and in other capitals so that together the world can act to change the atrocities being committed by India in Kashmir as well as in India against minority communities, and prepare to create a region that is more peaceful and more harmonious not just for the sake of the people who live there but also for the rest of the world.



Regional alliances

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

THE diplomatic relations between countries from across the South Asian region to North America have always been in the news. This is so because of the regional alliances that have been forging between countries. Where Pakistan and China have been moving forward with the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Egypt has recently called for reviving its historic relations with Sri Lanka.

The ties between China and India have been sour following the Ladakh crisis. It is yet to be seen how they will move on with their differences. Furthermore, Afghanistan and the US are trying to end past bitterness and enter into a new era of peace. Recently, the UAE and Bahrain announced to fortify their ties with Israel. Furthermore, according to reports, China and Cuba are also anticipating to add value to their diplomatic ties. These regional alliances need to be bolstered continuously because of the economic and trade interests of the countries that are linked with it.

This enables the countries part of these alliances to put their objectives on the table so that any doubts and confusion can be handled smoothly. For Pakistan, its diplomatic relations with China brings fruitful impacts on the CPEC and between their all-weathered relation that Islamabad and Beijing have been enjoying for decades. When talking about diplomatic ties, we cannot ignore the US-Iran relation that remains turbulent. US-Russia ties have been more or less unsettled ever since the Cold War ended.

It is imperative for countries – both present in a region or across continents – to understand their boundaries, respect their agenda, and pursue a win-win situation. The need of the hour for diplomats and ambassadors is to uphold the spirit of harmony, tolerance, mutual trust, and interfaith harmony to co-exist in the world that is already burdened with so much abhorred.

Imran Khan: Peace is within reach in Afghanistan

Imran Khan



With the exception of the resilient Afghans themselves, no people have paid a higher price for the conflict in Afghanistan than the people of Pakistan.

Through decades of conflict, Pakistan has dealt with the responsibility of taking care of more than 4 million Afghan refugees. Guns and drugs have also flowed into our country. The wars have disrupted our economic trajectory and radicalized fringes of our own society

WE have arrived at a rare moment of hope for Afghanistan and for our region. On Sept. 12, delegations from the Afghan government and the Taliban finally sat down in Doha, Qatar, to begin negotiations toward a political settlement that would bring the war in Afghanistan to an end.

With the exception of the resilient Afghans themselves, no people have paid a higher price for the conflict in Afghanistan than the people of Pakistan. Through decades of conflict, Pakistan has dealt with the responsibility of taking care of more than 4 million Afghan refugees. Guns and drugs have also flowed into our country. The wars have disrupted our economic trajectory and radicalized fringes of our own society. The Pakistan I had known growing up in the 1960s and 1970s changed in some deeply unsettling ways.

This experience taught us two important lessons. First, that we were too closely intertwined with Afghanistan by geography, culture and kinship for events in that country not to cast a shadow on Paki-

stan. We realized Pakistan will not know real peace until our Afghan brothers and sisters are at peace.

We also learned that peace and political stability in Afghanistan could not be imposed from the outside through the use of force. Only an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led reconciliation process, which recognizes Afghanistan's political realities and diversity, could produce a lasting peace.

So, when President Trump wrote to me in late 2018 to ask for Pakistan's assistance in helping the United States achieve a negotiated political settlement in Afghanistan, we had no hesitation in assuring the president that Pakistan would make every effort to facilitate such an outcome – and we did. Thus began arduous rounds of talks between the United States and the Taliban, which culminated in the February U.S.-Taliban peace agreement. This agreement, in turn, has laid the groundwork for talks between the Afghan leadership and the Taliban. The path we have traveled to get here wasn't easy, but we were able to press on thanks to the courage and flexibility that were on display

from all sides. The United States and its allies facilitated the prisoner exchange between Kabul and the Taliban. The government of Afghanistan and the Taliban responded to the Afghan people's yearning for peace.

The intra-Afghan negotiations are likely to be even more difficult, requiring patience and compromise from all sides. Progress could be slow and painstaking; there may even be the occasional deadlock, as Afghans work together for their future. At such times, we would do well to remember that a bloodless deadlock on the negotiating table is infinitely better than a bloody stalemate on the battlefield.

All those who have invested in the Afghan peace process should resist the temptation for setting unrealistic timelines. A hasty international withdrawal from Afghanistan would be unwise. We should also guard against regional spoilers who are not invested in peace and see instability in Afghanistan as advantageous for their own geopolitical ends.

– **Imran Khan is prime minister of Pakistan. He wrote this article for Washington Post.**

World Heart Day 2020-Go Red For Women

Prof. Dr. Nusrat Ara Majeed



Gender inequality, poverty, illiteracy and lack of access to health services influence women health and specially cardiovascular problems. An appropriate action was needed to dispel the myths and raise awareness of Heart disease and stroke as no. 1 killer of women, American Heart Association created GO RED FOR WOMEN

WORLD HEART DAY IS THE WORLD Heart federation, s biggest platform for raising awareness about cardiovascular diseases. These are the leading cause of death globally [31 percent of global deaths] By 2030 more than 23.6 million will die of cardiovascular diseases.

Fortunately we can change that because 80 percent of cardiac disease and stroke may be prevented with education and action WORLD HEART DAY is celebrated all over the world every year in last week of September. By now there has been enough awareness about risk factors and how to combat them by life style modifications, which includes exercise, healthy food, avoiding stress, no to smoking and ofcourse maintaining weight, blood pressure and blood sugar levels. But one very important segment of society, the women, have been ignored because of certain myths; That is a disease of men and older women. Younger women with these symptoms were ignored, often being dismissed as cases of BROKEN AND BEREAVED HAEART.

But it is now proven that this bereaved heart was in fact a diseased Heart Unfortunately the simple fact of being a woman increases the risk of Heart disease and stroke. Heart disease claims the lives of 1 in 3 women, that is one third of all mothers, sisters and friends. It continues to be a women's greatest health challenge. In 2004 the American Heart Association faced this challenge, Heart disease claimed the lives of 500,000 women each year. Yet both women and their physicians were not paying attention. Gender inequality, poverty, illiteracy and lack of access to health services influence women health and specially cardiovascular problems. An appropriate action was needed to dispel the myths and raise awareness of Heart disease and stroke as no. 1 killer of women, American Heart Association created GO RED FOR WOMEN, a passionate, emotional and social initiative designed to empower women to take charge of their Heart health. It makes them aware of their personal risks of developing heart disease and gives them the tools they need to lead a heart healthy life. GO RED FOR WOMEN inspires them to make life

style changes, mobilize communities and shape policies to save the precious lives of women.

The more a woman knows about Heart disease, the better chances she has of beating it.

The American Heart association, s signature initiative GO RED FOR WOMEN is a comprehensive platform designed to create awareness and serve as a catalyst for change to improve the lives of women globally. To achieve this goal we need to understand the meaning on Go red G- get your numbers i.e. blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar O- own your life style- say no to smoking, exercise regularly, eat heart healthy diet. It is upto you. no one can do it for you R- realize your risk. we think it will not happen to us, but remember Heart disease kills one out of three women E- educate your family D- don't be silent. Tell every woman you that heart disease is no. 1 killer.

It is important to understand that Heart disease in women can be, and is different from their male counterparts Symptoms tend to be vague because in women it is the microvasculature [smaller blood vessels] that gets diseased. Early recognition of the following symptoms is important
1-dry cough-it could be persistent or episodic. gets worse on lying down
2-upper abdominal discomfort, indigestion and feeling of heaviness and nausea
3-shortness of breath especially on exertion
4-easy fatigability, pain legs 5 unexplained severe

American Heart Association®



headaches 6-disturbed sleep ,excessive sweating[cold sweats].

Ischemic heart disease[heart attacks ,angina]in women is a big problem ,bigger than breast cancer, which was considered to be no. 1 killer, in the past.

Signs, symptoms and pathophysiology is different from their male counterparts, so are the diagnostic modalities.

So GORED FOR WOMEN is about all women making a commitment to stand together with go red and taking charge of their own heart health as well as health of those they cannot bear to live without. It is imperative that women learn the warning symptoms of heart disease

Pay attention to their symptoms, talk to their doctor and reassess the risk to lead a better life

– **Prof. dr. Nusrat Majeed is the Chief coordinator Islamabad chapter for GO RED.**

Armenian forces blatantly violate ceasefire, kill innocent civilians

In response to Armenian provocation, Azerbaijan Army has launched counter-offensive operation along the entire Line of Contact at Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan to suppress the combat activity of the armed forces of Armenia and ensure the safety of the civilian population of Azerbaijan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On 27 September 2020, at around 06:00, the armed forces of Armenia have blatantly violated the ceasefire regime and using large-caliber weapons, mortar launchers and artillery have launched an intensive attack on the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan along the frontline, as well as densely civilian populated areas.

There are killed and wounded among the civilian population as a result of the intensive shelling by the enemy of the Gapanly village of Terter region, the Chiragli and OrtaGerend villages of Aghdam region, the Alkhanli and Shukurbeyli villages of Fizuli region, and the JujukMarjanli village of Jabrayil region. Serious damage was caused to civilian infrastructure.

Dozens of houses and other civilian infrastructures in the villages were severely damaged and number of civilians and military servicemen were injured and killed.

In response to Armenian provocation, Azerbaijan Army has launched counter-offensive operation along the entire Line of Contact at Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan to suppress the combat activity of the armed forces of Armenia and ensure the safety of the civilian population of Azerbaijan. The military personnel and



tank units, with the support of units of the Rocket and Artillery Troops, frontline aviation, and unmanned aerial vehicles

(UAVs), determining a large number of manpower (military personnel), military facilities, and military equipment of the



Armenian armed forces located in the forward line and in the depths of the enemy's defense, have destroyed them.

According to the information received, 12 OSA anti-aircraft missile systems of the Armenian air defense units were de-

EU calls for 'immediate return to negotiations' over Karabakh

DNA

BRUSSELS: European Council president Charles Michel called Sunday for a halt to fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani separatists over the Nagorno Karabakh region and an "immediate return to negotiations". "Military action must stop, as a matter of urgency, to prevent a further escalation," Michel tweeted, calling for "an immediate return to negotiations, without preconditions".

stroyed in various directions. A combat helicopter of the Air Force of Azerbaijan was shot down in the Terter direction, the crew members are alive.

The blitz counter-offensive operation of Azerbaijan Army continues. Currently, the Azerbaijan Army is taking retaliatory actions and our troops fully control the operational situation.

The responsibility for the present situation and future development lie squarely with Armenia's political-military leadership. We call upon all international organizations and community to condemn Armenia for its current provocation against Azerbaijan, which is aimed at destabilizing peace and security in the region.

Briefs

Russia calls for early ceasefire

DNA

MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Sunday called on Armenia and Azerbaijan to halt any armed conflict along the contact line of the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

To ease heightened tensions in Transcaucasia, Lavrov held separate phone talks with Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, Azeri Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu. Expressing serious concern about the conflicts along the contact line of the Nagorno-Karabakh region, Lavrov urged an early ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan, according to press releases by the Russian Foreign Ministry. Russia will continue to undertake mediation efforts to stabilize the situation, he said. Earlier in the day, the ministry issued a statement calling on the parties to immediately cease fire and start negotiations. The Armenian Defense Ministry said Sunday that it has shot down two Azerbaijani helicopters and three drones. Meanwhile, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said it is currently launching a counter-offensive in the region.

Greece warms to EU asylum pact

DNA

ATHENS: Greece's government has cautiously welcomed a plan from Brussels to reform the EU's shaky asylum system, but charity groups working with refugees on the ground have blasted a continued "outrageous containment policy".

The "New Pact on Migration and Asylum" was unveiled on Wednesday and calls for a tougher stance on returning migrants who do not have the right to stay in the EU, and ratcheting up border controls. Such moves are music to the ears of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' conservative government, which has been operating a harsh migration policy since taking power over a year ago. The only flaw from Greece's perspective is the Commission giving up on quota-based redistribution of asylum seekers among EU countries - a plan first mooted during the migration crisis of 2015 but which foundered on opposition from several member states. Wednesday's pact "goes in the right direction, our main positions are included, but we're disappointed on redistribution, we'd have preferred a different model," Greek asylum service secretary Manos Logothetis told BRT public television.

It is clear Lukashenko has to go: Macron



DNA

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron said Sunday that Belarus's leader Alexander Lukashenko must step down, after the EU refused to recognise him as the legitimate president of the ex-Soviet country. "It's clear he has to go," Macron told French weekly the Journal du Dimanche ahead of a trip to EU states Lithuania and Latvia, which border Belarus.

"It is a crisis of power, an authoritarian power that cannot accept the logic of democracy and which is hanging on by force. It is clear that Lukashenko has to go." Tens of thousands of people have taken to the streets in Belarus since August 9 elections which opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya says she won, despite Lukashenko's insistence he took a landslide victory. The embattled leader has launched a brutal crackdown against the protesters - drawing condemnation from the West, but support from Moscow. This week he triggered new demonstrations and fresh Western criticism when he held a secret inauguration for himself. Macron on Sunday said he had been "impressed by the courage of the protesters". "They know the risks they are taking by demonstrating every weekend, and yet, they are pushing forward with the movement to make democracy come alive in

this country that has been deprived of it for so long," he said. "Women in particular, who march every Saturday, command our respect," he added. More than 90 people - most of them women - were arrested on Saturday at opposition rallies, according to one NGO. Fresh protests were sparked by the surprise announcement on Wednesday that Lukashenko had been sworn in for a sixth term in office. The European Union said the strongman's inauguration lacked "democratic legitimacy" and refused to recognise him as president. The bloc has said it is reviewing relations with Belarus, with the issue to be debated at an EU summit on Thursday and Friday in Brussels. EU ministers decided in principle last month to impose sanctions against the regime - but Cyprus has been blocking approval until the group agrees similar measures against Turkey over gas exploration in the eastern Mediterranean. Meanwhile, Baltic EU states Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have expanded their own sanctions against Belarus. Macron sets off on Monday for his first visit to Lithuania and Latvia, which are hoping for French support in the face of the Belarus crisis and rising tensions with Russia. Russia is Lukashenko's biggest financial and diplomatic backer, and President Vladimir Putin has promised Belarus law enforcement backup if needed, as well as a \$1.5-billion loan. Macron told the Journal he spoke to Putin on September 14, when the Russian leader was hosting Lukashenko at his residence in the Black Sea city of Sochi for one-to-one talks.

Full-scale war threat exists between India-Pakistan: DG ISPR

ISLAMABAD: Director General Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), Major General Babar Iftikhar has said that Indian aggressive behaviour and ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC) gave indication of a full-scale war between India and Pakistan. "The threat of a full-scale between India and Pakistan exists as such instances have been witnessed during the past and its main reason is India's belligerence and preparations," he told the private channel during the visit of a foreign delegation to the LoC, arranged by the ISPR the other day. The DG ISPR said when he said that it is a time to go beyond negotiations, its major focus is towards International community. Pointing out the escalated ceasefire violations committed by India along the LoC, he said "That's needed to be stopped and for this to stop, International community has to come in."

Iftikhar said the ceasefire violations frequency along the LoC was different from 2014 as there was a massive escalation in existing environment



due to use of high caliber firearms. India has been using every kind of calibers and weaponry system along the LoC ranging from snipers to normal artillery ammunition to air-burst and smart ammunition. "It's been a massive escalation as far as ceasefire violations are concerned and as far as their lethality is concerned," Rejecting India's allegations of infiltration attempts by Pakistan, he said a foolproof anti-infiltration grid was installed along the LoC which had three tiers. It started with mine fields and bunkers and

then came fence, electronic gadgets, sensors and observations posts. He said India had been propagating that 200 persons were sitting on jump-point to infiltrate into its territory which was a mere propaganda as India had already taken all sort of measures to prevent infiltration into its area. It was humanly not possible to infiltrate from a counter-infiltration grid system, installed along the LoC. The spokesman said the world already knew about the ground situation along the LoC as the visits of foreign delegates including ambassadors and journalists were being arranged frequently.

India used to increase cease fire violations in an attempt to launch a false flag operation as it did in the past, he said, citing example of fake surgical strikes in 2016 and Pulwama incident in 2019. India could not dare to attack Pakistan due to our preparations and presence along the LoC. The Pak army is absolutely prepared to respond any Indian misadventure, he stressed while responding to a query.

Trump names 'brilliant' conservative to US SC

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump named Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court on Saturday, setting in motion a rush by Republicans to cement a conservative majority on the court on the eve of a tense and potentially disputed US election. Trump stood alongside Barrett at a White House Rose Garden ceremony to announce his decision, calling her "one of the most brilliant and gifted minds" in the legal world. Despite strong opposition from Democrats, he predicted a "very quick" and "straightforward" confirmation in the Republican-led Senate, with the process completed before the November 3 election. - DNA

Romanians vote in local elections amid virus surge

DNA

BUCHAREST: Romanians go to the polls on Sunday to choose mayors and local councilors, but a coronavirus surge threatens to hit the first electoral test after years of political turbulence with a high abstention rate. Nationwide, the east European country of almost 19 million people has 43,000 seats to fill in the single-round election seen as a test ahead of national polls in December. One of the EU's poorest members, Romania has

seen Covid infections rise rapidly since lifting a strict lockdown earlier this year. The deeply-trenched Social Democrats (PSD) - unseated from government in 2019 in a parliamentary no-confidence vote after two years of anti-corruption protests - have blamed the current liberal minority administration for mismanaging the pandemic. But it remains unclear to what extent the health crisis will outweigh other concerns, with the National Liberal Party (PNL) still ahead of

the PSD in recent surveys by a slim margin. Politicians and observers worry about a traditionally low turnout dipping even further. Only 48 percent of those eligible to vote took part in the last local elections four years ago. Originally planned for June, the elections were postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. There are fears that the pandemic could see traditionally low turnout dropping even further in Romania, which has reported more than 121,000 coronavirus cases and some 4,700 deaths.

Armenia 'biggest threat to regional peace', says Erdogan

DNA

ANKARA: Armenia's latest violations along the border with Azerbaijan in occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region have shown that it is the biggest threat to regional peace, the Turkish president said on Sunday. Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced on Twitter that Turkey fully stands by Azerbaijan, and lamented the international community's "double standards" by not condemning Armenian aggression. Border clashes broke out earlier in the day when Armenian forces targeted Azerbaijani civilian settlements and military positions, leading to casualties. Relations between the two former Soviet republics have been tense since 1991 when Armenian military occupied the Upper Karabakh, or Nagorno-Karabakh region, an internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan.

In July, Armenian cease-fire violations martyred 12 Azerbaijani troops and wounded four others. Clashes in the region flared up again on Sept. 21 when an Azerbaijani soldier was martyred, and another injured. Multiple UN resolutions demand the withdrawal of the occupational forces. The OSCE Minsk Group - co-chaired by France, Russia and the US - was formed in 1992 to find a peaceful solution to the conflict, but to no avail. A cease-fire, however, was agreed in 1994.

Wallabies coach backs NZ call for early finish

DNA

CHRISTCHURCH: Australia coach Dave Rennie sided with New Zealand Sunday over a scheduling row threatening to derail the Rugby Championship, but he held back from saying it would be resolved. The stumbling block is New Zealand's demand that the tournament, which also involves South Africa and Argentina, be over in time for the All Blacks to be home with their families for Christmas after meeting their country's strict 14-day quarantine rules. The tournament is being staged in one country for the first time due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with the opening round in the Australian city of Brisbane on November 7. But when the governing body SANZAAR on Friday set the final round to be played in Sydney on December 12 - which meant the players would still be in quarantine on December 25 - an incensed New Zealand refused to commit to the itinerary. New Zealand Rugby chief executive Mark Robinson said they were instead considering "a whole lot of different options".

WHO, UNICEF recommit to accelerating health well being at all ages

The new Strategic Collaboration Framework builds on a robust 70-year collaboration between the two organizations, and prioritizes four strategic areas for immediate attention and action at all levels of the organizations

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD, The World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has signed a new collaborative framework which will accelerate joint public health efforts that put the most marginalized and vulnerable populations first. New partnership calls for key actions in universal health coverage, mental health, emergencies and nutrition, said a press release issued here. The new Strategic Collaboration Framework builds on a robust 70-year collaboration between the two organizations, and prioritizes four strategic areas for immediate attention and action at all levels of the organizations universal health coverage, through a primary health care and health systems approach; mental health and psy-

chosocial well-being and development; public health emergencies; and maternal and child nutrition. Additionally, the two organizations signed a new Joint Programme on Mental Health and Psychosocial Well-being and Development of Children and Adolescents. This 10-year collaborative effort will promote mental health and psychosocial well-being and development, increase access to care for mental health conditions, and reduce suffering and enhance quality of life among children and adolescents, and their caregivers. "The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed huge gaps in accessing health, wellbeing and nutrition services among children and vulnerable populations," said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director. "There has never been a more urgent need to work together. This new framework will help us strengthen health and food systems, and

invest in mental health and psychosocial support in every country in the world." For more than 70 years, WHO and UNICEF have worked together worldwide to ensure children survive and thrive, and benefit from a safe and clean environment. The two organizations collaborated to provide high-impact health, immunization, nutrition, HIV and early child development interventions, as well as safe water and sanitation services in every region of the world, including in fragile and conflict settings. "At the heart of our work with UNICEF is seeing that every child not only survives but ultimately thrives and transforms their communities and future generations," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "With great appreciation and respect for our unique and complementary roles, we stand together in our commitment to achieve health for all. As

this pandemic demonstrates, no-one is safe until everyone is safe." Today, WHO and UNICEF continue to work together to stop the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure that every woman and every child have access to the essential health services they need, including immunizations and health check-ups. The two organizations are also working together to support countries to introduce and deliver COVID-19 vaccines under the vaccines pillar of the "Access to COVID-19 Tools - Accelerator" (ACTA) initiative, along with Gavi, CEPI and global immunization partners. Additionally, the organizations are strengthening health systems through primary health care, as agreed in the Declaration of Astana, and the UN High-level declaration on UHC, in order to accelerate achievement of universal health coverage and Sustainable Development Goal 3 targets by 2030.

Briefs

Yemen gov't, Houthis agree to exchange prisoners

SANA'A: Yemen's warring parties have agreed to exchange some 1,000 prisoners, including 19 Saudi soldiers, a partial implementation of trust-building measures agreed during peace talks held in Sweden at the end of 2018. Sources familiar with the talks said the Yemeni government, backed by a Saudi-led military coalition, and the Iran-aligned Houthi group they have been battling for over five years have agreed on a list of 1,080 prisoners to be swapped in what would be the largest instalment yet. The prisoner swap deal, which aimed for the release of some 15,000 detainees from the two sides, has been slowly and only partially implemented. The ICRC will oversee the return of detainees to their families. UN envoy Martin Griffiths and an official from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are due to hold a news briefing later on Sunday, at the end of a week-long meeting of the Yemen prisoners and detainees committee.

"What matters to us is implementing the prisoners [exchange] and not just signing it," senior Houthi official Mohammed Ali al-Houthi tweeted early on Sunday. In unilateral moves, the Houthis last year freed 290 prisoners and Saudi Arabia released 128, while a locally mediated swap in Taiz governorate saw dozens freed. In January this year, the ICRC facilitated the release of six Saudis held by the Houthis.

China: Carbon monoxide kills 16 coal miners

DNA

BEIJING: Sixteen workers have been killed by excessively high levels of carbon monoxide in a coal mine in southwestern China, according to authorities and state media.

A total of 17 people were trapped in the mine located just outside the city of Chongqing. One person was taken to a hospital, and the others showed no signs of life, the Chongqing municipal government said in a social media post on Sunday. State broadcaster said doctors were fighting to save the life of the one survivor. State news agency Xinhua said the dangerous levels of carbon monoxide were produced after a conveyor belt caught fire. An investigation was under way, it added. The facility, Songzao Coal Mine, is owned by state energy firm Chongqing Energy. Mining accidents are common in China, where the industry has a poor safety record and regulations are often weakly enforced.

Switzerland voters reject curbs on EU immigration

DNA

GENEVA: A large majority of Swiss voters have rejected by a 63-37 percent margin a right-wing party's proposal to annul a pact with the European Union allowing the free movement of people, broadcaster SRF has projected. Nearly 5.3 million voters were eligible to vote on Sunday to decide whether to annul the pact with the EU in an important test of attitudes towards foreigners who make up a quarter of Switzerland's population. Opinion polls had found most voters opposed the plan, which would have given non-EU member Switzerland unilateral control of immigration but severely disrupted ties with the EU, the country's biggest trading partner. The right-wing Swiss People's Party (SVP) – the biggest in the parliament – led the charge for Sunday's referendum to take back control of immigration, echoing some of the arguments pro-Brexit politicians used in the run-up to Britain's exit from the EU.



RABAT: Pakistan's ambassador to Morocco Hamid Asghar Khan meeting with the eminent and distinguished Director General of the Moroccan Royal Institute of Strategic Affairs. They have rich, well researched publications on national and regional development requirements and strategies. We agreed to renew a collaboration agreement with ISSI in Pakistan. – DNA

Canadian food market offers exciting opportunities for Pakistani exporters

A webinar arranged by the Consulate General of Pakistan Toronto under the auspices of the High Commission for Pakistan, Ottawa. The webinar moderated by Mr. Azhar Husain, Trade and Investment Counsellor of Pakistan to Toronto, focused on the food sector exports to Canada

DNA

Ottawa: Pakistan's food growers and exporters must adapt to use of modern technology and agricultural practices and spend more on research and development to turn out new food varieties and enhance production and quality to target developed and sophisticated markets like Canada. This was the consensus among the participants of a webinar arranged by the Consulate General of Pakistan Toronto under the auspices of the High Commission for Pakistan, Ottawa. The webinar moderated by Mr. Azhar Husain, Trade and Investment Counsellor of Pakistan to Toronto, focused on the food sector exports to Canada with a focus on market potential, strategy, regulatory requirements and challenges in the Canadian food market.

Participants of a webinar arranged by the Consulate General of Pakistan Toronto under the auspices of the High Commission for Pakistan, Ottawa. The webinar moderated by Mr. Azhar Husain, Trade and Investment Counsellor of Pakistan to Toronto, focused on the food sector exports to Canada with a focus on market potential, strategy, regulatory requirements and challenges in the Canadian food market. Participants including some

big names from the food suppliers in Pakistan as well as Pakistani importers based in Canadian market, agreed that Canada was an emerging market for the Pakistani food exporters who could increase their presence there through better quality, packaging and labelling as well as proper branding, marketing, and networking with local distribution networks and mainstream food market in Canada. Annual exports

to Canada currently stand at US \$ 340 million while the food exports have reached US \$ 12.5 million, the second largest segment after textile products finding way in the Canadian market. In view of the Pakistani food exports to Canada mostly concentrated in rice, fruits and vegetables, spices and confectionaries, the webinar panelists suggested product diversification and product differentiation to create more space for the Pakistani products, particularly

value-added products such as rice glucose, rice protein, sprouted rice flour, stabilized rice bran and pre-cooked (retort packed) rice. They also urged better understanding of local environment, custom duties, distribution channels, regulatory environment and challenges in the Canadian market to gain access to mainstream Canadian food market. Addressing the webinar, Mr. Shahjahan Malik, chairman of Rice Exporters

Association of Pakistan (REAF), Waheed Ahmed, chairman of All Pakistan Fruit & Vegetable Exporters, Importers and Merchants Association (PFVA) as well as Shahbaz Sheikh, Mian Mohsin Aziz and Faizan Ghorri representing the food sector in Pakistan called for greater investment in the research and development for production of newer and better varieties of food products to enhance the food basket available for export.



KUALA LUMPUR (DNA) The Mayor of Kuala Lumpur and Ambassador of the state of Palestine officially inaugurated the Street of Palestine "Jalan Palestine" in the heart of the city centre of Kuala Lumpur. This assures and extends the bilateral relations between the two brotherly nations and affirms on Malaysia and the Malaysian's support to Palestine and the Palestinian's. – DNA

'Situation at frontline lies on Armenian leadership'

DNA

BAKU: Entire responsibility for the current situation at the frontline and its further development rests entirely with the military-political leadership of Armenia, Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of the Department for Foreign Policy Affairs of Azerbaijan's Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev said. "As it has already been reported by the Ministry of Defense, around 06:00 hours, on 27 September 2020, the armed forces of Armenia have blatantly violated the ceasefire regime and, using large-caliber weapons, mortar launchers and artillery have launched an intensive attack on the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan along the frontline, as well as the villages of Qapanli of Terter district, Chiragli and Orta Garavend of Aghdam district, Alkhanli and Shukurbeyli of Fizuli district and Jojuq Merjanli of Jabrayil district. The bombardment of densely populated civilian areas and installations situated along

the front line by Armenia's armed forces has been deliberate and targeted. There are reports of dead and wounded among civilians and military servicemen. Extensive damage has been inflicted on many homes and civilian infrastructure. The armed forces of Armenia continue with the bombardment of our positions and residential areas along the frontline. Armenia's deliberate targeting of residential areas and the civilians is a gross violation of the international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Convention of 1949. Targeting the civilian population is a tactic incorporated in the combat training of Armenia's armed forces, and the Khojaly genocide perpetrated in February 1992 has been a vivid testimony to that. According to the international law, Armenian armed forces' strikes against the positions of Azerbaijan's army, against the civilians and civilian infrastructure, with the use of large-caliber weapons, are Armenia's yet another military aggression and an act of the use of force

against Azerbaijan. The armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan are undertaking necessary counter-offensive measures to prevent Armenia's another military aggression and ensure the security of the civilian population. Azerbaijan has issued repeated warnings to the international community that Armenia is preparing for a new act of aggression and war. Azerbaijan has repeatedly stated that Armenia's ongoing military aggression against Azerbaijan and the presence of the armed forces of Armenia in Azerbaijan's occupied territories have remained a significant threat to regional peace and security. With the General Debate at the UN General Assembly's 75th Session underway and the world fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, Armenia's political-military leadership has resorted to another military adventure and a provocation. By doing so, Armenia's leadership demonstrated once again a flagrant disregard for the international law, UN Charter and the international community.

Israelis protest against Netanyahu

DNA

JERUSALEM: Thousands of Israelis have gathered anew in Jerusalem to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a day after the country tightened its lockdown aimed at stemming surging coronavirus cases. Long processions of cars carrying people from throughout the country caused traffic jams in the city, with hundreds of small protests held at bridges and junctions nationwide.

According to reports from Israeli media, protesters also gathered in Tel Aviv and Caesarea – as well as online – and organisers were quoted as saying that around 16,000 joined the demonstrations in person.

Israel began a second nationwide lockdown on September 18 in a bid to bring down the world's highest coronavirus infection rate per capita. On Friday, restrictions were tightened further, including limiting international travel and attending indoor prayers. But lawmakers blocked a government proposal that would have limited protest gatherings to groups of 20 or less and required that all protesters be within a kilometre of their homes.

Netanyahu, in a video issued Saturday night, slammed "the populist decision in parliament to cancel the limitations the government imposed after we saw the rise in the infections". Protesters on Saturday said the government's attempt to block them was one motivation for them coming out on the streets.

US imposes curbs on to China's SMIC

WASHINGTON: The United States government has imposed restrictions on exports to China's biggest silicon chip maker after concluding there is an "unacceptable risk" that equipment supplied to it could be used for military purposes. Suppliers of certain equipment to Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation (SMIC) will now have to apply for individual export licenses, according to a letter from the Commerce Department dated on Friday and seen by Reuters. SMIC becomes the second leading Chinese technology company to face US trade curbs after telecoms giant Huawei Technologies, whose access to high-end chips has been curtailed by its addition to a so-called entity list.

Police arrest protesters against Lukashenko

DNA

MINSK: Hundreds of women calling for the authoritarian president to step down have protested in Belarus' capital, continuing the large demonstrations that have rocked the country since early August. Police blocked off the centre of Minsk and arrested more than 80 demonstrators, according to the Viasna human rights organisation. Some of those arrested were chased down by police in building courtyards where they were trying to take refuge, Viasna said.

Protests, by far the largest and most persistent in Belarus since independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, began August 9 after an election that officials said gave President Alexander Lukashenko a sixth term in office. Opponents and some poll workers say the results, in which Lukashenko was tallied with 80% support, were manipulated. Despite wide-scale detentions of demonstrators and the arrest of many prominent opposition figures, the protests haven't shown signs of abating. Lukashenko further angered opponents this week by taking the oath of office for a new term in an unexpected ceremony. Protesters on Saturday carried placards denouncing him as "the secret president." Video on social media showed a masked officer ripping a red and white flag out of the hands of Nina Baginskaya, a 73-year-old activist who has become a central figure in the protests since scuffling with police last month.

World living in shadow of nuclear catastrophe: UN chief warns

DNA

NEW YORK: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for reversing course and returning to a common path of nuclear disarmament to create a nuclear weapon free world. The UN chief made that call in a message on the occasion of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons marked on Saturday. The UN committed itself in 1946, to ridding the planet of nuclear weapons after the devastating death and destruction, and the aftermath of the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it was pointed out. Almost seventy five years later "the world continues to live in the shadow of nuclear catastrophe," the secretary-general said. "Relationships between states possessing nuclear weapons are characterized by division, distrust and an absence of dialogue. As they increasingly choose to pursue strategic competition over cooperation, the dangers posed by nuclear

weapons are becoming more acute." "This International Day highlights the need to reverse course and return to a common path to nuclear disarmament. The use of nuclear weapons would affect

all states, meaning that all states have a responsibility to ensure that such deadly armaments are never used again and are eliminated completely from national arsenals," Guterres said.



"COVID-19 has exposed a wide range of global fragilities, from pandemic readiness and inequality to climate change to lawlessness in cyberspace; our preparedness to address the threat of nuclear weapons is one of those vulnerabilities. We need a strengthened, inclusive and renewed multilateralism built on trust and based on international law that can guide us to our shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons." "Those states that possess nuclear weapons must lead. They must return to real, good-faith dialogue to restore trust and confidence, reduce nuclear risk and take tangible steps in nuclear disarmament. They should reaffirm the shared understanding that a nuclear war cannot be won and must not be fought. They should take steps to implement the commitments they have undertaken," the UN chief said. "The death, suffering and destruction caused by the atomic bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki must not be repeated. The only guarantee against the use of these abhorrent weapons is their total elimination."

Briefs

Pak students take online Chinese proficiency test

DNA
BEIJING: Sichuan Normal University (SICNU), China held the first online Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK or Chinese Proficiency Test) amid the COVID-19 outbreak for international students to pursue their research dreams. As per Liu Tianhao, a Pakistani student from SICNU, the Chinese Proficiency Test empowered him to explore China. "Mastering local languages will enrich your experience in foreign countries," he told Gwadar Pro. "Each language is beautiful with its history and content, so are Urdu and Chinese," he added. According to SICNU, while doing a good job in epidemic prevention and control, they spare no efforts in the normalization of HSK. "We take HSK as an opportunity to vigorously develop international students' education at all levels, so as to create a new landscape in international Chinese education," said the source from SICNU.

187 new virus cases in Punjab

ABID RAZA
LAHORE: The number of coronavirus cases has reached 98,686 after the registration of 187 new cases with one death in Punjab during the last 24 hours. A spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department said on Sunday the death toll due to coronavirus reached 2,230 in Punjab while the recovery is 95,314. The P&SHD confirmed that 86 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Lahore, 2 in Kasur, 5 in Gujranwala, 22 in Rawalpindi, 1 in Nankana Sahib, 6 in Sialkot, 1 in Narawal, 5 in Gujrat, 1 in Mandi Bahauddin, 3 in Multan, 2 in Khanewal, 14 in Faisalabad, 7 in Toba Tek Singh, 2 in Jhang, 7 in Sargodha, 1 in Khoshab, 3 in Bhakkar, 8 in Bahawalpur, 2 in Dera Ghazi Khan, 1 in Muzaffargarh, 1 in Rajanpur, 2 in Sahiwal, 2 in Okara and 3 in Pakpattan districts during the last 24 hours. The Punjab health department conducted 1,208,372 tests for COVID-19 in the province.

Single Curriculum to end to social disparities

ISLAMABAD: Over the years, the class-based education system and multi-layered curriculum has widened polarization and created more social and economic disparities among different strata of the society leading to lack of tolerance and acceptability towards each other - those belonging to or graduating from somewhat 'different systems of education'. - APP

Armenia biggest obstacle to peace: Turkey

From Page 01
We strongly condemn the Armenian attacks which constitute a clear violation of international law and caused civilian casualties. With these attacks, Armenia once again displayed that it is the biggest obstacle to peace and stability in the region. Azerbaijan will surely use its right of self defence to protect its people and its territorial integrity. In this vein, Turkey fully supports Azerbaijan with unwavering solidarity. We will stand by Azerbaijan whichever way it prefers. We call on the international community also to stand by the righteous party".
Related news on page 6

Monal hosts enchanting sunset event for diplomatic corps

DNA
ISLAMABAD: CEO and Founder of Monal Group Luqman Ali Afzal hosted a sun set dinner for the diplomats, at Monal Tree House, Pir Sohawa. It was a big diplomatic gathering in post-COVID times. A large number of diplomats from various European, Central Asian, African and American countries attended the event. Sun set dinner is Monal's annual event that takes place either in September or first week of October. Through this event, diplomats are provided with an opportunity of witnessing enchanting view of sun set from Monal Tree House. Monal, after COVID period is now fully operational. People have welcomed re-opening of Monal and immediately thronged to the place in order to enjoy and relish traditional and delicious Monal delicacies. The diplomats who attended the event also welcomed the re-opening of Monal for it is a preferred place for them for dining.



Full coverage shall be publish in the coming issue of the Centreline Magazine



MCC committed to the social uplift of people in Pakistan: CEN

In the year 2020, which was hit hard by the outbreak of COVID-19, MRDL did a good job in both COVID-19 prevention and operational continuity

DNA
BEIJING: China's MCC Resources Development Company (MRDL), is committed to the welfare and social uplift of its employees in Pakistan. In an interview with China Economic Net (CEN), a MRDL officer said that the Metrological Construction Company of China (MCC), has a historical culture of social uplift of its employees and the local population. During its 18 years' development, it has made contributions for Pakistan's national exchequer, initiated the non-ferrous metal industry, cultivated skilled workers, provided accommodated about 1,700 Pakistani employees, supplied free electricity and water, education,

health care to nearby residents. "In the year 2020, which was hit hard by the outbreak of COVID-19, MRDL did a good job in both COVID-19 prevention and operational continuity. It can resume operations, keep confirmed cases at zero within Saindak Project and help the local economy to recover in a strong and fast fashion", she told CEN. Putting people's lives first, MRDL has worked relentlessly in the battle against the pandemic and remained ZERO INFECTION CASE within the Project. It has united with neighboring villages, FC, local institutions, providing shelter in an area of 20 km (square kilometer), and covering 6,000 people. She further said that to maintain production and employment, on

June 6th, 68 Chinese employees went back to the Saindak site to reopen the Smelter plant. On July 9th, the reverb. furnace of Smelter was ignited, meaning the 18th production cycle has begun. On July 13th, the Smelter plant produced the first batch of blister copper. "We are dedicated and ready to work with all interested parties who share the same vision with us: to uplift the underprivileged population, to nurture young scholars, experts, technicians and engineers in the field of minerals, to contribute technical expertise for mineral industry, and together with Pakistan governments to propel this country's advancement in a wider range of sectors", she added. The official mentioned that 30 years' association with Saindak

Project, MRDL employees view themselves as locals. Though it is not easy for stuff procurement among the COVID-19, MRDL tried to search from markets and managed to contribute over 200t, worth Rs.17.5 million foodstuffs to 3,312 households in Chagai district, showing the responsibility of MRDL, earning praise from Pakistani government and people. "When the COVID-19 was rampant, MRDL felt the same and tried its best to help out. 200,000 masks, 4,000 testing kits, 2,000 protective gears, 2,000 gloves, 2,000 goggles, 100 forehead thermometers, worth Rs.43 million, after 5 days and nights' travel, were delivered to Balochistan in April", the officer said on condition of anonymity.

She told that on the Eid ul-Adha Festival in August, Pakistanis put on new clothes and share fresh meat with relatives, friends, and the poor. The MRDL management visited production units and workshops, extended greetings, and distributed allowances, snacks, and fresh fruits to employees. Delicious food and sincere care made this festival special and unforgettable. To improve the skills of the employees, the company started technical training for employees as early as the operation startup. "During the last 17 years, MRDL has held over 10,000 training classes of various kinds, with over 100,000 man-hour training through "Teacher-Student" Pairs formed each year," she said.

Estranged PML-N MPA slams Nawaz

DNA
LAHORE: The estranged lawmaker of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) in the Punjab Assembly, Jaleel Ahmed Sharaquri, has slammed Nawaz Sharif and said that he cannot support the narrative of the political party's suprema for targeting national institutions. Jaleel Ahmed Sharaquri had faced the consequences of opposing the Nawaz Sharif's criticism against the national institutions after being suspended from the political party. While addressing a press conference Sunday, Sharaquri said that they will continue to serve the country as Pakistanis. "I had contested election of the National Assembly's seat with Nawaz Sharif during Pervez Musharraf's era. I was questioned about my opinion over the recent speech of Nawaz Sharif. To this, I have replied that his statements led by emotions."

Rs219.556m released for aviation sector

ISLAMABAD: The government has released funds amounting to Rs 219.556 million during first three months of the current fiscal year to execute 15 aviation projects under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2020-21 against the total allocation of Rs1, 320.879 million. According to the official data, the government has authorized/distributed an amount of Rs 219.556 as of September 18. - APP

Chinese enterprises donate Rs 25 million

The chief minister thanked the Chinese government for their support, recalling the Chinese aid and support in curbing the locust swarms and relief supplies during the 2010 and 2011 floods

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Chinese enterprises led by Consul General Li Bijian called on Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and donated Rs. 25 million for relief of rain-affected people of the province. According to Gwadar Pro, the delegation expressed

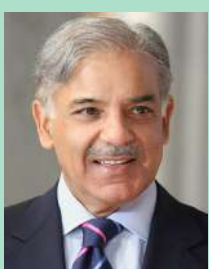


profound grief on the losses of life and property and assured the chief minister that the Chinese government would also help the affected growers. The chief minister thanked the Chinese government for their support, recalling the Chinese aid and support in curbing the locust swarms and relief supplies during the 2010 and 2011 floods.

Shehbaz rejects Speaker's invitation

ABID RAZA / DNA

LAHORE, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Shehbaz Sharif has turned down an invitation of Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser for a meeting of parliamentary leaders on electoral reforms. Shehbaz Sharif, the Leader of Opposition in National Assembly, in a statement said that Gilgit-Baltistan has been a sensitive national issue and linked with the cause of Kashmir. The government should not sacrifice this issue for its politics, the PML-N leader said. "Federal government should not become a hurdle in transparent elections in Gilgit-Baltistan region," Sharif further said. He alleged that his party has decided not to extend cooperation to the government due to its dictatorial behaviour. "Speaker was not empowered to intervene in electoral affairs of Gilgit-Baltistan," the opposition leader said.



EU humanitarian aid mobilizes €5 mln for health service

Healthcare providers and frontline workers will also be trained to set up telemedicine services to increase coverage and access, and frontline workers will also receive the critical psychosocial support they require during this challenging time.

ISLAMABAD: The European Union has mobilized 5 mln for United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to ensure availability of basic health care services for women and children in Sindh and Balochistan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This support will be provided through the EU's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) department and reach over 1.25 million individuals in three districts in Sindh (Karachi East, Larkand) and Balochistan (Jafarabad), said a press release issued here. The EU is working to strengthen Pakistan's primary healthcare system and improve resilience to emergencies and disasters. The EU's support will allow continu-

ation of life-saving basic services and infection prevention and control measures - including increased access to water and sanitation - to mitigate the adverse impact of COVID-19. In addition, frontline health workers will receive PPE's to continue carrying out their duties. There will also be greater efforts for community mobilization and awareness, and to increase access to safe severe acute malnutrition treatment for young children in Sindh and Balochistan during the pandemic. Healthcare providers and frontline workers will also be trained to set up telemedicine services to increase coverage and access, and frontline workers will also receive the critical

psychosocial support they require during this challenging time. Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Androulla Kaminara said, "Mothers and newborns are at particular risk during the pandemic. Their well-being is of



paramount importance. Our support will help ensure that they continue to receive basic health services - including immunizations and nutrition treatments - in a safe environment. The EU will continue to work closely with its partners to support Pakistan's healthcare system during this difficult time." This contribution to UNICEF is part of the European Union's dedicated 150 million package for the short- and medium-term response to the COVID-19 crisis in Pakistan. This support is being extended through our development work, humanitarian aid and working with civil society organizations. UNICEF Representative in Pakistan, Aida Girma said, "In re-

sponse to COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF is working closely with the Government of Pakistan, leading the Risk Communication and Community Engagement besides assisting the country in continuation of essential services including immunization, education, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and procurement of Personal Protective Equipment for frontline health workers." "We are grateful to EU and ECHO for their generous contribution to this humanitarian cause. It will not only provide an impetus to our efforts but will also help Pakistan to counter the socio-economic impact of the pandemic, with a specific focus on the most vulnerable women and children."

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