



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Use 'all options' to bring Nawaz, says PM Imran Khan

Targeted introduction of int'l standards to be undertaken



Kuwait's emir Sheikh Sabah dies aged 91



Briefs

US ready to discuss Iran's role in Afghan peace

DNA

WASHINGTON: Washington has invited Iran to participate in Afghan peace talks. However, a senior US official warned that Washington is closely monitoring Iran's military activities in the region. "We have offered to meet with Iranians on [Afghanistan]," said Zalmay Khalilzad recently. While speaking at the USIP, Khalilzad criticized Iran for making attempts to keep the US "entangled ... without winning or losing," and trying to make the US pay "a high price in Afghanistan until there is an agreement between the US and Iran."

Kuwait's emir Sheikh Sabah dies

DNA

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait's emir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, died on Tuesday at the age of 91, according to the royal court. "With great sadness and sorrow, we mourn... the death of Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait," said Sheikh Ali Jarah Al-Sabah, the minister in charge of royal affairs. Sabah was born in 1929 around the time of the formation of the modern Kuwaiti state, and is a member of the country's royal family. For 40 years, he served as foreign minister, later becoming PM before he was named the country's monarch.

DR. ABDULLAH ABDULLAH SAYS Pak role in Afghan peace commendable

Ice between Afghanistan and Pakistan has melted therefore both countries should seize this opportunity and join hands for peace in the region

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation of Afghanistan Dr. Abdullah Abdullah has said that Pakistan has played an important role in facilitating the Afghan peace process. Addressing a conference at Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said both Pakistan and Afghanistan have paid a heavy price by facing various terror groups that are still acting as spoilers. He said we need to cooperate against such elements. He further said ice between Afghanistan and Pakistan has melted therefore both countries should seize this opportunity and join hands for peace in the region. Dr. Abdullah further said it was not Afghanistan of 90s. Much has changed in his country. The country is now well on track of peace and progress. He said he is indebted to Pakistan for hosting him

'Afghan talks vital for peace'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has highlighted that the commencement of intra-Afghan dialogues is very important for establishing peace in Afghanistan. Shah Mehmood Qureshi, while addressing a conference at Institute of Strategic Studies (ISS), said that the ongoing visit of Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation of Afghanistan, Abdullah Abdullah, to Pakistan possesses great importance.

Continued on Page 04

as refugee in Peshawar where he stayed and carried forward his medical profession.

Pak supports Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace

Chairman Senate has said that Pakistan seeks a strong and robust partnership with Afghan Govt through increased parliamentary cooperation



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has said that a stable and prosperous Afghanistan is in the best interest

of Pakistan and we strongly support Afghan peace process. Chairman Senate reiterated that Pakistan will continue to pursue its principled position of Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process and that only

Afghans can determine the future of their country. The Chairman Senate expressed these views while talking to Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Chairman High Council for National Reconciliation of Afghanistan here at Parliament House on Tuesday. Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has said that Pakistan seeks a strong and robust partnership with Afghan Government through increased parliamentary cooperation, people to people contacts and economic cooperation for mutual benefit of both the countries.

Continued on Page 04

Cabinet's internal rifts continue

NAVID MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: In another episode of internal rifts in PM Imran Khan's cabinet the Minister for Privatization and Advisor to PM on Finance have developed differences over holding meetings without consultation. Sources in the Privatization ministry revealed that the minister for privatization had convened a few meetings at the privatization commission for which invitations were sent to various members of the Cabinet Committee on Privatization (CCoE).

These meetings were also participated by some officials from the ministry of Finance as well. Advisor to the Prime Minister on Finance Hafiz Sheikh who by designation is the Chairman of CCoE and he did not take the issue lightly. In his opinion any meetings of the members of the CCoE can only be held with him in the chair. Hafiz Sheikh reportedly informed the Prime Minister about this violation of the procedures. PM Imran Khan then spoke to the minister for Privatization and told him to take Hafiz Sheikh into confidence over such matters and not hold meetings of the CCoE members.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman High Council for National Reconciliation of Afghanistan, Dr Abdullah Abdullah called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. – DNA

PDM to hold first rally on Oct 11 in Quetta

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) announced on Tuesday that it will hold its first public rally on October 11 in Quetta to rid the country of the current "unconstitutional system". "It was also decided that on October 11, PDM will hold [its] first public rally and then the movement will spread all over Pakistan and rid Pakistan of this unconstitutional system," announced former

Continued on Page 04

Use 'all options' to bring Nawaz: PM

"He left the country using his illness as an excuse," Imran blamed and said he had to return to country

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Federal cabinet on Tuesday decided to bring back Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif from London with Prime Minister Imran Khan saying that the government would use all legal options for the purpose. The prime minister said that they would bring back

Nawaz Sharif with the help of British authorities. "He left the country using his illness as an excuse," Imran Khan blamed and said he had to return to the country and face courts. "Nobody will get an NRO," the prime minister reiterated again and said that anyone involved in corrupt practices could not be forgiven. Adviser to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs

Babar Awan said that they have decided to launch a legal battle for bringing back Nawaz Sharif and would soon initiate extradition process against him. It is pertinent to be mentioned here that Islamabad High Court (IHC) on September 16 released a detailed verdict over its decision to issue an arrest warrant of the former

Continued on Page 04

Inside...

- Pakistan lodges protest with India over CFVs – Page 02
- SCO member states' cooperation programme vital for progress – Page 03
- NA Speaker assures resolving key issues of business community – Page 04
- Good governance versus mal administration – Page 05
- BIE trainers impart 2-day training to TDAP officials – Page 06
- Targeted introduction of int'l standards to be undertaken – Page 07
- *Pakistan to take tide of spurring digital economy under BRI – Page 08

Amnesty suspends India work due to government 'witch hunt'

DNA

NEW DELHI: Amnesty International said Tuesday it has suspended its Indian operations after its bank accounts were frozen in what it called a government "witch-hunt" against rights groups. Non-governmental organisations have long alleged they face harassment from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist administration for highlighting rights abuses, including in restive Indian-administered Kashmir. Amnesty said that it came to know on September 10 that its Indian bank accounts were frozen, forcing it to let go of staff and pause

all ongoing campaign and research work. "This is the latest in the incessant witch-hunt of human rights organizations by the Government of India over unfounded and motivated allegations," the group said in a statement.

Amnesty said that the freezing of its accounts is "no accident" after it issued a series of reports alleging "grave human rights violations" by police in deadly sectarian riots in New Delhi in February, and by security forces in Indian-adminis-

tered Kashmir. "Treating human rights organisations like criminal enterprises and dissenting individuals as criminals without any credible evidence is a deliberate attempt... to stoke a climate of fear and dismantle the critical voices in India," said Avinash Kumar, Amnesty India's executive director. "It reeks of fear and repression, ignores the human cost to this crackdown particularly during a pandemic and violates people's basic rights to freedom of speech and expression, assembly, and association guaranteed by the Indian Constitution," he said in the statement. The Indian government was yet to comment on Amnesty's announcement.



NEW METRO CITY HOUSING SCHEME
KHARIAN - SARAI-ALAMGIR

GT ROAD'S MOST MODERN & LUXURIOUS HOUSING PROJECT

LOCATION MAP

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL PLOTS ON EASY INSTALLMENT PLAN

LATEST DEVELOPMENT WORK & AMENITIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION FOLLOW US ON

#NEWMETROCITY /NEWMETROCITYPK /NEWMETROCITYPK

TOLL FREE : 0800 00101

HEAD OFFICE & SITE ADDRESS:
NEW METRO CITY SITE MAIN GT ROAD, KARYIALL SARAI ALAMGIR

NEW METRO CITY HOUSING SCHEME
KHARIAN - SARAI-ALAMGIR

A PROJECT OF

BSM DEVELOPERS PVT LTD

Briefs

SHC seeks Sindh CM, ECP's reply

DNA

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) has expressed outrage over the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for not submitting response over notice issued in lifetime disqualification case against Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah. The Sindh High Court (SHC) judge Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar heard the petition against Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah to declare his lifetime disqualification. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar remarked that no one has appeared in the hearing to represent ECP. He ordered ECP and chief minister to submit their replies in the next hearing. During the hearing, additional advocate general Shehryar Mehar submitted the copies of ruling made by the high court and the Supreme Court (SC).

He told the court that the top court had given clean chit to Murad Ali Shah over surrendering the dual-nationality case after he grabbed the electoral victim in 2014's by-election and 2018's general election. The nomination papers of Murad Ali Shah had also been challenged in the court before the commencement of the election, however, the election tribunal rejected the pleas against him, he said. The petitioner sought the high court to disqualify Murad Ali Shah for a lifetime. Later, the SHC judge adjourned the hearing for an indefinite period and orders Sindh chief minister and ECP to submit a response.

Motorway rape victim agrees to record her statement

DNA

LAHORE: In a major development in the Lahore motorway gang-rape case, the rape victim woman has agreed to record her initial statement via telephone. On September 9, the woman along with her children was waiting for help on the Lahore-Sialkot motorway after her car ran out of fuel when she was forcefully brought out of the car at gunpoint and gang-raped in Gujarpura area on the outskirts of the provincial. As per sources, after 20 days of the gang-rape, the victim has agreed to identify Shafiq Ali, in the identification parade and record her statement via phone under section 161. It was further learned that the police will request the court for an in-camera trial in which real identification of the rape victim would be kept in secret. Meanwhile, Punjab police have failed to nab main suspect Abid Malhi in the case despite the passage of 20 days. Police sources said that the accused is still hiding in the limits of Punjab province. Efforts are underway to arrest the accused.

CAA issues new SOPs for international, charter flights

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has issued new SOPs for international flights and charter flights. The new rules and regulations will be applicable from October 5 to December 31. According to details, there are 2 categories of countries around the world for COVID-19 risk assessment. PCR test will not be required for passengers coming from Category 'A' countries. Category A includes 38 countries, including Australia, Canada, China, Singapore, Germany and Japan, while Category 'B' passengers will be required to show the COVID-19 PCR test. Passengers coming to Pakistan will be required to download the Pass Track mobile application. Passengers will not be able to obtain a boarding pass without entering their personal details in the application. A print out of the details mentioned in the application has to be submitted for obtaining boarding pass. All passengers and crew must also submit a health declaration form before boarding. Prior to boarding passengers, the aircraft must be disinfected in accordance with SOPs.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi calling on Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Khan, Chief of Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters. – DNA

Pakistan lodges protest with India over CFVs

Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez said the Indian occupation forces along the LoC and the Working Boundary (WB) have been continuously targeting civilian populated areas with artillery fire

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has lodged a strong protest with India over the recent ceasefire violations by Indian forces along the line of control. Indian Charge d'Affaires Gaurav Ahluwalia was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad on Tuesday to register the protest. In a statement, Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez said the Indian occupation forces along the LoC and the Working Boundary (WB) have been continuously targeting civilian populated areas with artillery fire, heavy-caliber mortars and automatic weapons. This year, India has com-

Two martyred by Indian firing along LoC

DNA

RAWALPINDI: In yet another ceasefire violation, a Pakistan Army soldier Shafique and a 15-years-old boy were martyred when Indian troops resorted to unprovoked firing across

mitted 2387 ceasefire violations to date, resulting in 191 innocent civilians and serious injuries to 191 innocent civilians. Condemning the deplorable targeting of innocent civilians by the Indian occupation forces, it was underscored that such senseless acts are in clear violation of the 2003

the Line of Control (LoC), a statement issued by military's media wing said on Tuesday. According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Indian Army troops resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation in Baroh and Tandar sectors along LoC. Due

Ceasefire Understanding, and are also against all established humanitarian norms and professional military conduct. These egregious violations of international law reflect consistent Indian attempts to escalate the situation along the LoC and are a threat to regional peace and security. It was

to indiscriminate fire of automatics, four civilians including an 80-year-old sustained serious injuries. ISPR said Pakistan Army effectively responded to Indian shelling and there were reports of heavy losses to Indian troops in men and material.

said that by raising tensions along the LoC and the WB, India cannot divert attention from the grave human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). The Indian side was called upon to respect the 2003 Ceasefire Understanding, investigate this and other

such incidents of deliberate ceasefire violations and maintain peace along the LoC and the working boundary. Earlier, a young officer of Pakistan Army was martyred while leading an Intelligence Based Operation (IBO) in Waziristan on Sunday night. According to ISPR, on intelligence of terrorists' presence in Shakai, South Waziristan, Security Forces were conducting night patrolling to check terrorists move in the area. During one such on Sunday night patrol in Shakai terrorists fired on patrolling party. During exchange of fire, Captain Abdullah Zafar, age 25 years, resident of Lachi, Kohat while leading his troops, embraced shahadat. Area was cordoned off for clearance operation.



ISLAMABAD: Mayor of Islamabad Sheikh Anser Aziz presenting a souvenir to Ambassador of Bosnia Sakib Foric during a meeting at MCI. – DNA

PML-N lawmakers meet Punjab CM Usman Buzdar

DNA

LAHORE: A delegation of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) provincial lawmaker has met Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar and expressed their support to him for resolving public issues. The delegation of PML-N Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) includes Chaudhry Ashraf Ali, Muhammad Ghayas Uddin, Muhammad Faisal Khan Niazi and Mian Jaleel Ahmed Sharaquri. The lawmakers apprised CM Usman Buzdar regarding the issues of their respective constituencies. They also expressed full confidence over the leadership of Usman Buzdar. The chief minister assured them resolving issues of their constituencies on a priority basis. During the meeting, CM Buzdar said that all issues of the constituencies will be resolved at earliest and lawmakers will be given

respect and honour. He said that the past rulers had seized all powers into their hands and no tolerance will be shown anymore over corruption. He vowed that the journey of serving masses will be continued despite criticism. The lawmakers expressed their confidence in the policies and leadership of the chief minister.

In July, as many as 15 lawmakers of the Punjab Assembly hailing from Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had decided to go against the party directives to refrain from meeting Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar and announced to improve relations with government functionaries in the province. "We are only accountable to the people of our constituency," said the 15 provincial lawmakers who had announced to defy the party directives during a meeting in Lahore after they were issued show-cause notices over meeting the chief minister.

Naval Chief visits Air Headquarters

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi, visited Air Headquarters, Islamabad today. On arrival, he was received by Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force. A smartly turned out contingent of PAF presented him guard of honour. The Naval Chief laid floral wreath on martyrs' monument to pay homage to PAF martyrs who laid down their lives for the defence of the motherland. Later on, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi called on Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan in his office. Various matters pertaining to regional security and professional interest were discussed during the meeting. The Air Chief lauded various indigenous projects being undertaken by Pakistan Navy in the recent years, which have transformed it into a potent force. The Air Chief also reiterated to augment the existing synergy between the sister services and taking it to further heights. Admiral Zafar acknowledged PAF's all-out support to Pakistan Navy in strengthening the maritime defence of the country.

KP govt to buy houses of Dilip Kumar, Raj Kapoor

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government has decided to buy and restore the houses of Bollywood legend actors Dilip Kumar and Raj Kapoor. Both actors were born and raised in Peshawar's famous Qissa Khwani area before they moved on to Mumbai to become acting greats. According to the Director Achealogy and Museums, Abdul Samad, the government has decided to buy the houses of Bollywood icons and in this regard, a letter has been sent to the deputy commissioner Peshawar. The value of both houses would be determined after the imposition of section 4. The houses, in the first phase, would be restored to their original position and after reconstruction, they will be transformed as museums, Samad said. "The move is part of efforts to restore Peshawar's traditional culture." Under the conservation plan, around 1,800 buildings in Peshawar over 100 years old will be acquired and restored by the provincial government. The Kapoor haveli was built between 1918 and 1922 by Raj Kapoor's grandfather, Dewean Basheswamath. Meanwhile, Dilip Kumar's house was built by his father who was a fruit merchant. Kumar was born in Peshawar as Mohammed Yusuf Khan on 11 December 1922. According to Waheed-ullah, Kumar's father suffered substantial business losses in the mid-1920s, forcing the family to move to Bombay in search of better opportunities.

Pakistan to participate in Film Festival in China

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will participate in the 7th Silk Road International Film Festival, under the guidance of China Film Administration, to be held from Oct. 11 to 16 in Xi'an, capital city of northwest China's Shaanxi province. Co-sponsored by Shaanxi Provincial People's Government and Fujian Provincial People's Government with the theme "Silk Road Links the World, Film Connects Cultures," the festival will feature six major events including film screening, film forum and film market, according to China Daily. More than 500 films will be screened online and in cinemas. Of the 102 films to be screened in cinemas, over 70 percent are from countries and regions along the Belt and Road. Zhang Jiayi, a famous Chinese star from Shaanxi, has become the image ambassador of this year's festival. More than 100 famous guests in the Chinese movie circle, including director Lu Chuan, director and actor Xu Zheng, and actress Yan Ni, will attend various activities. Representatives from countries including Italy, Japan, Singapore, Pakistan and Germany will attend the film festival via video link or recording. As an important part of the festival, the film forum will be held from Oct. 12 to 16 to bring influential directors, producers and experts from countries and regions along the Belt and Road together. Film carnivals will also be held during the festival in scenic areas near a famous commercial street in Xi'an to present a cultural feast to local citizens and tourists.

Soybean production worth regaining attention in Pakistan

The amount of imports of soybean oilcake and other solid residues plunged from \$30,126,000 to \$110,000 because Pakistan's establishing feed industry has shifted to importing whole grain instead of soybean meal

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A series of reports on maize-soybean strip intercropping technology's development in Pakistan published by Gwadar Pro lately attracted great attention from farmers, governments and enterprises, which demonstrates agriculture sector's lively interest in boosting domestic production of soybean. A report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday said, soybean has considerable development potential that may bring huge benefits in return in the future. It is used in a wide variety of foods for humans and animals, as well as for industrial and consumer products such as building materials, lubricants and

other household items. With the development and modernization of poultry and dairy sectors, the demand for soybean in Pakistan has seen strong growth. However, due to lack of the capacity for self-production, Pakistan overwhelmingly relies on imports to meet the increasing demand. USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) data shows that between MY 2015/16 and MY 2018/19, Pakistan's soybean imports have grown by 76.3% in the four years to about 2 million tons. In 2018/19, Pakistan's oilseed imports were 3.1 million metric tons (MMT), among them 1.8 MMT of soybeans, accounting for nearly 60% of the total oilseed imports. State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) data exhibits that in FY 2019, the

amount of Pakistan's imports of soybeans, whether or not broken, reached \$782,345,000, and the amount of the imports of soybean oil and its fractions touched \$105,753,000. The amount of imports of soybean oilcake and other solid residues plunged from \$30,126,000 to \$110,000 because Pakistan's establishing feed industry has shifted to importing whole grain instead of soybean meal. Soybean crop was introduced to Pakistan in 1960s and commercial cultivation began in 1970-71. Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and Provincial Research Institutes in 1977-78 carried out research and eight soybean varieties were developed. During 1990s, the area under soybean cultivation

once touched the highest point at 6,613 hectares, then declined sharply to few hectares without any increase in the following years till today. Based on various research, soybean production and commercialization in Pakistan is hindered by unavailability of high yielding, climate ready and pest resistant varieties, absence of latest production technologies, skills and knowledge, lack of machinery and insufficiency of marketing of produce and its by-products. Despite challenges there is huge potential to tap the local soybean production. Soybean crops can be incorporated in existing spring as well as summer pattern. There are various crop rotation combination and intercropping systems. Especially under intercropp-

ing technology, farmers can grow soybean without curbing the cultivation area of existing crops like maize, sugarcane, corn, etc. This technology makes better use of available space to increase the amount of crops that can be harvested on the same area of land as soybean production is like an added "bonus". As the all-weather strategic partner to Pakistan, China is lending a hand in stimulating Pakistan's soybean production via introducing the advanced maize-soybean intercropping technology to Pakistan from Sichuan Agricultural University. Included in China's "No. 1 Central Document" of top-priority by CPC Central Committee and the State Council of the People's Republic of China, this mature

technology has been applied to 4.76 million hectares of land in 19 Chinese provinces and created new economic benefits of RMB 24.5 billion. This year, maize-soybean strip intercropping technology has achieved promising results at multiple demonstration plots across Pakistan both under irrigated and rainfed conditions. In Bahawalpur, the yields of soybean and maize in the intercropping plot reach 1,304 kg and 8,596 kg per hectare respectively. In the near future, assisted by the Chinese government and scientific research institutions, intercropping related high-yielding soybean varieties, pesticides and weedicides, and machinery are going to be brought to Pakistan, and the yields can be raised still further.

Briefs

ITP's education campaign in full swing

ISLAMABAD: The campaign of Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) launched to check lane violation is in full swing and road users are being educated to follow traffic rules and minimize the accident ratio. The main objective of this road safety campaign is to ensure safety to people and road users are being educated for lane discipline during drive, a police spokesman said on Tuesday. Following directions of IGP Islamabad Muhammad Amir Zulfikar, Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Farrukh Rasheed constituted special squads to control lane violation on various roads and ensure smooth flow of traffic in the city. The ITP's squads remain present on all important roads to educate road users about traffic rules. The spokesman said that a total of 16,370 motorists had been fined during the ongoing year over lane violation. The ITP's FM Radio 92.4, he said, was also disseminating the messages about road safety and educate audience about traffic rules. Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Farrukh Rasheed appealed the citizens to cooperate with the force by following traffic laws. — APP

AIU: BS CS exams from Oct 5

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) Tuesday announced that BS Computer Sciences' examinations for Spring 2020 semester will commence from October 5. Controller Examinations, Dr. Tauqeer Ahmad Khan, informed that the roll number slips have already been dispatched to the students. These are also available online on the university website.

In case, a student does not receive the roll number slip through postal services before the commencement of the examination, he/she may download it from the university website which would be acceptable in the examination hall. Moreover, admissions in programs offered in autumn 2020 semester are open and the deadline for the submission of admission application form is October 15, 2020. — APP

Poetry recital in honor of Sabahat Aruj

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A poetry recital was arranged in honor of young poetess from DG Khan Sabahat Aruj under auspices of literary organization IRTAQA in collaboration with Punjab Council of the Arts (PUCAR). The recital was presided over by senior poet Naseem-e-Sahar. Javed Ahmed and Rahat Sarhadi were guests of honor while Tahir Baloch anchored the event. The speakers threw light on work and personality of Sabahat Aruj. The poets including Dr. Faisal Aziz, Mazhar Aheer, Samina Tabasum, Syed Aqeel Shah, Ahmed Raza Raja, Aqeel Arshad, Allah Razi, Musawer Abbas, Khalid Saeed, Munir Bukhari, Saeed Bukhari, Arif Bukhari recited their poetry on the occasion.

SCO member states' cooperation programme vital for progress

This was stated by Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M), (Retd), President CGSS while presenting speech on the topic "Peace, Stability and Regional Security Cooperation: Cornerstone of SCO"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On 29th September 2020, the 15th Session of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Forum was held in the format of a video conference. The Forum was chaired by the National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic. Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI(M), (Retd), President CGSS while representing Pakistan delivered the welcoming remarks and speech at the Forum. Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI(M), (Retd), President CGSS presented speech on the topic "Peace, Stability and Regional Security Cooperation: Cornerstone of Shanghai Cooperation Organization". He stated that SCO can promote and further expand bilateral and multilateral trade and also the joint implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, promoting broader and more practical multilateral security cooperation. SCO can enhance international cooperation in providing the impetus to world economic recovery especially after COVID-19.



Furthermore, he stated that it is important to develop an SCO member states' Cooperation Programme for the Development of Multi-Modal Transport and Logistics Centers. There is a dire need to implement a joint solution for multilateral trade, economic and investment cooperation among the SCO member states. There should be a continuous pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals till 2030. A key factor in establishing mutual trust, friendship and neighbourly relations between SCO member

States is their People to People Contact and cultural exchange and collaboration in cultural, educational and scientific spheres. Expanding cultural interactions within the SCO region, strengthening mutual understanding among its peoples, respecting their cultural traditions and customs, and preserving and enhancing cultural diversity within SCO member States should remain top priorities for our work aimed at promoting peace and ensuring security and sustainable development. Adding to his speech, he stated

that cooperation between authorities of SCO member States have proved to be fairly successful. Yet in order to effectively combat the drug threat, it will be necessary to consolidate the efforts of the international community as a whole. In this regard, SCO must continue its close collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. A dedicated setup within SCO to coordinate anti-narcotics activity and liaise with UNODC would be beneficial. He stated that Pakistan's inclusion in Shanghai Cooperation Organi-

zation (SCO) is optimistically seen as a turning point in the changing geopolitical landscape of the Eurasian belt, as well as bringing new opportunities for Pakistan. The practice of multilateral diplomacy has helped in mitigating regional tensions and augmenting collaboration in the world history, and SCO is the most suitable multilateral forum for Pakistan. SCO has offered opportunities to Pakistan to strengthen its trade relations with Eurasian countries. Concluding his speech, Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery HI(M), (Retd) extended gratitude to Mr. Vladimir Norov, Secretary-General, SCO for his exceptional work for making SCO, a conducive platform for the member states to maintain peace stability and also to promote cultural, educational and scientific exchange. The participants exchanged views on building sustainable peace and stability in the SCO region, new approaches and multilateral economic cooperation in the SCO space during the pandemic and the role of SCO Forum for cooperation in addressing the challenges of the pandemic.

FBR starts tax returns in regional languages

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has launched Income Tax Returns in regional languages to facilitate small retailers.

The returns have been launched in Punjabi, Sindhi, Balochi and Pashto languages in line with the vision of the Prime Minister and directions of Advisor to PM on Finance and Revenue, said an FBR press statement issued here Wednesday. The Tax Returns in these languages have been uploaded on FBR's website, it said adding that this initiative has been taken to facilitate the retailers in filing their tax returns. FBR is striving to make the systems and processes more facilitative for the business community, the statement added. — APP

26 police officers promoted

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Amir Zulfikar on Tuesday gave approval to promote 26 Sub-Inspectors into the next rank of Inspector. According to the details, IGP Islamabad Muhammad Amir Zulfikar has approved these promotions on the recommendations of Departmental Promotion Committee. The orders regarding new assignment of these police officers promoted from Sub-Inspectors (BS-14) to Inspector rank (BS-16) would be issued later. Islamabad police chief has greeted all the promotion holders and hoped that the officers would observe their professional duties with honesty in next ranks and would facilitate the general public through their professional attitude as well as hard work.

"Serological Testing of COVID" concludes

ISLAMABAD: The second certificate course on "SARS-COVID-19" organized by COMSTECH concluded on Tuesday after educating the participants on different fields of biological sciences. The training course was arranged in collaboration with National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST). Scientists and research scholars from Pakistan, Turkey, Cameroon, Nigeria, Iran, Indonesia, Sudan, Azerbaijan, Senegal and other countries participated in the training course. This training was organized to benefit scientists and research scholars from different fields of biological sciences including Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Genetics, Immunology, and Biotechnology. The basis and principles of serological testing, laboratory procedures, sample collection, storage and transportation of COVID-19 were taught in detail along with the update on current state of the art diagnostics used for SARS-COVID-19 all over the world by Dr. Ali Zohaib and Dr. Aneela Javed, Faculty members of NUST, Atta-Ur-Rehman School of Applied Biosciences. — APP

HEC approves IRSIP & partial support for PhD grants

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has approved 224 cases of PhD scholars for International Research Support Initiative Programme (IRSIP), in addition to seven cases of Partial Support for PhD Studies Abroad. The Selection Committee's meeting was held at HEC Secretariat Islamabad, with Executive

Director Dr. Fateh Marri in the chair. Under IRSIP, HEC offers a six-month research fellowship abroad to full-time PhD students. The purpose is to enhance their research capabilities, and also develop linkages between Pakistani and foreign institutions. IRSIP provides exposure to PhD scholars in order to enhance quality of research conducted by them in Pakistan. The programme aims at

creating a critical mass of highly-qualified manpower that could contribute towards socio-economic development of Pakistan. It facilitates assimilation, absorption and transfer of important and promising scientific and technological knowledge information to achieve rapid economic progress. It also provides training and research work opportunities to doctoral students at advanced research laboratories of reputed uni-

versities abroad. Similarly, Partial Support for PhD Studies Abroad is an initiative aimed at providing financial support up to US \$ 10,000 to Pakistani scholars who are in final stages of their PhD Studies abroad and need partial support e.g. tuition, thesis evaluation/ submission fee, living expenditure, etc. without which their PhD degree programme will remain incomplete.



ISLAMABAD: Construction work of underpass underway near Zero Point connecting G-7 with G-8 sectors at Faisal Avenue. — APP

Lai Expressway to be unique, says Commissioner

RAWALPINDI: Lai Expressway project would be a unique which help eliminate the threat of flash flooding in the city particularly low lying areas, Commissioner Rawalpindi Capt (R) Muhammad Mehmood said on Tuesday. He said that the project worth Rs 61 billion, would be completed under public-private partnership while 16 kilometers long expressway would have four interchanges. Massive tree plantation

would also be carried out along with the Lai Expressway, he said adding, all out efforts would be made to complete the project within shortest possible time frame. Due to the Expressway, the citizens of twin cities, Rawalpindi and Islamabad would enjoy speedy transportation facility. This project would be constructed in an innovative way to enhance the commercial utility of adjacent areas along with increasing the oppor-

tunities of business and employment, he added. He said, quality of life of the people living around Nullah Lai would be improved after the construction of this project. The commissioner said that all the necessary matters, requirements and steps were being completed. Different steps would be taken through comprehensive planning for acquiring land and removal of encroachments, he said. — APP

Two drug peddlers busted

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police in their ongoing drive against narcotics and anti-social elements conducted raids in different areas and arrested two accused besides recovering 2890 grams drugs from their possession. According to a police spokesman, in a raid, New Town police arrested a drug peddler namely Sajjad Ali alias Kaka and recovered 1260 grams charras from his possession. — APP

PANAH organizes a walk on "World Heart Day"

RAWALPINDI: An awareness walk was organised by the Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) to mark World Heart Day here on Tuesday. The walk was led by PANAH General Secretary Sanaulah Ghuman, which started from Liaqat Bagh and culminated at Rawalpindi Press Club. Speaking to the participants of walk, the PANAH general secretary stressed the need to ensure establishing more healthy behaviours to be protected from heart related diseases. He said a healthy lifestyle and regular exercise were essential to lead a healthy life. Ghuman said that at least 80 percent of premature deaths from heart disease could be avoided if the main risk factors which are tobacco, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity could be controlled. The president said overeating, lack of exercise, unhealthy diets, high blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose levels were the leading factors of heart disease. He urged to quit smoking, start exercising and eat healthy food in order to improve health and protection from heart diseases. Sanaulah said that Heart Day is part of an international campaign to spread awareness about heart disease in public and prevention is the best and only way to control the rising death toll due to heart diseases. A large number of professors, doctors, paramedical staff, students and civil society representatives participated in the walk. — APP

35 Ehsaas Nashonuma Centers opened across nine districts

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Sania Nishtar Tuesday said that food system transformation cannot be achieved without 'pro-poor' policies that support economic growth as well as social protection policies. Dr. Sania Nishtar was speaking at an online launch event for the Global Panel's new Foresight 2.0 report: 'Future Food Systems: For people, our planet, and prosperity', co-hosted by the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Italy. Being a member of the Global Panel's High-Level Stakeholder Group who had contributed to Global Panel's report, Dr. Nishtar provided her perspectives of the report alongside Dr. Francesco Branca, Director of the Department of Nutrition and Food Safety, WHO and Diane Holdorf, Food Director World Business

Council for Sustainable Development. Dr. Nishtar highlighted Ehsaas nutrition approach at the event hosted by Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition and FAO. Speaking at the high-level panel, Dr. Nishtar stated, "Policy makers must address planetary and dietary challenges simultaneously, since they are so fundamentally interlinked." Further adding, she said, "The report makes concrete recommendations on the practical steps which need to be taken in a process of transition, leading to a transformed future food system. And, food system transformation cannot be achieved without 'pro-poor' policies that support economic growth as well as social protection policies." This event was chaired by Dr. Anna Lartey, Director for Nutrition at the FAO. She highlighted key findings from the report, and began the process of engaging decision makers from government. — APP

Ambassadors of various countries present their credentials to President Arif Alvi

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: High Commissioners/Ambassadors-designate of South Africa, Italy, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Qatar and Switzerland presented their credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi in a credentials ceremony, at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Tuesday. Felicitating the newly appointed High Commissioners/Ambassadors-designate to Pakistan, the President expressed the hope that they would work for further expanding and promoting economic, trade and politi-

cal relations with Pakistan. Mr. Mthuzuzeli Madikiza, High Commissioner-designate of South Africa, Mr. Andreas Ferraresse, Ambassador-designate of Italy, Mr. Tarek Dahroug, Amba-

sador-designate of Egypt, Vice Admiral (R) Mohan Wijewickrama, High Commissioner-designate of Sri Lanka, Mr. Hamid Abbas Ali Al-Aramshawi, Ambassador-designate of Iraq,

Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman bin Faisal Al Thani, Ambassador-designate of Qatar and Mr. Benedict Edouard de Cerjat, Ambassador-designate of Switzerland presented their cre-

entials to the President. Later, the High Commissioners/Ambassadors separately called on the President. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Pakistan wanted

to promote relations with all friendly countries in the areas of mutual interest. He stated that Pakistan was making efforts for promoting peace and stability in the region. The President apprised the envoys about the human rights violations and brutalities being committed by India against the Muslims of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He said that India had been persecuting the minorities and international community was required to take note of gross human rights violation by Indian security forces against Muslims and other minority groups.



Briefs

Afghan talks vital for peace'

From Page 01

He said that the international community is backing the political process in Afghanistan and Kabul leadership should take advantage of the opportunity. The foreign minister reiterated that he is admitting the fact that Afghan conflict will be resolved through dialogues. Qureshi said that all sides should remain vigilant about the elements trying to affect the ongoing peace process. It is inevitable for regional prosperity to continue peace process in Afghanistan, he added. He continued that peace in Afghanistan will also ensure peace in Pakistan and the decision for the future of the neighbouring country will be made its nation. He clarified that no one could impose their decision on Afghan nation. Earlier on Monday morning, Dr Abdullah Abdullah, Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation of Afghanistan, had arrived in Islamabad on Monday morning on a three-day visit. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation, including prominent members of the High Council for National Reconciliation. This is Dr Abdullah Abdullah's first visit to Pakistan in his capacity as Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation.

Pak's role in Afghan peace commendable

From Page 01

Abdullah Abdullah said his country will not allow any terrorism to pose a threat to any other nation. Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation of Afghanistan said the start of negotiations between Afghan government and the Taliban is an important opportunity and offer the best hope to put the war behind us. He said we have asked our negotiating team to be patient and be ready to make compromises. Abdullah Abdullah said Pakistan and Afghanistan are facing a serious of common threats and challenges including various shades of terrorism, extremism, intolerance and more recently Covid-19. He said there is a huge untapped economic, political, economic potential for cooperation between the two countries. He stressed for enhanced interaction for a more peaceful and prosperous coexistence. Abdullah also thanked Pakistan for hosting millions of Afghan refugees saying we share the idea of their dignified return.

Pak supports Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace

From Page 01

Chairman Senate observed that Pakistan and Afghanistan share centuries old bonds of brotherhood based on common faith and cultural similarities. He underlined the need to work together to foster the bond of friendship through deeper economic and political engagements. During the meeting, both the leaders discussed in detail ways and means to enhance parliamentary interaction, Afghan peace process, people to people contacts, economic connectivity and bilateral trade cooperation. Chairman Senate called for increased parliamentary linkages while highlighting the significance of parliamentary diplomacy. Chairman Senate said that high level parliamentary interaction can be helpful in removing misperceptions and promote understanding on issues of mutual concern. Regarding the peace process and inclusivity, the Senate Chairman stated that a stable and prosperous Afghanistan is in the best interest of Pakistan and we strongly support Afghan peace process. Chairman Senate reiterated that Pakistan will continue to pursue its principled position of Afghan led and Afghan owned peace process and that only Afghans can determine the future of their country. He said that intra-Afghan negotiation provided a historic opportunity to achieve an inclusive, broad based and comprehensive political settlement. He, however, cautioned to remain vigilant against spoilers, who would try to scuttle the ongoing peace process. He said that it is in our mutual interest to thwart their nefarious designs. Chairman Senate further observed that people to people contacts are fundamental element of our ties and we are taking steps to enhance mutual relations and broaden people to people contacts.



NA Speaker assures resolving key issues of business community

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Asad Qaiser, Speaker, National Assembly said that business community was performing tremendous job for promoting the economy and assured that he would provide all possible cooperation in resolving their key issues. He said he would call the officials of FBR and other business related entities to the Standing Committees of NA to help address major issues of business community so that they could be facilitated in further promoting business activities. He was addressing as Chief Guest a dinner that was hosted

ed by Malik Sohail Hussain former Senior Vice President ICCI and Chief Coordinator UBG FPCCI in honor of outgoing Office Bearers of ICCI Muhammad Ahmed Waheed President, Tahir Abasi Senior Vice President and Saif ur Rehman Khan Vice President. Ms. Sajida Zulfiqar and Ms. Munaza Hasan MNAs, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan Chairman Punjab Board of Investment, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan newly elected President ICCI, Sheikh Anser Aziz Mayor Islamabad, former Presidents FPCCI Abdul Rauf Alam and Ghazanfar Bilour, former Presidents ICCI including Khalid Javed, Tariq Sadiq, Ejaz Abbasi, Khalid Iqbal

Malik, diplomats and large number of business community attended the dinner. Ms. Sajida Zulfiqar MNA appreciated the good efforts made by Muhammad Ahmed Waheed President ICCI and his team during their tenure for the welfare of business community and hoped that the incoming team of ICCI led by Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan would achieve many new milestones for the business community. Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, Chairman, Punjab Board of Investment briefed the participants about the potential investment opportunities in Punjab and said that business community should capitalize on them for achieving

lucrative results. Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry highlighted the key achievements of his tenure. He said that with untiring efforts, he got resolved some very old issues of business community from CDA, FBR and other organizations and hoped that his successor would carry forward his positive initiatives to serve the cause of business community. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, newly elected President ICCI appreciated the achievements of his predecessor who has set high benchmarks of performance and assured that he would try to organize top

line Expo in Islamabad besides making efforts for new industrial estate in Islamabad and holding seminars for the benefit of business community. Malik Sohail Hussain former Senior Vice President ICCI and Chief Coordinator FPCCI UBG paid tributes to the services of outgoing Office Bearers Muhammad Ahmed Waheed President, Tahir Abasi Senior Vice President and Saif ur Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI for promoting the interests of business community effectively in their tenure and hoped that the new incumbents would try to complete their unfinished agenda for resolving the issues of business community.

Use 'all options' to bring Nawaz: PM

From Page 01

Prime Minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Nawaz Sharif. The detailed judgment of the division bench of the Islamabad court was written by Justice Aamir Farooq and was also signed by the other judge Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani. The court noted that the lawyers of Nawaz Sharif failed to satisfy the bench, therefore an appeal regarding the exemption of the former prime minister from the hearings is therefore rejected. The court later directed the High Commission in London to implement upon the court orders to convey the arrest warrants to Nawaz Sharif in London, however, the PML-N supermo refused to receive the warrants. He later addressed a meeting of the opposition led All Parties Conference (APC) via video link from London despite being declared absconder and also decided to run party affairs from abroad after the arrest of the PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif

PDM to hold first rally on Oct 11 in Quetta

From Page 01

prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on behalf of the movement in a press conference. The former prime minister also announced that PDM's steering committee was also approved in today's meeting of the opposition parties. He added that the organisational structure that was developed today will now be sent to party leaders for approval. He also said that the organisational details will be shared with the people soon. Abbasi, who was flanked by other opposition leaders, said that today's meeting of the PDM leaders condemned the shrinking space for democracy. He added that the meeting also condemned the "flood of inflation, rising unemployment and historic corruption" going on in the country.

Telenor Microfinance Bank, PTCL sign agreement

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and Telenor Microfinance Bank Limited have signed an agreement for provision of physical and Virtual Data Center (VDC) Hosting Services bundled with industry's leading Managed Security solution. During the signing ceremony, Zarrar Hasham Khan, Chief Business Services Officer, PTCL and Khurram Gul Agha, Chief Information Officer & Operations Support, Telenor Microfinance Bank, signed the agreement at a special ceremony recently held at PTCL Zonal office in Karachi. Umar Farooqi, General Manager, Digital Services Sales, PTCL, Javaid Sher Ali, Executive Director, IT Planning & Architecture, Telenor Microfinance Bank and Nadeem Ashfaq, Director Information Tech-

nology, Telenor Microfinance Bank, were also present on the occasion, along with other senior officials. PTCL is providing Telenor Microfinance Bank with its state-of-the-art infrastructure and platform solutions that are equipped with latest technology, managed security and DDoS filtering solution. During the signing ceremony, Zarrar Hasham Khan, Chief Business Services Officer, PTCL, said, "We are pleased to sign an agreement with Telenor Microfinance Bank to support them in fulfilling their business needs. PTCL, being a national company, is leading the digitization effort across the country to support the Prime Minister's vision of a Digital Pakistan. Through such partnerships, PTCL continues to play its key role in the development of telecom infrastructure by providing innovative and secure solutions

to the corporate sector that will further contribute towards the overall economic growth of the country." On the occasion, Khurram Gul Agha, Chief Information Officer, Telenor Microfinance Bank, said, "In light of the current fast-paced banking activities specially through mobile and online platforms, regular upgrades to the security apparatus are crucial. We are pleased to sign this agreement with PTCL as our trusted partner for our Virtual Data Centers. Keeping our data secure is of utmost significance and we believe in providing our customers the best financial solutions which can provide them with the peace of mind required to fully embrace a digitally enabled financial lifestyle. This partnership with PTCL is a step in the right direction given the scale and quality of services that we offer."



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Abdullah Abdullah Chairman Afghan Reconciliation Council speaks at ISSI during a seminar on Afghanistan. – DNA

Station Commander assures support to RCCI

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

Rawalpindi: Cantonment Board Rawalpindi President and Station Commander Brigadier Ijaz Qamar Kayani visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and talked to the business community about the ongoing development projects in the city, parking issues and tax relief. Brigadier Ijaz Qamar apprised the business community that under the Scheme

"Public Outreach" a program has been launched to regularize illegal residential buildings. There are more than 30,000 illegal buildings and the major aim of this scheme was to legalise all illegal structures in the cantonment areas to bring the practice to an end and provide relief. Under the scheme illegal residential buildings can get the map approved in just 3 days as RCB charges a meager amount of Rs2,500 from the people to get their plans surveyed and regularized.

In addition, property taxes have been waived due to the Corona epidemic. Under which residential property will be taxed at 10% instead of 20% and commercial property at 15% instead of 30%. To address the parking issue, a new parking site has been identified where shop owners and salesmen can park their cars/ motorbikes free of cost, he added. Station Commander also shared the latest update on remodeling and extension of Ammar Chowk and Kutch-

ery chowk. A beautification project has been launched to beautify entry and exit points of Rawalpindi and also work is in progress to save the heritage and old buildings. Earlier, President RCCI Saboor Malik, lauded RCB for the key steps taken to end encroachment in the city, addressing the parking problem in Sadar area and beautifying the city and said that the business community was very grateful to the station commander for taking personal interest.



YOUR ADDRESS FOR AUTHENTIC MOBILE DEVICES

SAMSUNG HUAWEI iPhone TECNO Tigi TCL mi

Head Office - AI Qadir Heights, LG-2, 1 Babar Block, New Garden Town | 04235844063-4

www.airlinkcommunication.com | @airlinkKALC | airlinkcommunication | airlinkcommunication

Changing GB's status

THE proposed change in the status of Gilgit-Baltistan is a highly sensitive matter that must not be politicized as is being done by the PTI leadership. What the Information Minister said on Sunday reveals that the party is bent upon winning the forthcoming elections. It has already announced that it wanted to make the region a province of Pakistan with due representation in the National Assembly and Senate. According to the opposition, the PTI has already started distributing health cards which is an electoral malpractice and would be dubbed by the opposition as a part of pre-poll rigging. The opposition has already rejected the move by the National Assembly Speaker inviting opposition leaders to sit with him to discuss Gilgit-Baltistan polls, maintaining that the issue does not come under his purview. According to the PML(N), it was the responsibility of the chief election commissioner of Gilgit-Baltistan to announce a code of conduct for the elections after consulting all political parties. Making Gilgit-Baltistan a province of Pakistan will require constitutional amendments. Unless there is an understanding between the government and the opposition, there is no way the government can manage the two-thirds majority of the total membership required in both Houses of Parliament. The PPP leaders made it clear at a press conference that a meeting of the parliamentary leaders could only be called by Prime Minister Imran Khan as Leader of the House in the National Assembly. This could be interpreted as a hint to the PM to personally open talks with the opposition on the issue. In another infantile act, two dozen protesters hurled abuses outside the house where former PM Nawaz Sharif is staying in London. This sort of activity is likely to cause further bitterness between the opposition and the PTI government. What is more, it could turn out to be a double-edged sword if the other side responded similarly whenever it got the chance. What is needed is for the PTI leadership is to come down its high horse, and create an atmosphere conducive for talks with the opposition to settle important national issues setting aside personal likes and dislikes.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

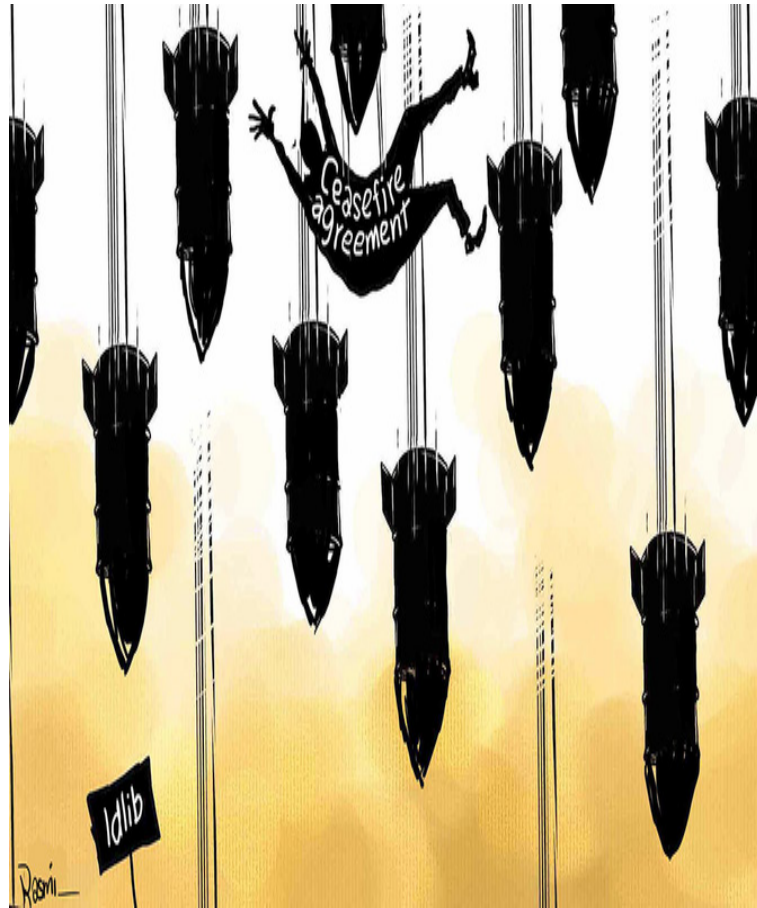
Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Vol: 01 Issue: 160

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



An important visit

CHAIRMAN of the High Council for National Reconciliation (HCNR) Abdullah Abdullah's three-day visit comes at a significant point for the region. The talks between the Afghan Taliban and the government are in progress, and undoubtedly, all regional and international players must be brought into the loop with how things are going. Pakistan's inextricable ties with Afghanistan indicate that we will have an important role to play in the aftermath of the negotiations. This is why this visit features meetings with the highest tier of the democratic leadership; from the Prime Minister himself, to the President and the Senate Chairman as well. Naturally, Pakistan—this goes for the rest of the international community too—has very limited input at this stage. Our narrative of an Afghan-led and Afghan owned peace process has finally been realised and this latest round of discussions, and everyone outside Afghanistan can only hope that a deal is struck sooner rather than later. Chairman HCNR Abdullah can work with Pakistani leaders over the course of the next few days to understand our perspective, and perhaps also take a recommendation or two—where possible—to fast-track the negotiations. But more importantly, at this stage, representatives of the Afghan peace committee need to look ahead and work out what comes after a deal has been struck. For any peace in the near future, economic stability must be a priority for the Afghan government moving forward. And the best way to guarantee that is through regional cooperation. This is where Pakistan can assist the western neighbour and has done so in the past as well; we just recently opened up transit trade even though India at the receiving end is leaving no stone unturned to foment instability in the region. Pakistan has stood on the side of peace before negotiations began, and has offered unconditional support to the Afghan government. While it is still too early to work out the details of what economic cooperation will look like after a ceasefire has been agreed to. But undoubtedly, even at this early juncture, Chairman Abdullah can use this visit to make initial inroads related to economic partnerships in the coming year.

Good governance versus mal administration

Justice ® Ali Nawaz Chowhan



The NCHR was created but purposely no rules were framed and budgetary problems were created so that the institution failed. Anyway because of the urge and passion of the civil society it succeeded which the institution faced but yet it succeeded. As the NCHR also performed judicial functions therefore the law enjoins that the chairman should be a person who is being a judge

OUR quest for good governance is still a dream. There is lot of political rhetoric in favor of good governance and the rule of law since day one of the creation of Pakistan. The Quaid valued Human Rights, Dignity of men, freedom of beliefs and practice of cultures as essential part of the state.

According to the Quaid the civil servants were the servants of the state and not their masters. They had to implement the policy framed by the representative of the people. Ironically the greatest numbers of complaints arise from mal administration attributed to bureaucracy. Bureaucracy has always been strong because of its network and the general incompetency of the political leadership who are supposed to govern them. Corruption is another aspect in which we find connivance of the leadership and the bureaucracy and this makes the bureaucracy uncontrollable and systems corrupt. The prime minister of Pakistan also has grievance against prevailing mal administration but it seems that he has no clue to amelioration the malady. The complaint receiving process arising out of common grievances of the people caught the attention of the military ruler who taking inspiration from the Swedish ombudsman introduced PO one of 1983. The objective and attributes of the ombudsman were formulated as follow.

- To right individual wrongs
- To make bureaucracy more humane
- To lessen popular alienation from government
- To prevent abuses by acting as a 'bureaucratic watch-dog'
- To vindicate civil servant when unjustly accused.

In its report of 1985 the objective for establishment of the ombudsman were stated as follow. "The raison d'être for setting up the institution of the wafaqi mohtasib was to institutionalize a new mechanism for readdressing injustice done to citizens by public functionaries at the federal level. It was sought to set up a system which combines judicial impartiality, adequate investigate capability, pragmatic flexibility in its procedures and professional insight into the labyrinth of the modern administrative structure." The main attribute envisaged is that the institution will be external to administration.

The ombudsman was given extensive powers and it was said:

"For carrying out the objective of this order and, in particular for ascertaining the root causes of corrupt practices and injustice, the Mohtasib may arrange for studies to be made or research to be conducted and may recommend appropriate steps for the eradication"

Mal administration and bad governance is the order of the day. We are still looking for forensic reports on the eradication of mal practices and corruption. Besides the federal ombudsman there are ombudsmen in the provinces, The institutions are ubiquitous and yet as is said "water water everywhere but not a drop to drink". The first wrong which was done by military dictator was removing was to de list the ministry of defense and the cantonment boards rampant with mal administration and corruption from the preview of the federal ombudsman. As it noticed the main engagement of the ombudsman is in day to day complaints whereas the need is to change the system.

I had the opportunity of being an observer in the office of the ombudsman of Sweden as well as the ombudsman of Ontario. It is amazing to see how these institutions have been catalys in making their system humane. A two line letter from the ombudsman of Sweden to anyone including the army creates a chill, this does happen here.

In the United States there is lot of respect for the rule of law. They have addition to other forums the administrative law judges (ALJ) system created by Mr Roosveld. I have studied this system while at Columbia University, New York and find it a very useful model for Pakistan as it involves adjudicatory rather than recommendatory process as in the case of the Pakistani ombudsman. After initial hearings the grievance passes on from the ALJ to the federal district judge. And so the judicial power comes into the action in resolving the issue affectively. In our case references against the decision of the ombudsman are again reviewed at the office of the president and this causes delay and administrative interference in a judicial order. Having worked as a consultant to the president on administrative law, I had seen the process defeating the purpose.

The other institution for protection and promotion of the human rights came into being in 2015. It remained functional for four years. Myself being the first chairman the commission published 34 investigative reports, over 4000 complaints, and many legislative drafts introduced Pakistan as a civilized society internationally, helped the government in achieving the benefits of GSP+. It helped the vulnerable segments of the society, the transgender, the minorities; those subjected to violence, and enforced disappearances. It advocated respect for human rights and rule of law. This institution was made dysfunctional and according to the report of Daily Dawn dated (29th October, 2020 "The Govt deliberately keeping HR bodies dysfunctional: Senate Body") The National Commission for human rights Act 2012 protects the fundamental rights of the people and all rights granted by civil and political rights of the convention of the united nations 1966 and civil and economic rights of the people 1966. Besides, the fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution. So this law gave assurance for the rule of law and justice to the common man which is now being denied as such and this is unfortunate. The NCHR was created but purposely no rules were framed and budgetary problems were created so that the institution failed. Anyway because of the urge and passion of the civil society it succeeded which the institution faced but yet it succeeded. As the NCHR also performed judicial functions therefore the law enjoins that the chairman should be a person who is being a judge. Unfortunately this requirement is being sabotage. Even for the ombudsman to be independent of administration the requirement is of a judge trained judicially and not somebody chosen from bureaucracy whose complaints he has to hear. So we made a mess of the concept of governance and administration. Someone has to take corrective measures.

— Justice (r) Ali Nawaz Chowhan
is the Chairman of National Commission for Human Rights, Government of Pakistan.
Formerly: Chief Justice Of The Gambia.
International Judge Of The UN at The Hague.
Co-Chairman, UNESCO
Appeal Board-Paris, France.

The captain's call

Dr M Ali Hamza



The phenomenon of money laundering from the receiving end is unaddressed It will continue to intensify the inequality between the rich and the poor nations, and ultimately will spark off a far bigger global crisis than the present migration issue poses. The rich states cannot hold forth on human rights and justice when they provide sanctuary to money launderers

WHEN reporting to the Roman Senate on his extremely successful military campaign against Pharnaces II, king of Pontus in 47 BC, Julius Caesar summed up the campaign by stating *veni, vidi, vici*, which translates as, I came, I saw, I conquered. In a same fashion the Caesarish captain, Prime Minister Imran Khan: he appeared, he spoke and he conquered our hearts by his speech in 75th session of the UN general assembly (UNGA 75). The content of speech was not only of global importance but the sequence of issues was meticulously selected: suitable selection is a must in certain catastrophic conditions.

The renowned intellectual Noam Chomsky contends that western neoliberalism has a dark side that impoverishes poor and developing countries. Elite in these counties welcome the western neoliberal agenda even though the poor of their country suffers the most from the implementation of neoliberal economic policy, but a tiny community of money-grubbers is always found persistent to follow western agenda because such an agenda works for them: though fact they are just puppets and not amajor player in the game. PM Imran Khan has rightly pointed out once again the need to establish a stronger legislation and then enforcement systems by the western world to discourage reception of plundered money. In the pages of history: not long ago, colonialism looted the treasure forcefully from native cultures and now the same western propellers cultivated the local burglars who rob taxpayers money, transfer to western banks, then buy property and run businesses for western economy. Rightly mentioned by Mr. Khan "because they are the beneficiaries, there is a lack of political will in the rich countries to curb this criminal activity". Do these countries still have any moral grounds to draw and implement FATF policies and rules?

Money laundering is the illegal process of concealing the origins of money obtained illegally by passing it through a complex sequence of banking transfers or commercial transactions. The overall scheme of this process returns the "clean" money to the launderer in an obscure and indirect way. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates 800bn to 2tn US\$ amount of money laundered globally in one year: from poor to rich countries and never transfers back to poor countries rather injects into economic cycle of the western rich countries. The US NGO Global Financial Integrity reports that financial flow from poor countries to rich countries between 2001 to 2010 reached US\$ 5.8tn. Repatriation of stolen assets to their country of origin can provide developing countries with additional resources, offering a powerful deterrent as well as justice for the societies whose funds are repatriated. Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in her reports admits that the progress in OECD countries in repatriation has been slow. Why is that so? Are western rich developed humanitarian democracies are not willing to pay back what is not theirs?

In a battleship "the cruiser" two political leaders Roosevelt and Churchill drew up the Atlantic Charter. The charter speaks of fundamental aims of present UNO: to maintain international peace and security; to encourage international cooperation in the spheres of social, economic and cultural developments; to develop friendly relations among nations on principles of equal rights and self-determination; to recognize the fundamental rights of all people. In last 75 years the United Nations apparently kept trying fulfilling the objectives but such fabulous objectives have eroded systematically and now is time for us to reflect whether the United Nations have been able to realize the promise that was collectively made to the people

of the world. Prior to UNO, the League of Nations was the first intergovernmental organization that was established after World War 1 in order to try and maintain peace. Unfortunately, the League failed miserably in its intended goal to prevent another world war from happening rather WW2 broke out only two decades later. The idea was for the League of Nations to prevent wars through disarmament, collective security, and negotiation. Among several integral reasons that finally led to her demise, one was, when countries started to attack others in order to try and expand, the League did not have any power to stop them because there was no regulation or enforcement mechanism. Though UN remedied this flaw by having more institutional strength, but did UN learn to stay impartial as the league was partial to an extent that shedid not allow Germany and USSR to become its member. Has UN ever tried or will ever be able to force western countries to upgrade financial systems and improve legislations in pursuance of returning looted money back to the people it really belongs to and help poor countries to penalize such robbers? As sun shines to all without partiality, so is the role of UN. Partiality is an acid that corrodes the beneficent as well as beneficiary. The phenomenon of money laundering from the receiving end is unaddressed It will continue to intensify the inequality between the rich and the poor nations, and ultimately will spark off a far bigger global crisis than the present migration issue poses. The rich states cannot hold forth on human rights and justice when they provide sanctuary to money launderers' and their looted wealth. The call by Caesarish captain, Prime Minister Imran Khan to 75th session of UN General Assembly to take the lead in efforts to build a global framework to stem the illicit financial flows and ensure speedy repatriation of stolen wealth is, a litmus test for all rich and developed member countries of UNO.

Briefs

Kabul calls for end to occupation in Karabakh

DNA

KABUL: Afghanistan has joined growing international calls for an end to Armenian occupation in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement on Monday called for a cease-fire and urged the parties involved to resolve the long-standing crisis peacefully. Kabul expressed its concerns on the continuing clashes and regretted the human and material losses as a result. "The Nagorno-Karabakh region has been recognized internationally as a part of Azerbaijan. Afghanistan demands the end of occupation in Nagorno-Karabakh and supports the efforts by the people and government of Azerbaijan and other nations of the world in this regard," the statement read. Border clashes broke out early Sunday when Armenian forces targeted Azerbaijani civilian settlements and military positions, leading to casualties. Relations between the two former Soviet nations have been tense since 1991 when the Armenian military occupied Upper Karabakh, or Nagorno-Karabakh, an internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan. Four UN Security Council and two UN General Assembly resolutions demand the withdrawal of the occupying 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 upon in 1994.

EU supports medical workers of Uzbekistan

DNA

TASHKENT: The European Union has allocated more than 2 million euros to Uzbekistan to implement a project aimed at supporting effective and coordinated response measures to COVID-19. The project, which will be implemented by WHO Country Office, is primarily focused on providing personal protective equipment to medical workers who are in direct contact with patients in medical institutions. The project will help strengthen infection prevention by purchasing a sufficient number of high-quality personal protective equipment for medical workers in the country over the next two years.

Turkish, UK leaders discuss situation in Karabakh

DNA

ANKARA: A telephone conversation took place between President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Trend reports. During the telephone conversation, the parties discussed regional issues, including the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean region and tensions as a result of Armenia's attack on Azerbaijan. Speaking about the conflict as a result of Armenia's attack on Azerbaijan, Recep Tayyip Erdogan noted that Armenia should withdraw from the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent territories for peace and stability in the region.

Libyan delegations arrive in Morocco

RABAT: A Libyan delegation arrived in Morocco on Tuesday for the second round of the dialogue slated for Thursday, according to a Libyan official. A delegation of the Libyan Supreme Council of State arrived in the Moroccan city of Bouznika, in preparation for the second round of the Libyan dialogue, a council official told Anadolu Agency on condition of anonymity without disclosing further details. Meanwhile, local Libyan media reported the arrival of a delegation of the Tobruk-based House of Representatives, loyal to the renegade general Khalifa Haftar, to Morocco. The second round of Libyan dialogue in Morocco had been scheduled for Sunday but later postponed until Tuesday, before Libyan media outlets announced that it would take place on Thursday. - DNA

BIE trainers impart 2-day training to TDAP officials

TDAP's role is to promote trade in Pakistan and assist local businesses in accessing international markets. He said the exchange of ideas and experiences would immensely help the country and its traders and manufactures to learn from international best practices.

DNA

PARIS: The Bureau of International Exhibitions (BIE) started a two-day online interactive training of officials of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) covering all facets of BIE, preparing Pakistani officials to participate in the international expos including next year's Dubai Expo in the most useful way. In his opening remarks Mr. Dmitri S. Kerkentzes, Secretary General of the organization said BIE is an intergovernmental organization of 169 states which was created through a Convention relating to international exhibitions signed in Paris in November 1928. It arranges international expos and specialized expos all over the world. He informed that this is the first capacity building program that BIE has designed for its member states. It took more than a year in designing the course and Pakistan is the first country to benefit from the newly designed modules, he informed. Mr. Kerkentzes briefed the participants about BIE and outlined the theme of the training. He said that Expos are unique global events, which are among world's largest gatherings, bringing together governments, businesses, international organizations, civil society, and the general public. Addressing themes of global concern, Expos maintain a high profile and credibility among international events. Secretary TDAP Mr. Ahsan Ali Mangi said that TDAP's role is to promote trade in Pakistan and assist local businesses in accessing international markets. He said the exchange of ideas and experiences would immensely help the country and its traders and manufactures to learn from international best practices. Expressing his views in the inaugural session, Charge d'Affaires a.i. Mr. M.



Amjad Aziz Qazi thanked BIE for arranging this training. We have always participated in BIE activities and played an important role in its various initiatives, he said. Mr. Qazi said that with this training program a step has been taken towards cementing our already friendly ties and expressed the confidence that this will equip TDAP

and its officers for effective participation in international Expos and Specialized World Expos. It will also help them organize their own events in a more professional manner, he added. Pakistan has been an active member of BIE since becoming a member in 2007. Dr. Moin Wani, Commercial Counsellor of

Pakistan Embassy in France is currently chairing the Rules Committee, which is one of the four committees of BIE. Prior to that he was heading BIE's Information Committee. Initially the BIE team had planned to go to Pakistan for this training but due to Covid-19 restrictions, it is now being conducted

online, which has been divided into five segments relating to country branding, multilateral public diplomacy opportunities, participation procedure, developing a brand statement, impact evaluation of participation and Customs/Logistics, in addition to several others.

Overseas jobs dry up for Bangladeshis amid COVID-19

DHAKA: Bangladesh suffered a big blow as employment opportunities for the country's millions of foreign job aspirants came to a near halt so far this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of Bangladeshis heading overseas to work has plummeted by nearly 55 percent in the first eight months of this year as job opportunities have almost dried up in major job markets, according to a government official. Bangladesh Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam told journalists Monday that "181,273 Bangladeshis found jobs abroad in January-August this year, down from 406,962 during the same period in 2019."

He said some 141,036 workers have returned home to Bangladesh following the outbreaks of the pandemic in the major hosting countries in Middle East, Asia and elsewhere in the world. According to the official, about 10 million Bangladeshis have currently been living and working abroad, keeping inflows of remittances still unaffected. Bangladeshis remitted home 4.56 billion U.S. dollars in the first two months of the current 2020-21 fiscal year against 3.04 billion U.S. dollars in the same period of the previous fiscal year 2019-20 (July 2019-June 2020), central bank data showed recently. - APP

Landmine blast kills 14 in Afghanistan

DNA

KABUL: At least 14 people were killed in a landmine blast in Afghanistan's central Daikundi province, officials confirmed Tuesday. Nasrullah Ghorri, spokesman for the provincial governor, told Anadolu Agency the incident took place in the Kijran district when a minibus hit a roadside landmine. The dead included seven women and five children, the spokesman said, also reporting three injuries. Afghanistan's Interior Ministry issued a statement blaming the Taliban for planting the deadly improvised explosive device that caused the fatalities. The Taliban are yet to comment

on the incident. Violence flared up across Afghanistan since the landmark intra-Afghan talks began in the Qatari capital Doha on Sept. 12. According to the Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission, 19 civilians had been killed and 45 injured in 11 clashes breaking out between the warring parties since the intra-Afghan peace talks began on Sept. 12 until Sept. 19. This comes as President Ashraf Ghani, in his speech at the 75th UN General Assembly on Thursday, said the Afghan people have a clear and urgent priority - a cease-fire. "An urgent end to the violence will, more than anything else, give us a chance to progress," he said.

Nagif Hamzayev: it's time to say "Stop!" to the Armenian govt

DNA

BAKU: Today, the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan are the strongest army in the South Caucasus, equipped with modern military equipment. The Azerbaijani army, which dealt a strong blow to the enemy during the four days of the April 2016 battles, destroyed him and immediately prevented the Armenians from trying to violate our state border in July 2020, is always able to ensure the territorial integrity of our country. This was stated by the deputy Nagif Khamzaev. The MP noted that in the battles of April 2016, in July 2020, both the occupying government of Armenia and the international community saw what our glorious Army is capable of. The Armenian aggressor government, which did not abandon its aggressive nature, once again resorted to large-scale provocations to hide the

deplorable situation in the country, an incomplete government that plunged people into poverty from the world community, to confuse people with war. He fired intensively from artillery installations of various calibers, our brave soldiers, vigilantly guarding the Motherland, immediately responded to the Armenians. This provocation is not the first monstrous act committed by the Armenians. Since 1990, the Armenians have received

hundreds of civilians, violating the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. The latest provocation of the Armenian occupiers was already exhausting. The proper prevention of another military provocation by the occupying armed forces of Armenia, as well as the liberation of a number of occupied territories and strategic heights, once again confirmed that Azerbaijan is successfully moving in the right direction. As our President, Supreme

Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev said, who brought the principled position of our country to the attention of the international community from the highest tribune of the world, Azerbaijan will not accept the fact of occupation and our occupied lands will be liberated. Addressing the people on September 27, the head of state also categorically stated that Armenia is an aggressor state, and this occupation must and will end. We are on the right track. Our work is a matter of truth. We will win! Karabakh is ours, Karabakh is Azerbaijan! The success of our Armed Forces in inflicting heavy losses on the enemy gives us every reason to say that in a short time the occupying Armenia will be completely defeated both in the military and in the international arena. It's time to say "Stop!" The terrorist government of Armenia, which has occupied the ancient lands of Azerbaijan for many years.



Armenia's withdrawal only solution to Karabakh issue: Turkish FM

DNA

ANKARA: The Upper Karabakh dispute can only be solved with the withdrawal of Armenia from Azerbaijani territories, Turkey's top diplomat said on Tuesday. Speaking at the news conference in Ankara following his visit to Khazar Ibrahim, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Turkey, Mevlut Cavusoglu reiterated Turkey's full support to Azerbaijan. "We, as Turkey, always stand with brotherly Azerbaijani as they always side with Turkey," he said, adding that they are determined to solve the dispute completely. Referring to international organizations' decisions on the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, Cavusoglu criticized the parties including the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) over taking no concrete steps towards solving the problem. Border clashes broke out early Sunday when Armenian forces targeted Azerbaijani civilian settlements and military posi-

tions, leading to casualties. Azerbaijan's parliament declared a state of war in some of its cities and regions following Armenia's border violations and attacks in the occupied region. Azerbaijan declared partial military mobilization on the second day of the clashes. Relations between the two former Soviet nations have been tense since 1991, when the Armenian military occupied Upper Karabakh, or Nagorno-Karabakh, an internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan. Four

UN Security Council and two UN General Assembly resolutions, as well as many international organizations, demand the withdrawal of the occupying 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 upon in 1994. France, Russia and NATO, among others, have urged an immediate halt to clashes in the occupied region.

UN Security Council and two UN General Assembly resolutions, as well as many international organizations, demand the withdrawal of the occupying 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 upon in 1994. France, Russia and NATO, among others, have urged an immediate halt to clashes in the occupied region.



LONDON: Players trying to chase football in a premier league match between Arsenal and Liverpool. - DNA

Berlin airport to open after a 9-year delay

DNA

BERLIN: Berlin's new international airport can open next month after an embarrassing nine-year delay despite the coronavirus pandemic taking a big bite out of air travel, its chief manager said Tuesday. "On October 31, 2020, BER will open," the boss of the new facility, Engelbert Luetke-Daldrup, told reporters. "The German capital will finally have an airport that meets international standards." Terminal 1 of the airport located on the southern outskirts of Berlin will be inaugurated with departures by German flag carrier Lufthansa and British no-frills airline EasyJet. A few shops and a tourism office will also open their doors the first day, but other terminals will have to wait until next year to serve passengers, Luetke-Daldrup said, due to a drop in demand because of the Covid-19 outbreak. The current Schoenefeld airport located nearby will become Terminal 5. Social distancing measures, however, will put a damper on the planned celebrations. "There won't be a big party, just an opening," Luetke-Daldrup said. BER was set to open in 2011 but the date was repeatedly pushed back over a series of issues, including fire safety and corruption. In the meantime, the cost of the facility exploded to 6.5 billion euros (\$7.6 billion) from a 1.7-billion-euro budget initially. "The road to the opening wasn't easy," Luetke-Daldrup admitted, noting the "shame" felt by German engineers over a project that became a running joke among locals. After nearly a decade of repeated gaffes and scandals, he said, "there's no reason to boast".

Hong Kong hands over military dock to China

DNA

BEIJING: The local government in Hong Kong on Tuesday handed over the region's central military dock to China's People's Liberation Army (PLA). The development was termed as "historic" by Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam, Chinese media reported. Lam said the handover of the dock to the PLA "fully demonstrates the Hong Kong's relationship with the central authorities under 'one country, two systems' and carries important constitutional significance". The 15-meter military dock, located in the downtown area on the northern shore of the semi-autonomous region, will be now managed by the PLA's Hong Kong Garrison. Unnamed Chinese military experts told the Global Times that handing over the military dock will "help the PLA deal with terrorism-related activities and meet China's actual needs amid frequent foreign interference in Hong Kong affairs". The move comes after China imposed the national security act in Hong Kong this July triggering criticism by western nations who termed it as a move strengthening Beijing's grip over the region. Lam said since 1997 when Hong Kong was handed over to Beijing by the UK, the PLA Hong Kong Garrison has used and managed 18 military sites for defense purposes. Only the central military dock was held back "due to various challenges in reclamation works", she added. "The handover of the military dock means that the Hong Kong government has completely fulfilled its relevant responsibilities," said Lam.

Egypt: Hundreds of arrests in last 8 days

DNA

CAIRO: A series of demonstrations has been going on across Egypt in the past eight days following calls by activists and opposition members demanding the resignation of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. Those calling for protests include the self-exiled Egyptian businessman Mohamed Ali, based in Spain. The Arab Foundation for Civil Society Support (AFSS), a humanitarian organization that has been monitoring the protests, stated in a report that it recorded 164 protests in 14 out of 27 governorates between Sept. 20-27 in which hundreds, including children, were arrested. "The security forces have rounded up hundreds of demonstra-

tors, including 68 children who were later released, while at least 150 demonstrators were investigated by State Security Prosecutions on terrorism charges on September 21," the report said. The report added the protesters were charged with criminal offenses including "joining a terrorist group, broadcasting and disseminating rumors, false news and statements, and misuse of communication means, and funding and inciting people to protest." The Egyptian government has not yet commented on the arrests. On the other hand, local media outlets reported the arrest of several protesters accused of "possession of incendiary devices" with the intent to "cause riots or block roads." In its report, the AFSS attributed

the reasons for the outbreak of protests in Egypt to "the absence of participation in decision-making, the continuing nationalization of parties, trade unions, and civil society, limited political freedom, the domination of state agencies over parliament, and the continued imprisonment of thousands of prisoners of conscience, and deteriorating living standards." The AFSS called on the Egyptian authorities to "respect the right to peaceful protest, release all those arrested in the demonstrations, and stop the use of excessive force against opposition and demonstrators." The Egyptian authorities claim that the right to demonstrate is guaranteed to everyone, but that demonstrators must first obtain approval from the security authorities.

Briefs

UAE to launch spacecraft to moon in 2024

DNA

DUBAI: The prime minister and vice president of the United Arab Emirates has said his country plans to send an unmanned spacecraft to the moon in 2024. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who is also the ruler of Dubai emirate, made the announcement on Twitter on Tuesday. "It will be an Emirati-made lunar rover that will land on the surface of the moon in 2024 in areas that have not been explored previously by human missions," he wrote on Twitter. He said the rover would be named Rashid after his late father, Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum. If successful in 2024, the UAE could become the fourth nation to land a spacecraft on the moon after the United States, the former Soviet Union and China. India, Israel and Japan have tried but failed in landing a spacecraft on the moon. In his tweet, Sheikh Mohammed said participating in the moon exploration is "part of the UAE's space strategy" to build new knowledge capabilities and advance the country's "scientific, technical and research environment". The lunar rover will be built "100 percent" on the state's land and by Emirati engineers, he added.

Africa : Illicit money flows near \$89bn, UN study

DNA

GENEVA: Africa has lost nearly \$89bn a year in illicit financial flows such as tax evasion and theft, amounting to more than it receives in development aid, a United Nations study has shown. The estimate, in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) 248-page report, is its most comprehensive to date for Africa. It shows an increasing trend over time and is higher than most previous estimates.

The report released on Monday calls Africa a "net creditor to the world", echoing economists' observations that the aid-reliant continent is actually a net exporter of capital because of these trends.

"Illicit financial flows rob Africa and its people of their prospects, undermining transparency and accountability and eroding trust in African institutions," said UNCTAD Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi. Junior Davis, head of policy and research at UNCTAD's Africa division, told the Reuters news agency the figure was likely an underestimate, citing data limitations. Nearly half of the total annual figure of \$88.6bn is accounted for by the export of commodities such as gold, diamonds and platinum, the report said. For example, gold accounted for 77 percent of the total under-invoiced exports worth \$40bn in 2015, it showed.

Japan's NTT to take over country's biggest mobile carrier

TOKYO: Japan's biggest mobile carrier NTT Docomo will be taken over by its government-backed parent company in a \$40-billion tender offer, the firms said Tuesday, as telecoms competition heats up with 5G on the horizon. The move comes with Docomo and other Japanese telecoms firms under government pressure to cut the price of mobile phone services, and is expected to help the company boost investment in next-gen technology. "Today we decided to make Docomo a wholly owned company," Chief Executive Jun Sawada of Nippon Telegraph & Telephone (NTT) told reporters, promising the move would enhance the carrier's "competitiveness and growth". NTT, which currently holds 66 percent of NTT Docomo's shares, is proposing a price of 3,900 yen (\$37) per remaining share to buy out the whole subsidiary, it said. That represents a 40 percent premium on Monday's closing price and values the purchase at around 4.25 trillion yen - a record amount for a takeover bid in Japan, local. - APP

Targeted introduction of int'l standards to be undertaken

DNA

TASHKENT: On September 28, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a meeting on the effectiveness of reforms in the system of technical regulation, standardization, certification and metrology. To improve the quality and competitiveness of products, it is crucial to bring national standards in line with international requirements and implement them at enterprises. In recent years, 43 percent of standards in Uzbekistan have been raised to world standards, securing thus 12 thousand international standards. These efforts have helped enhance export opportunities. For instance, the European OEKO-Tex and Sedex standards for textile and knitted goods have been introduced at 21 enterprises. Thanks to this, the company Samo Textile in Andijan region has supplied \$5 million worth of

products to the European markets. Bukhara Cotton Textile has also exported \$5 million merchandise to the US, UK, Turkey and Germany. In addition, owing to the introduction of the renowned CE marking, confirming the safety of products, 17 types of household appliances, cables, medical devices reached eight European countries. As a continuation of these efforts, the modernization of 14 laboratories specializing in food, metallurgical and light industry products will be completed by the end of the year.

The meeting participants analyzed the effectiveness of all these efforts and discussed important tasks for the future. The Head of the state noted the importance of granting the Uzstandart Agency a status of a national body and targeted implementation of new standards at enterprises. "We should make sure that the national standard has its own 'weighty voice' in production matters", Shavkat Mirziyoyev insisted. The President urged the executives to bring the number of international standards implemented in the country to 14 thousand and the level of compliance with national standards to 50 percent by the end of next year. Responsible

importance of assisting enterprises introducing international standards and covering a part of related costs from the funds of the Export Promotion Agency. "A product will never be competitive unless it has an international standard. It is essential thus to



ministries and associations have been instructed to expand the application of OEKO-Tex standard in textile factories, CE marking in the electrical industry, along with Global G.A.P. and Organic systems in agriculture. Shavkat Mirziyoyev stressed the

importance of assisting enterprises introducing international standards and covering a part of related costs from the funds of the Export Promotion Agency. "A product will never be competitive unless it has an international standard. It is essential thus to

importance of assisting enterprises introducing international standards and covering a part of related costs from the funds of the Export Promotion Agency. "A product will never be competitive unless it has an international standard. It is essential thus to

India gang rape victim's death sparks outrage

DNA

NEW DELHI: A 19-year-old Dalit (formerly untouchable) woman has died after she was allegedly gang raped by four upper-caste men, sparking outrage in India. The woman was admitted to a hospital in Delhi two weeks ago with several serious injuries. The attack occurred on 14 September in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. Four men have been arrested. The news of her death has prompted many in India to take to social media and demand justice. Police told local media that the four men had dragged the victim to a field in Hathras district, where they allegedly raped her. She was grievously injured in the attack. The victim's brother confirmed her death to BBC Hindi, saying that no arrests had been made in the first 10 days after the incident took place. "She was left for dead. She fought for her life for 14 days," he said. The family told the Indian Express newspaper that the main accused in the crime had always harassed Dalits in their area. Opposition parties in the state have condemned the attack.

Thirty-four cleared of bank privatisation fraud

DNA

MADRID: The former head of Spain's Bankia bank, Rodrigo Rato, and 33 other defendants have been acquitted of defrauding investors and false accounting in the bank's stock listing in 2011. Bankia came to be a symbol of Spain's financial crisis when the scale of its losses became clear in 2012. Some 300,000 small investors lost out when their shares became worthless. But a court ruled on Tuesday that the share listing had been approved by "all necessary institutions". Prosecutors added the charge of false accounting in 2018, but the Spanish National Court said the Bank of Spain and National Securities Market Commission (CNMV) were among the institutions that had given the privatisation the green light. Rato, a former head of the International Monetary Fund, resigned as Bankia chairman shortly before its near-collapse in 2012. He was the man who rang the bell at the Madrid stock exchange in July 2011 to mark Bankia's listing. He was jailed in 2017 in a separate trial for misuse of company credit cards and is serving a four-and-a-half-year sentence for that offence. Although Bankia had reported an operating profit for 2011 in February 2012, an audit three months later revealed the true result was a 2.98bn loss. Bankia was bailed out and nationalised for a staggering 24bn (£21.5bn) in public money, leaving small investors with worthless investments.

Samsung tops global smartphone market in Aug

SEOUL: Samsung Electronics Co. was the world's top smartphone vendor in August, a report showed Tuesday, as it widens the gap with China's Huawei Technologies Co. amid the pandemic. The South Korean tech giant accounted for a 22 percent share of the global smartphone market last month, beating Huawei with a 16 percent share, according to industry tracker Counterpoint Research. The gap of 6 percentage points between the two sides is the largest since February, when China's smartphone market was severely hit by COVID-19 lockdowns, the market researcher said. Samsung lost its top smartphone vendor status to Huawei in April, but it recaptured the position later, following a recovery in the Indian smartphone market. Samsung has been expanding its presence in India, the world's second-largest smartphone market, helped by growing anti-China sentiment in the South Asian nation following a border clash between Beijing and New Delhi. U.S. tech juggernaut Apple Inc. took the third spot with a 12 percent share, followed by China's Xiaomi Corp. with an 11 percent share, according to Counterpoint Research. - APP

Sanjrani holds phone call with Azerbaijan's Milli Majlis Speaker



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the Milli Majlis Sahiba Qafarova and Speaker of the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mammad Sadiq Sanjrani had a telephone conversation,

press service of the Milli Majlis told media. The latest situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and military provocations committed by Armenia on the frontline were discussed during the telephone conversation.

'S. Korea's exports tipped to have rebounded'

SEOUL: South Korea's industry minister said Tuesday the country's exports are estimated to have rebounded in September, probably marking the first increase in outbound shipments since the outbreak of the coronavirus. "The country's exports are expected to post their first growth since the COVID-19 pandemic," Industry Minister Sung Yun-mo said during his visit to a local small and medium-sized company. "Exports are recovering at a relatively faster pace than other major nations." South Korea had extended its slump in exports to a sixth month in August, as a resurgence of the new coronavirus around the globe continued to strain business activities. The country had enjoyed a 4.5 percent rise in its outbound shipments in February, the first on-year rebound in 14 months. But the country's outbound shipments fell in March, and the pace further accelerated, plunging 25.5 percent in April and 23.6 percent in May, as major trade partners closed their borders and suspended business activities amid the pandemic. - APP

Germany calls on Armenia, Azerbaijan to end fighting

"The Chancellor has underlined the urgent need for an immediate cease-fire and return to the negotiation table," Steffen Seibert said, adding that Germany supports diplomatic efforts of OSCE Minsk Group

DNA

BERLIN: Germany on Tuesday called for an immediate cease-fire between Azerbaijan and Armenia, amid the heaviest clashes in years in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose country currently holds the rotating presidency of the European Union, spoke on the phone with presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia on the recently escalated conflict, and called for a peaceful solution, the government spokesman said on Twitter. "The Chancellor has underlined the urgent need for an immediate cease-fire and return to the negotiation table," Steffen Seibert said, adding that Germany supports diplomatic efforts of OSCE Minsk



Group. "The neighboring countries should contribute to a peaceful solution," he added. Relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia have been tense since 1991 when the Armenian military occupied the Upper Karabakh, or Nagorno-Karabakh region, an internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan. The conflict between the two former Soviet countries flared up on Sunday when Armenian forces targeted Azerbaijani civilian settlements and military positions. Heavy fighting was reported on the Armenian-Azerbaijani front-line throughout the night, according to the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry on early Tuesday. In a statement, the ministry said Armenian forces attempted to take back the positions they lost in the Fuzuli-Jabrail and Agdere-Terter border regions. However, retaliatory firing from the Azerbaijani troops "foiled their attempt."

Macron meets Belarus opposition leader Tikhanovskaya

DNA

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron, whose attempts to court Russia's Vladimir Putin have yielded scant returns, has intervened in the political crisis shaking Moscow's ally Belarus by meeting opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya. Ms Tikhanovskaya, who was forced into exile in Lithuania under pressure from autocratic Belarus leader Alexander Lukashenko, said in Vilnius after talks with Mr Macron - the most prominent world leader she has met - that he had promised to help negotiate the release of those jailed in Belarus. Belarus has been rocked by protests since Mr Lukashenko claimed victory over Ms Tikhanovskaya in a deeply flawed election last month, and then unleashed a brutal crackdown on his opponents. "[Mr Macron] said that time is very important since many people are suffering from the regime, many people find themselves in jail, and he will do everything to help free all political prisoners," Ms Tikhanovskaya told reporters after the 35-minute meeting. Mr Macron, who had vainly

sought Mr Putin's help in resolving crises from the Middle East to Ukraine, has condemned the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny with the nerve agent novichok. A senior French official said the use of chemical weapons in such an assassination attempt was crossing "a red line". The French president has also thrown his weight behind attempts by the Baltic states - once part of the Soviet Union - to counter Russian cyber attacks and disinformation campaigns. Mr Macron is visiting Lithuania and Latvia and issued a joint statement with the two countries' leaders on Monday in support of measures to defend democracies from interference in election results, disinformation and attempts to bypass controls on the funding of political parties. The meeting between Mr Macron and Ms Tikhanovskaya comes two days after tens of thousands of people took to the streets of Belarus, another former Soviet state, in the latest in a string of protests demanding Mr Lukashenko's resignation. The demonstrations are the largest in Belarus's independent history.



Dambovita: Ambassador Dr Zafar Iqbal during the meeting with Mr. Valetin Calan, President of Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dambovita. They discuss on strengthening bilateral cooperation in trade and investment areas between Pakistan and Romania. - DNA

Potato a silver lining for Pakistan's food insecurity in post-COVID era

Among the total area of potato cultivation, Punjab's share accounts for up to above 90 percent. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa took the second rank with around 5 percent. Remaining share is produced by Baluchistan and Sindh

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Potato a silver lining for Pakistan's food insecurity in post-COVID-19 era, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. To gain bumper harvest, one key secret is good timing, said a spokesman of the Agriculture (Extension) Department. Farmers have been advised to start cultivating potatoes immediately and com-

plete it by mid-October to get bumper yield. Its cultivation and yield are extremely important for Pakistan as the country faces the difficulties combined by novel coronavirus, locust attacks and flood damage. Potatoes, as the fourth most important crop by volume of production, will play a crucial role in combating food insecurity in the post-COVID-19 era. Their cultivation areas have been increasing. It



stood at 3000 hectares in 1946 (independence time). In FY2019-2020, the total area of pota-

to cultivation reached 440,000 acres and the total production remained 4,381,470 tons,

according to the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR). Among the total area of potato cultivation, Punjab's share accounts for up to above 90 percent. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa took the second rank with around 5 percent. Remaining share is produced by Baluchistan and Sindh. "Almost 37% of Pakistan's population is food insecure, even though Pakistan is

self-sufficient in major staples, and the main problem is access and affordability of food," said Shaikh Sultan Rehman, Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI). The Crop Protection Association of Pakistan Chairman Jamshed Iqbal Cheema called for changing eating habits towards those crops that had a high potential like potato, maize, cow milk.

Briefs

Primary schools to reopen today

FIJAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: The government on Tuesday allowed the primary schools to resume classes from September 30 after reviewing the COVID-19 situation in the country. Federal Minister for Education Shafiqat Mahmood, after attending a meeting at the National Command Operation Centre (NCOC), said the decision to reopen schools has been taken with consensus. "We took the decision after we saw 0.8% positive rate after reopening educational institutes in the country," the minister said, adding that the authorities will continue to monitor the situation and any carelessness in the implementation of the COVID-19 SOPs will be dealt with sternly. The federal education minister assured the parents that the government took the step after meticulous research and inspection. Shafiqat Mahmood further said that it was the collective effort of parents, administrators and teachers that allowed the government to take the decision. Stressing upon the need to adhere to the SOPs, the minister said that young children cannot take care of themselves properly so wearing of face mask and density of the students in the classroom should be maintained.

Fishermen get donation from Chinese Consulate

DNA

GWADAR: Gwadar fishermen have been gifted small engines, fishing nets, special incubators, marine life-saving kits, and other livelihood materials from the Chinese Consulate in Karachi at a donation ceremony held here. Officials of the Consulate General, President of Gwadar Fisheries Association, and representatives of fishermen attended the ceremony. Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. With the trust of the Consul General Li Bijian, Chairman of China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) Zhang Baozhong presented at the event and conveyed the consulate's cordial greetings to the fishermen. He thanked the community for their consistent support to the development of Gwadar Port, adding that COPHC, along with other Chinese enterprises in Gwadar, is more than willing to fulfill its social responsibilities and makes greater contributions to the well-being of people in Gwadar. Khuda Dad Wajo, Chairman of Gwadar Fisheries Association expressed gratitude to the consulate. He noted that an efficient distribution of the supplies to the fishermen in need would be a top priority to revive production and, alleviate the burden of fishermen suffered from the Covid-19 epidemic.

Over 27,000 Pakistanis reach Saudia via PIA

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: More than 27,000 Pakistanis, working in Saudi Arabia have reached back the Kingdom via Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). According to the data released by the Pakistan International Airlines district manager, 27,500 passengers reached Saudi Arabia via 91 flights operated by the national flag carrier, PIA from September 15 to 28. The majority of the passengers' work permit was ending on September 30. The Pakistan International Airlines district manager further said that they have received complaints regarding selling tickets at the exorbitant rates. Meanwhile, the passengers said that they faced problems in getting tickets to fly to Saudi Arabia due to inflated prices.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaisar in a group photo with Ambassadors and members of ICCI during a dinner hosted by Malik Sohail Hussain for the outgoing President of ICCI Muhammad Ahmed and incoming President Sardar Yasir Ilyas. (Related news on Page 4). - DNA

'Pakistan to take tide of spurring digital economy under BRI'

In 2018, Pakistan has more than 300,000 English-speaking professionals with expertise in emerging IT products and technologies, and over 20,000 IT graduates and engineers every year

DNA

BEIJING: Countries with a large population and young netizens, like Pakistan, will usher in an era of inclusive development if seizing the new trend of the digital economy under the Belt and Road Initiative. This was stated by Long Yongtu, former Vice Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) said at a parallel session of the CIFTIS held here, Gwadar Pro reported. "The growing intensity of international trade and the Covid-19 epidemic has cast a shadow on the world economy, but they have also fed the development of digital trade, facilitating the expansion of the digital economy in the countries and regions involved in the BRI," Long noted. Statistics show that Pakistan

has about 60% of its 200 million population in the 15 to 29 age group. In 2018, Pakistan has more than 300,000 English-speaking professionals with expertise in emerging IT products and technologies, and over 20,000 IT graduates and engineers every year. Besides, Pakistan has a thriving freelance industry. Globally it is ranked 3rd in terms of the number of freelancers engaged in software development and technology. However, of the total graduates, just under a thousand graduates are from Tier 1 universities, and of these, around half meet the skills required for specialized input needed by the industry. A large number of freelancers also indicate the industry's failure to absorb a large number of graduates and provide them with gainful employment, a re-



中国(北京)国际服务贸易交易会
CHINA BEIJING INTERNATIONAL FAIR FOR TRADE IN SERVICES

search done by Zara Salman and Hina Shaikh revealed. Apart from the scarcity of top talents, a report issued by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) notes that the IT sector in Pakistan lacks sustainability in its business model despite its continuous growth in the last two decades. IT investments from Chinese companies are also shoring up the government's efforts on digitalization, as has been showcased by several latest cooper-

ation programs between Pakistan and China. For example, China Mobile Pakistan (CMPak) has deployed a state-of-the-art Energy Efficient Digital Management Platform to set a new benchmark for energy efficiency innovation and prepare its network for future technologies, including 5G. Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), in collaboration with Huawei, has deployed the first 10-Gigabit-capable Symmetric Passive Optical Access Network (XGS-PON) in Pakistan. XGS-PON can provide symmetric bandwidth of 10Gbps downlink and 10Gbps uplink speeds to a single customer, which is more than five times the speed provided by 5G technology. On top of efforts by Chinese enterprises, cooperation on the G2G level is gaining momen-

tum. Recently, the IT and Telecommunication Division is set to sign a strategic cooperation framework with the Chinese IT ministry for the promotion and advancement of information and communication technology (ICT). Under the agreement, human capital development, research, and innovation will be given high priority. Not only Pakistan, but other BRI countries are also stepping up efforts to develop the digital economy. Figures show that China's total trade with BRI countries has exceeded 27% of global trade, creating a digital economy dividend for 63% of the world's population. The development of digital trade has enabled BRI countries to boost their economy and establish closer relations with China.



ISLAMABAD: Fahad Iqbal was appointed on 28 September 2020, Honorary Consul of Italy in Lahore. On the same occasion, Ambassador Andreas Ferrarese awarded him with the Knighthood for special merits for the Italian Republic. - DNA

Shahbaz on 14-day physical remand

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: An accountability court on Tuesday granted the NAB its request for a 14-day physical remand of PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif in an assets beyond means and money-laundering case. Shahbaz denied any wrongdoing and argued his case himself in the court. Following the arguments, Judge Jawad-ul-Hasan accepted NAB's request and ordered for Shahbaz to be presented in the court again on October 13. Earlier, the opposition leader in the National Assembly, who spoke to the media after arriving at the court, said that his party will fight the "NAB-Niazi nexus". "NAB-Niazi nexus has failed, we will fight it," said Shahbaz.

NAB to summon Moulana Fazl for inquiry

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The chief of Jamiat-e-Ulema e Islam (Fazl) (JUL-F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman would be summoned to appear in National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to narrate his side of the story about alleged corruption charges against him in assets beyond means inquiry case as required by law, said a NAB spokesman. Clarifying some media reports about Maulana Fazlur Rehman's case, the spokesman said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa bureau was continuing inquiry against Maulana Fazlur Rehman right now. Earlier, NAB had asked JUL-F chief to appear before additional director of NAB Peshawar on October 1 to answer allegations that he owned assets beyond known sources of income.

Afghan peace imperative for region: Moeed

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on National Security Dr Moeed Yusuf on Tuesday said that peace and security in Afghanistan was imperative for entire region. Pakistan was a facilitator in peace process and fully optimistic for the success of inter-Afghan dialogue process, he stated in an interview with a private television channel program. About the withdrawal of allied forces from Afghanistan, he said there must be peace and security in Afghan region before withdrawal of the allied forces. Voicing serious concerns of Pakistan, he said Afghan soil should not be used any provocative activities against the neighboring country. - APP

'Repay stolen money or go to face law'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain Tuesday asked the opposition parties to repay the stolen money or face the law. In a tweet, the minister criticized the statements of the opposition parties who were threatening that they would do this or that. He said no one had responded to the allegations made in the case of Shahbaz Sharif. They are only emphasizing on threats. "Repay the stolen money or face law. Choice is yours", he said. - APP

China denies to recognize Laddakh UT

BEIJING: China on Tuesday said that it did not recognize the Union Territory of Laddakh, illegally established by India and was opposed to conducting infrastructure development for military purposes in the border areas. "China has not recognized Union Territory of Ladakh, illegally set up by the Indian side. We are opposed to conducting infrastructure development for military purposes in the border area," Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing in response to construction of roads by Indian authorities along the border. He said that based on the two sides consensus, no side should engage in the border areas in any activities. - APP

Tahir Ashrafi appointed SRPM

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday appointed renowned religious scholar Maulana Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi as his Special Representative on Religious Harmony. According to a notification issued by the Prime Minister's Office, Maulana Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has been appointed as special representative to the PM on religious harmony with immediate effect and his appointment shall be in honorary capacity.

Construction to achieve green development

Despite the severe impact on domestic and foreign logistics in the midst of COVID-19 outbreak, POWERCHINA has gone all out to safeguard the delivery of equipment and material, anti-epidemic products in particular, and ensure the operation of construction without shutdown

DNA

BEIJING: With the construction of industrial parks under CPEC and the advancement of infrastructure in Pakistan, it is believed that the supply chain of infrastructure projects in Pakistan will be improved in the future. This was stated by Wang Yantao, Executive Vice President of POWERCHINA International Group Limited, in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN). Taking advantage of its leading position in the field of electric power, POWERCHINA actively carries out infrastructure construction in Pakistan, such as Qasim coal-fired

power plant, Dawood wind power project, Tarbela 4th extension hydropower project and Haveli gas power plant. Despite the severe impact on domestic and foreign logistics in the midst of COVID-19 outbreak, POWERCHINA has gone all out to safeguard the delivery of equipment and material, anti-epidemic products in particular, and ensure the operation of construction without shutdown. "POWERCHINA has provided nearly 10,000 jobs in Pakistan. Instead of dismissing any employees during the epidemic, it provided centralized working and living environment to protect them from coronavirus infection." Wang noted.

With both Chinese and Pakistani staff sticking to their posts amid COVID-19 pandemic, the Qasim coal-fired power station saw an increase in its electric energy production this year, in accordance with Pakistani government's requirement for power dispatch. "It generated 6000GWh of electricity in the first eight months of this year alone, reaching a record high," Wang said. As Pakistan has a large demographic dividend, its complete education system and vocational skills training system have cultivated engineers and technicians with qualified skills, as well as financial management personnel, said Wang, citing POWERCHI-

NA-invested Dawood Power Generation Company, which hires only one Chinese employee, while the rest is locally recruited. Wang added that while Pakistan boasts rich building materials of superior quality, such as cement, sand and wood, there's a lot of room to push forward the industrialization by establishing its own industrial system to save foreign exchange and increase added value. In the field of project contracting and infrastructure construction, Pakistani companies have made rapid progress through working side by side with Chinese enterprises on some large projects. "While Pakistani project contracting enterprises have advantages

in human resources, project management needs to be strengthened through cultivating talents with comprehensive quality and more effective integration with international resources." Wang commented. In the future, POWERCHINA is set to deepen its win-win cooperation with Pakistani side, especially in area of people's livelihood, such as water and housing construction. "With the support of Chinese and Pakistani government, we hope to actively participate in the construction of ML-1 railway project to drive Pakistan's capacity building, setting up a milestone to China-Pakistan friendship." Wang said.