



Islamabad POST

Monday, September 07, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Armed forces fully equipped, ready to respond: COAS

Govt believes in freedom of expression: Shibli

EU envoy lauds Pakistan's steady COVID-19 response

Briefs

We will secure funds from centre: Bilawal



ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday assured the citizens of Karachi that no one will be rendered homeless as work is carried out to remove encroachments on nullahs (storm water drains).

"We will clear the nullah encroachments but with fairness. No one's homes will be destroyed. If a house must be demolished, people will be provided an alternate first," Bilawal said, while addressing party workers in Karachi's Nazimabad area. The PPP leader said that it was "after 100 years" that the country had received such calamitous rains. He said that the party would now begin work in earnest on the development of the city as the "reign of terror" in the province is effectively over. He acknowledged that the Green Line bus project had adversely affected the city's drainage system.

"I need you all to extend the kind of support you did to Benazir," he said, speaking of his late mother.

Decision regarding educational institutions today

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An important Inter-Provincial Education Ministers Conference (IPEMC) scheduled to meet today will take decision about the re-opening of educational institutions in the country that were closed due to coronavirus pandemic. Federal Minister for Education and Vocational Training Shafiqat Mahmood, will chair the high-level meeting on the issue of re-opening schools under Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Provincial education ministers and other senior officials will attend the conference. The meeting will take decision on the opening of educational institutions in the country.

Peace desire is not our weakness: PM

PM Imran says the resilient nation and the battle-hardened armed forces of Pakistan had the time and again proved that they were fully capable of defending the country

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's peace desire must not be mistaken for weakness rather as it is to foster economic well-being and prosperity of the people in the region, said Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday.

"We need to work together for peace and securing a brighter future for our coming generations," the

premier said in his message to the nation on Defence Day of Pakistan annually observed on September 6.

He said the resilient nation and the battle-hardened armed forces of Pakistan had the time and again proved that they were fully capable of defending the country and were fully prepared to meet any kind of eventuality.

Noting that September 6 was a day in Pakistan's glo-

rious history that was commemorated as a symbol of courage, strong will, and unmatched spirit of sacrifice by its gallant armed forces, the prime minister said together with the brave nation, Pakistan's officers, soldiers, sailors, and airmen proved to the world 55 years ago on this day, that they were ever ready to defend every inch of the motherland whatever the cost.

CJCSC meets Chinese minister in Moscow



DNA

MOSCOW: General Naadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, who is on a two days official visit to Moscow, held a meeting with General Wei Fenghe, China's Minister

of National Defense, on the side lines of Defence and Security Cooperation Conference at SCO Forum.

Matters related to changing geostrategic environment and further strengthening of security and defence cooperation between the two coun-

tries were discussed during the meeting. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to 'Iron Brotherhood' and 'All-Weather' friendship with continued efforts to forge deeper strategic ties for a shared future and security vision.

FO summons senior Indian diplomat

This year, India has committed 2158 ceasefire violations to date, resulting in 17 shahadats and serious injuries to 168 innocent civilians

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: A senior Indian diplomat was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today to register Pakistan's strong protest over ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC) on 5th September 2020, resulting in serious injuries to one innocent civilian.

Due to indiscriminate and unprovoked firing by the Indian occupation forces in Rakkhchikri Sector of the LoC, 19 year old Muhammad Tariq s/o Ghulam Hussain, resident of Village Kirni, sustained serious injuries.

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 committed 2158 ceasefire violations to date, resulting in 17 shahadats and serious injuries to 168 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 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.



RAWALPINDI: A RAWALPINDI, Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa conferred military awards during an investiture ceremony held at GHQ. - DNA

President lauds Karachi package

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi says a good package of worth eleven hundred billion rupees for Karachi and further discussion on needs of rest of Sindh is a welcome response.

In a tweet on Sunday, he said rains have devastated Karachi, the biggest tax payer of the country. He said reviving its economy rests on its infrastructure, water supply, rain drains and sewage.

He said Pakistan Peoples Party and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf cooperation in earnest can do wonders to lift his city out of misery.

Investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An investiture ceremony was held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad on Sunday where President Dr Arif Alvi conferred upon military awards to the officers and soldiers of the Armed Forces in recognition of their meritorious services to the nation.

Wing commander Muhammad Noman Ali Khan was awarded Sitata-i-Jur'at, for demonstrating valour in defence of mother land by shooting down an Indian aircraft when enemy's war planes violated Pakistan's airspace after the Pulwama incident.

Wing Commander Hassan Mahmood Siddiqui was conferred upon Tamgha-i-Jur'at for shooting down another plane of the enemy in February last year. It may be added that Pakistan Air Force had evolved the Operation Swift Retort after to combat enemy's designs in the wake of situation emerged after Pulwama incident.

Armed forces ready to respond: COAS

Gen Bajwa said that Pakistan seeks peace in the region, adding that the country's key efforts in Afghanistan were a testament to the fact

ABID RAZA

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa in his speech on Defence day warned the nation of the perils of fifth-generation or hybrid warfare saying that its aim is to "discredit the country and the armed forces, and to spread chaos".

"On this occasion, I would like to divert your attention to another challenge. This challenge has been imposed on us through the fifth generation or hybrid war," said the army chief, while addressing an investiture ceremony held at the army's General Headquarters in Rawalpindi.

The army chief vowed that the army would fight against the threat with the support of the nation and be successful against it. While addressing the ceremony, Gen Bajwa said that Pakistan seeks

Nation, Armed forces mark Defence Day

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The entire nation along with Armed Forces observed the Defence and Martyrs' Day to pay tribute to the martyrs & ghazis and reaffirm commitment to defend the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Pakistan, at all cost.

The day dawned with 31-gun salute at the Federal Capital and 21-gun salute at provincial capitals. Wreath Laying cere-

monies were held at Shahuada monument at GHQ & at the graves & monuments of recipients of the Nishan-e-Haider, the country's highest gallantry award. A large number of people belonging to various walks of life attended the ceremonies to pay homage to the brave sons of soil who demonstrated indomitable courage and valour in defence of the motherland. Investiture ceremony was held at GHQ Rawalpindi on Sunday.

peace in the region, adding that the country's key efforts in Afghanistan were a testament to the fact. He warned that neighbouring India - like always - has adopted an "irresponsible attitude". He added that New

Delhi took the "illegal step" of ending the special status of occupied Kashmir. "India has once again threatened peace in the region," said the army chief, adding that it was a fact that Kashmir was an internationally accepted dispute.

Govt believes in freedom of expression: Shibli

FIAZ CH.

ISLAMABAD: Condemning yesterday's murder of a social activist and journalist in Turbat, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz on Sunday said that the government "strongly believes in freedom of expression". Talking to Twitter, the information minister said the tragic killing of journalist Sha-

Army chief calls on President

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa Sunday called on President Dr Arif Alvi here at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

During the meeting, they discussed the matters of mutual interest.

Earlier, Chief of Army Staff addressed a ceremony at GHQ where medals were conferred to the families of martyrs, while the President presented military awards at a ceremony at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. - APP

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Reaching out to the Central Asian states - Part I

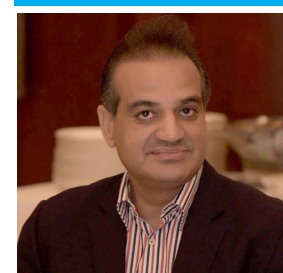
Being located at a strategic location, Central Asia provides perhaps best connectivity opportunities not only with various Central Asian states but with Russia also. Pakistan during the previous regime of Nawaz Sharif did try to reach out to these states by signing agreements especially in energy field

Central Asia stretches from the Caspian Sea in the west to China in the east and from Afghanistan in the south to Russia in the north. The region consists of the former Soviet republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Central Asia has a population of about 105 million, consisting of five republics: Kazakhstan (18 million), Kyrgyzstan (6 million), Tajikistan (9 million), Turkmenistan (6 million), and Uzbekistan (31 million). Afghanistan (35 million), which is a part of South Asia, is also sometimes included in Central Asia. Being located at a strategic location, Central Asia provides perhaps best connectivity

opportunities not only with various Central Asian states but with Russia also. Pakistan during the previous regime of Nawaz Sharif did try to reach out to these states by signing agreements especially in energy field. Prominent among these projects are TAPI and Central Asia South Asia (CASA) 1000 project with Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan. TAPI project may face some hurdles in the way of its execution and implantation as it includes India also. While all other participating states are willing to exclude India for they know it very well that as long as India is part of TAPI it may never see light of the day, however Turkmenistan and Afghanistan are bent upon Indian participation.

CASA 1000 project is already in final stages and it plans to fetch electricity from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to Pakistan via Afghanistan. Once completed, Pakistan will get 1000 MW electricity while Afghanistan's share shall be 300 MW. Former Ambassador of Tajikistan Sherali Jononov who had worked wholeheartedly to get this project done, was optimistic that Pakistan will be able to overcome its energy needs after completion of the project. Recently, the consortium responsible for executing the project signed a \$ 330 million deal with Swedish and Spanish companies for laying of transmission lines. This is indeed a major development towards timely completion of the pro-

COMMENT



ANSAR M BHATTI

ject. Apart from cooperation in power sector, these countries, like Pakistan, are gifted with rich cultural heritage therefore this can be another sphere where Pakistan can have deeper cooperation with Central Asia states.

Uzbekistan, being the largest of all the Central Asian states, offers huge business and cultural opportunities. Uzbekistan's agriculture sector is one of the most developed sectors not only in the region but in the world also. Pakistan can surely benefit from Uzbek expertise in the field of cotton given the fact that Uzbekistan is a huge producer of quality cotton. With Uzbek technology Pakistan can surely double its cotton production with half of the cost it is incurring at the moment. Pakistan and Uzbekistan trade volume has increased from 35 million USD to 85 million USD per year, which speaks volumes for the great work done by former Ambassador of Uzbekistan Furqat Sidiqov, who recently

left Pakistan to join Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the Deputy Foreign Minister. Ambassador Furqat had contributed greatly towards promotion and strengthening of bilateral relations. During his time both Pakistan and Uzbekistan came even closer. He in fact had set basis for a deeper bilateral cooperation. Uzbek air has already started its direct flights from Pakistan, thus providing travelers, especially the business community, easy access to Uzbek markets and rest of the Central Asian states. Pakistan, following the footsteps of Uzbek government, should also encourage the national flag carrier and even private airlines to start flights to Tashkent and Central Asian destinations with a view to improving connectivity

and easy movement of peoples. It will certainly spur the business and tourism activity as well. Ostensibly, Central Asian states are keen to expand and strengthen relations with Pakistan therefore the Pakistani side too needs to respond in same manner. Islamabad should always welcome any business and tourism promotion proposals from these states. To send a loud and clear signal to these states that Islamabad is keen to have serious truck with them, Pakistan leadership should propose a summit level engagement with them as soon as possible. India holds annual summit meetings with Central Asian states, on regular basis. (To be continued)

Briefs

Pakistan records lowest daily death toll

KARACHI: Pakistan recorded just two deaths from the coronavirus Sunday, the lowest single-day fatality number since the surge of the pandemic in May, according to health officials. The number of deaths stand at 6,342, with the additional fatalities. Another 484 infections were reported, bringing that tally to 298,513. More than 90% of all patients, or 285,898, have recovered, but 535 are in critical condition. Pakistan's infection rate has significantly dropped in recent weeks, compared to an average of 5,000 daily cases in May and June. The highest number of single-day cases was nearly 7,000 last month. The government is currently following a "mini smart lockdown" strategy. Instead of closing entire streets or shopping centers, only houses or workplaces where infections are reported will be sealed. The country has conducted more than 2.7 million tests, according to statistics. — APP

Change of guards at Allama Iqbal mausoleum

DNA

LAHORE: In a prestigious change of guards ceremony at the mausoleum of Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal early morning in connection with the Defence Day on Sunday a smartly turned out contingent of the Punjab Rangers assumed ceremonial guard duties with traditional spirit cum zeal. Director General Rangers, Amir Majeed was chief guest on the occasion. Marching to the inspiring tunes of the band Punjab Rangers took positions at four corners of the Mazar e Iqbal situated in Hazuri Bagh, in the proximity of Badshahi mosque. DG Rangers Amir Majeed laid floral wreath at the grave of national poet, Muffakir-e-Pakistan, Dr Iqbal whose motivational, thought provoking poetry and writings enlightened the Muslims of the subcontinent. DG Rangers offered Fateha at the grave of Allama Iqbal and recorded his views in the visitor's book. A good number of citizens also witnessed the graceful ceremony.

'Collaboration among all forest departments inevitable'

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul Wazir has said that collaboration and cooperation among all provincial forest and wildlife departments inevitable to restore Pakistan's degraded ecosystems. According to Ministry of Climate Change, she said "Community engagement, Civic participation and public awareness are our three-pronged approach towards restoring the wildlife sector of Pakistan under Ten Billion Tree Tsunami programme." "A delicate balance in natural system among all living things has been treacherously thrown off by humans, which must be restored through a global action in or to sustain healthy ecosystem" she added. — APP

Labour Deptt launches operation

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Labour Department has launched an operation against those flouting Minimum Wage Act and taking action in accordance with the law against the rules violators. According to Director Labour Department, Rawalpindi Division Fazal Hussain, the department has issued 115 challans to shopkeepers, hotels, factory owners and others for violating the Minimum Wage Act. Fazal Hussain informed that the challans have been submitted to the local Civil Court. The crackdown against violators of minimum wage rules was launched on the directives of Secretary Labour and Human Resources, Punjab, Muhammad Amir Jan and Director General Labour Welfare, Faisal Nisar Chaudhry. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Leaders of Founder Group met in Islamabad to finalize candidates for the upcoming elections of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. — DNA

Asad warns against distorting facts

He said that one factor that is central to Karachi's progress is that everyone "keep politics aside and work together on one platform with serving the people in mind"

DNA

KARACHI: Planning minister Asad Umar on Sunday warned against people distorting facts surrounding the Rs1,100bn transformation plan for Karachi announced a day earlier and insisted there was no politics involved in the government's decision to invest in the metropolis. He said that these

projects are those that were devised a long time ago but could not be taken forward because of a lack of funds or more so, because decision making authority was distributed across the local, Sindh and federal governments. "So decision making is withheld, there are impediments to work and Karachi remains deprived of its rights," Umar said, presenting an account of what things had been like



prior to the plan's announcement. He said that one factor that is central to Karachi's progress is that everyone "keep politics aside and work together on one platform with serving the people in mind"

chi's progress is that everyone "keep politics aside and work together on one platform with serving the people in mind". He said that in meetings held with Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah, the same was discussed and he was in complete agreement with the view. Umar said that during a meeting on Friday to discuss the implementation of the plan, there was

agreement on most of the projects with regard to who will execute them — save a project or two. "Due to that slight disagreement, a debate ensued over whether the federal government is spending more on the plan or the Sindh government," the minister said, adding that since it was unresolved, it was decided that details of who will do what will not yet be revealed in Saturday's presentation.

New cases of Dengue reported in Punjab

DNA

LAHORE: A new confirmed case of dengue virus was reported in the province during the last 24 hours and the patient belong to Toba Tek Singh district. Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department here on Sunday, 559 suspected cases of dengue virus were reported in the province during the last 24 hours. The suspected patients have been kept in surveillance and their tests are being conducted. So far, 54 cases of dengue were registered from January this year in the province, however, 52 cases have been discharged after recovery and currently 2 patients of Dengue virus are under treatment. No death due to dengue have been reported this year due to effective measures taken by the government. The Punjab government was continuously working against dengue across the province and the anti-dengue staff recovered dengue larvae from 10,690 places during the last seven days. The P&SHD urged the people to adopt precautionary measures and keep their environment clean and dry to protect themselves from dengue.

'IIOJK people facing severe health crisis'

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: AJK President Sardar Masood Khan urged medical fraternity, particularly the physicians of Pakistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir, to voice their concerns over the worst health crisis in Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), on Sunday. The people of IIOJK are facing the worst health crisis of their history, as Indian occupation forces use pellet guns as a means to control the crowd, maiming, blinding and injuring them in the process, he asserted. The AJK President's appeal came during a speech made at a gathering

of over 500 doctors and senior health consultants from all the four provinces of Pakistan at an annual mid-summer meet. Organized by the Pakistan Society of Internal Medicine (PSIM), the event was also addressed by President of PSIM, Prof Javed Akram, Senior Vice President Prof Aziz Rehman, Dr Somia Iqtadar, Prof Bikha Ram Devrajani and others. The AJK president said that the people of IIOJK were not only suffering from grievous eye injuries but have been denied access to communication, as well as all primary, secondary or tertiary healthcare hospitals amidst the year-long lockdown. The occupied territory lacks health-

care staff, drugs, surgical material and the equipment needed for healthcare, he said. Masood cited a report published by the Wall Street Journal that had suggested that hospitals in IIOJK have become graveyards because of a humanitarian crisis, and the region was faced with a health emergency situation. Citing another report released by Doctors Sans Frontier (MSF) compiled in collaboration with the University of Kashmir, Sardar Masood Khan said that some sort of mental distress, anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) prevails among nearly 1.8 million Kashmiri adults — 45 per cent of the region's adult population.

"Children seeing killings, physical torture, sexual abuses and destroyed properties before them are particularly suffering from PTSD," he added. The AJK president also expressed his deep gratitude for the University of Health Sciences (UHS) for granting affiliation to the medical colleges of the liberated territory. He maintained that this would help AJK improve the quality of medical education being imparted to the students in the state. Referring to the outbreak of coronavirus, the state president said that Pakistan and Azad Kashmir had risen to the occasion and responded to the catastrophe with courage and resilience.

Dr. Sania reviews Ehsaas operations in Neelam Valley

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Sania Nishtar visited the Jura sector near the Line of Control in Neelum Valley to review arrangements for Ehsaas Cash disbursement to all families residing in villages around the Line of Control (LoC). Dr. Nishtar also oversaw digital disbursement of Rs 12,000 Ehsaas Cash handouts to vulnerable families living along the LoC in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), said a news release issued here. Dr. Nishtar interacted with women who came at the Jura Bazar site to collect cash grants. Under Ehsaas, the government is disbursing some Rs. three billion among all the



families residing in 219 villages across the LoC. "All families in 219 villages across LoC in AJK are under the persistent risk of unprovoked attacks and have sacrificed their lives, livestock, and properties. All families in these villages have been included in the Ehsaas program", said Dr. Nishtar.

In the last week of June 2020, the prime minister announced Ehsaas Cash package for around 138,275 families of 219 villages living along the LoC. The families will receive a monthly stipend of Rs. 2,000 as well as an emergency cash payment of Rs 12,000 to be given to the women of these households. The SAPM appreciated steps taken by the Pakistan Army and district administration Neelum Valley for assisting Ehsaas in the process of updating lists of households ensuring that none of the households residing in 219 villages along the LoC gets deprived of Ehsaas Cash in line with cabinet's decision. Dr. Nishtar also met with the victim families in Jura Bazar who had suffered severe damage to their properties as a result of unprovoked attacks by Indian troops.

'Half of railways headquarter to be shifted'

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid has said that Karachi is going to change under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. We will organize railways across the country, shift the half railways headquarter to Karachi. In Lahore, Railway Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed hosted a dinner in Mayo Garden in honor of the outgoing railway officers. Addressing on the occasion, Sheikh Rashid said that Imran Khan today announced a package of Rs 1100 billion for Karachi. — APP

Rescue-1122 marks Defence Day

FAISALABAD: The Punjab Emergency Service (Rescue-1122) marked the Defence Day of Pakistan here on Sunday. In this connection, a contingent of Rescue-1122, under the supervision of Emergency Officer Operations Ghulam Shabbir, visited the grave of Captain Usama Shaheed of Pak Army and laid wreath there. The rescuers also presented salute and offered "Fateha". District Emergency Officer Rescue-1122 Ehtisham Wahla said that Shuhada were pride of the nation and we will never forget them. He said that we renew our pledge to present all sacrifices for the defense of Pak land. — APP

Online schooling: a challenge for both students, parents

The biggest concern for students is internet connectivity. Students from metropolitan cities enjoyed good internet connectivity, but those living in rural and remote parts of the country faced immense problems while going virtual

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Since the outbreak of Coronavirus, the normal lives of people have not been the same and masses are still coping with the fact that the physical presence in daily affairs has to be as minimum as possible. However, this trend has affected the students' lives in its own unique way as online or virtual learning is becoming

the new 'Normal'. Almost all educational institutes of the country have been providing virtual lectures and classes for their students during this time period to avoid the time-lapse between the semesters. Although this solution has helped a great deal to save the educational year as a whole, yet it has brought some of its own challenges along. Students as well as teachers are faced with many obstacles on the road to learn virtually.

The biggest concern for students is internet connectivity. Students from metropolitan cities enjoyed good internet connectivity, but those living in rural and remote parts of the country faced immense problems while going virtual. Online connecting sites such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams and LMS consume large amounts of data, require faster internet speed and advanced versions of phones or computers. Besides, power outages in cer-

tain areas are also an obstacle for students to be able to come online for the lessons on time. Another valid concern was for parents who cannot afford separate phones or laptops for all the siblings attending the classes at the same time. Talking to APP, Mehjabeen Zia, a housewife said that in the beginning of the lockdown it was worrisome because children were wasting their time at home but after the inception of online classes it had

become easier for us to make them follow the study routine although virtual learning that was not as effective as traditional one. She added, "Most of the time I have to make sure that children are attentive during the lecture as the teacher cannot pay attention to a class of 60 students through a video call. It's not only the teacher's responsibility to ensure the accuracy of the method as it is new to all of us", she said.

Sindh announces appointment of district administrators

DNA

SUKKUR: The government of Sindh has appointed administrators in all districts of the province after the local councils completed their mandated tenure in the province. The local government bodies in the province had completed their four-year term on August 30th. Sindh Local Government Department notified an end to the term of local councils in the province. Earlier, Sindh Chief Minister has announced that Local Government Secretary Iftikhar Shallwani will be appointed as administrator of Karachi. Talking to journalists, the chief minister said that his government has decided to appoint Shallwani as Karachi administrator and a notification to this effect will be issued shortly. Earlier on September 4, Sindh Chief Minister had said that the provincial government would appoint Karachi administrator soon. The provincial government has now appointed Iftikhar Shallwani, a former commissioner of Karachi, as the new administrator of the port city.

Punjab ACE retrieves land from illegal occupation

DNA

LAHORE: The Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE), Punjab claimed to have retrieved illegally occupied precious pieces of state-owned land in Sahiwal, Rahim Yar Khan, and Rajanpur. According to ACE officials, the department retrieved 21 kanal of commercial land whose value has been estimated at around Rs1.5 billion from illegal occupation in Sahiwal, while 322 kanal and 12 marla land was cleared of encroachment in Rahim Yar Khan. The Anti-Corruption Establishment also retrieved a piece of land worth more than Rs303 million in Rajanpur. The recovered land has market value to the tune of 5.22 billion rupees, D.G. Anti Corruption said. The recovered land will be used for public places in the society, according to the anti-corruption official. Anti Corruption Department Punjab was inquiring into the housing society land scam for last two years, he added.

Briefs**Inter-provincial car lifters' gang busted**

ISLAMABAD: Anti-Car Lifting Cell (ACLC) of Islamabad Police has busted an inter-provincial gang of car lifters and recovered 12 stolen cars worth around Rs. 20 million, a police spokesman said. He said an ACLC team headed by Sub-Inspector Liaqat Ali succeeded to bust a notorious gang of car lifters and nabbed three gangsters identified as its ring leader Zia-ul-Haq alias Bila, Farooq alias Babar and Master Ilyas. They confessed during preliminary investigation to lift cars from twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi as well as other districts of Punjab and later selling them in various areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to police, the cars recovered from this gang bear registration numbers as: LZL-3172 (Corolla); PC-969; AGO-921 (Corolla); LXW-636; LEA-9393 (Cultus); LEE-4384 (Passo); LEE-9149; AMB-187 (GLI); AGK-789 (Corolla); MH-307 (Corolla); LEB-7488 (Suzuki Mehran) and AAW-992 (Bolan). Deputy Inspector General (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed has appreciated his overall performance of ACLC police team and announced cash prize and commendation certificates for the team members. He has further directed to continue crackdown against car lifter as car theft rate has declined in capital due to hard work of Islamabad police. — APP

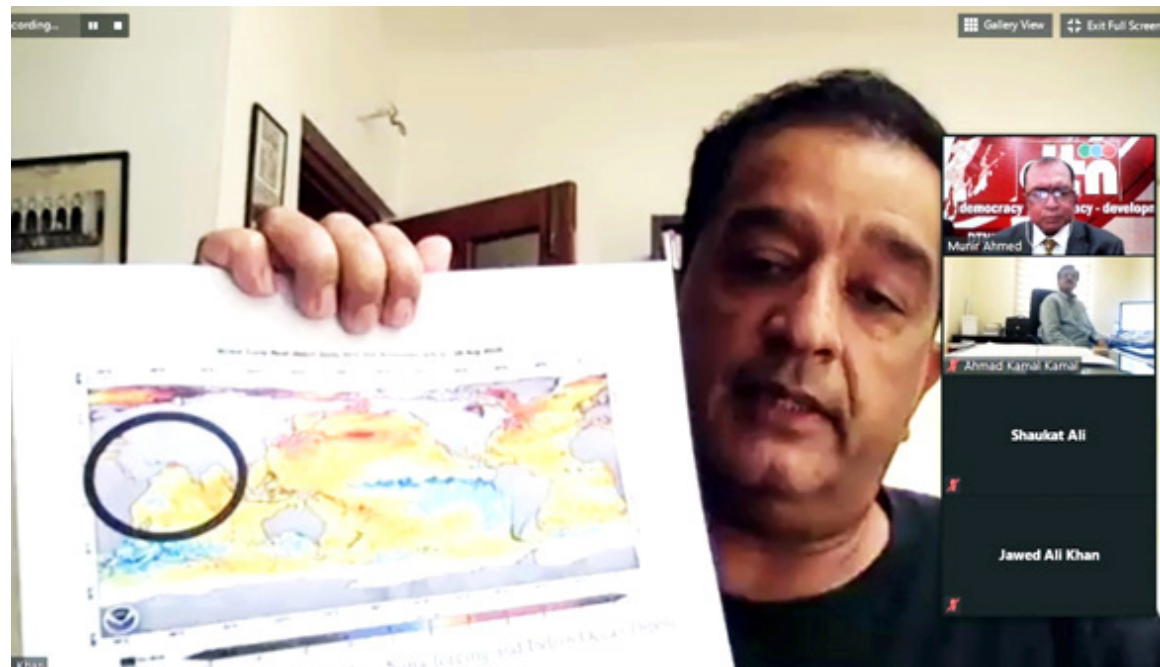
Railways all set to reconstruct 11 bridges

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways is all set to reconstruct 11 bridges and repair another 55 across the country to ensure smooth operation of trains and safety of the passengers. Giving details of the project, an official in the Ministry of Railways told media that the department would reconstruct three bridges in Sukkur division, six in Multan and two in Lahore division. About the repair of bridges in different divisions, he said Pakistan Railways had planned to repair 34 bridges in Karachi, 11 in Sukkur, two in Multan, five in Rawalpindi, two in Peshawar and one in Quetta. Around 86 percent of bridges were more than 100 years old, but all of them were safe for train operation due to regular maintenance, rehabilitation and strengthening of the bridges, the official added. He said Pakistan Railways has 13,959 major and minor bridges over the system and their design life varies for different years. The standard operating procedure calls for inspection of bridges in accordance with the different schedules like monthly, quarterly, bi-annually and annually. To a question, he said Pakistan Railways upgraded as many as six major railway stations across the country, giving them a new and modernize look, besides facilitating the passengers during the last two years. — APP

Expert call for participatory, inclusive urban management

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The climate experts urged the federal and provincial governments for strong local governance, mainstreaming of climate adaptation and meaningful planning and implementation of disaster management. All this needs to have vigorous policy advocacy and incorporation of climate vulnerability into the development projects, besides awareness raising among the stakeholders including grassroots communities. Speaking to a webinar on "Pakistan's preparedness for climatic calamities", the experts also showed their grave concerns over the rapidly increasing population and decreasing ratio of per capita social investment. All federal government policy frameworks would mean nothing if provinces don't adopt it in a letter and spirit and trickle down funds to strengthen the local governance. The webinar was organized by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) on Saturday in the context of sustainable urban management. The panel included Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik



Amin Aslam, Chief Engineering Advisor Ministry of Water Resources Ahmad Kamal, UN-Habitat Country Manager Jawed Ali Khan, climate and water expert Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, and senior journalist Shabina Faraz. Well-known environmentalist and Devcom-Pakistan and DTNTV Director Munir Ahmed hosted and conducted the webinar. Malik Amin Aslam said Pakistan's vulnerability to climate impact is rising very fast. In recent years, the frequency and intensity of

extreme events has gone up by three times while the funding resources have been reducing. We need to act efficiently on adaptation mechanisms for which the climate induced practices and development need to be promoted on all levels. After the 18th amendment, the provinces are more responsible for taking care of the grassroots management of sewage, water and sanitation. encroachments on the pathways of the flash floods. He said disintegrated de-

cision making would lead to more damage to lives and livelihood if adaptation mechanisms are not implemented on grassroots level. He also cited several steps taken by the federal government to combat the climate change impact. He said Sindh province is more vulnerable to climate impact and the provincial government need to act accordingly while the federal government is all out to support the provinces for their portable initiatives. Kamal said flood manage-

ment plans have worked efficiently because of the early warning systems installed on the riverine system that has reduced the impact significantly. A well-defined disaster management system is in place with the leading role of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) where all provincial and national authorities and organizations mandated to cope up with the challenges of natural disaster interact. He said the problem is with city governments where

right and rational decision making is absent on sustainable urban management. He suggested strong local governance based on inclusive and participatory mechanisms. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh asked for the private sector to support the city governments. The government should provide soft loans and incentives to the private sector to manage its sewage, water and sanitation, and solid waste management. There are more than one organizations taking decisions about the fate of people. The segregated decisions are hampering the sustainable management of cities. The other foremost challenge is rising population. Most of the newborn are in the poverty group, hence vulnerable to climate impact from day one. Shabina Faraz while citing the miseries of Karachi city said it is very unfortunate that different interest groups are playing havoc with the citizens. Funds are not invested in the actual development of infrastructure while the political groups playing blind on the encroachments, different mafia are active. When the media highlights the actual playful tactics, the journalists are maligned and blamed for blackmailing and negative reporting.

NIT digitally transforms 38 ministries

ISLAMABAD: National Information Technology (NIT) digitally transformed 38 out of 40 ministries with E-Office suite for improving internal efficiencies in the government offices. Universal Service Fund (USF) Pakistan in partnership with Wateen telaid 1435 km optic fiber cable and connected 14 tehsils and towns of Balochistan, Punjab providing Hi-speed broadband access in districts of Kalat, Kharan, Washuk, Panjur, Khuzdar, Kech, Bahawalnagar, Layyah and Khushab, the Ministry of IT and Telecom said in its official twitter account. With the high speed and reliability of internet offered by a fiber optic connection, rural populations could enjoy the same benefits urban areas reap with reliable access — from increased economic growth to more educational opportunities to easier access to healthcare. — APP

"Theater Workshop" from Sept 8th to 10th

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) will hold three days long "Theater Workshop" for students willing to seek technical insights of repertory theater in September 8th to 10th. The workshop was aimed to educate amateur actors regarding the art of acting and the sensibilities of theater. Local and senior artists will also participate in the event to guide the students with their own experiences. The enrolled participants will learn how to approach, analyze and incorporate new text into their specific characters, an official told on Wednesday. PNCA has not only housed many cultural activities but also boasts publication of different literature on theater works, techniques and scripts, he stated. — APP

Ajoka Theater to hold three months acting course

ISLAMABAD: Ajoka Theater Pakistan will hold three months Acting course titled "Art of Acting" to provide the students with practical experience about acting and enable them to understand and perform various roles from September 18. Students will be presented with a detailed and unique study plan, culminating in a live performance as well as the opportunity to perform in a well publicized web-series. The Course will be conducted in a large open air space, following social distancing and other protocols, along with additional Online Classes if required, an official told on Thursday. The course is designed specifically for furthering Career, Life and Creative Potential and this experience will help the students in their development in the area of their choice of a creative career on stage, screen or television. — APP

Pakistan Cultural Forum pays homage to Martyrs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cultural Forum organized a seminar on the occasion of Pakistan Defense Day at Rawalpindi Arts Council. Former Chief of General Staff General (R) Muhammad Mustafa Khan, Senator General (R) Abdul Qayum, Chairman Pakistan Cultural Forum Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General Akhbar Farosh Federation Tika Khan, Secretary General CDA Labour Union Chaudhary Yasin, former secretary petroleum division G. A. Sabri and prominent poetess Shazia Akbar paid tribute to the martyrs and ghazis of September 6, 1965 in their speeches. General (R) Muhammad Mustafa Khan said that the enemy is actively involved in a conspiracy against the Armed Forces of Pakistan to destroy our nation's unity, however, we will not let the sacrifices of our martyrs and ghazis go in vain. While addressing the gathering, Senator General (R) Abdul Qayum said that due to the great sacrifice of Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed (Nishan Haider), the dream of Indian forces to capture Lahore failed and Chihuahua became a graveyard of the Indian tanks. He further said that despite our political differences, the entire nation is united for the Kashmir's independence, nuclear power and China Pakistan Economic Corridor.



ISLAMABAD: Gen (R) Muhammad Mustafa Khan, former CGS is speaking at a Defence Day of Pakistan seminar organised by Pakistan Cultural Forum. Senator General (R) Abdul Qayum, Zafar Bakhtawari, Tika Khan, Chaudhary Yasin, Shazia Akbar & G. A. Sabri are sitting at the stage. — DNA

Rs 6 to 7 billion required to clear built up property in G-14 sector

The land falling in Sector G-14/1, 2 and 3 was announced in 2005 at the rate of Rs590,000 per kanal for total land of 4,820 kanals, the official added

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government Housing Employees Authority (FGHEA) has required around Rs6 to 7 billion to clear Built up Property (BUPs) dues in Sector G-14/1, 2 and 3. The Award of BUPs in G-14/1, 2 is yet to be made for which survey of the BUPs is going on, however

Rs1.889 billion has been awarded as compensation for 529 BUPs in G-14/3 by the Land Acquisition Collector (LAC) office ICT, Islamabad, an official told APP. He said the award of land in Sector G-14/4 Islamabad was announced in 1995 at the rate of Rs230,000 per kanal for total land 1,459

kanals. The sector was now developed and allottees were residing therein. The land falling in Sector G-14/1, 2 and 3 was announced in 2005 at the rate of Rs590,000 per kanal for total land of 4,820 kanals, the official added. He said the amount was transferred to the LAC of-

ice ICT, which has been accordingly paid to the respective owners of the land, adding that the number of provisionally handed over plots to the respective allottees in sector G-14/2 & 3 Islamabad were 999. The official said that due to COVID-19 the development of sector G-14 was stalled in

months of March, April and has been resumed in month of May, 2020. Giving details of the project, he said the housing scheme Phase-IV was launched in 2004 in sector G-14/1, 2 and 3 Islamabad. The development work of sub Sector G-14/1, 2 and 3 was awarded in 2012. — APP

Pak-China people-to-people friendship getting stronger

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 2020 Beijing International Forum on People-to-people Friendship that was held online stated that the Sino-Pak cooperative partnership is getting stronger with a passage of time under CPEC. The forum was co-sponsored by Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (BPAFFC) and Beijing NGO Network for International Exchanges (Beijing NGO) under the guidance of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC). According to Gwadar Pro, the forum attracted more than 200 participants, including

representatives of 58 friendship organizations from 30 countries. The event was centered on the theme of people-to-people friendly cooperation under BRI. Ikhlaque Usmani, the president of All Pakistan-China Friendship Association (APCFA) and Farwa Zafar, the secretary-general of APCFA, attended this conference on behalf of people-to-people friendship organizations in Pakistan. Usmani in his speech said, Pakistan and China enjoy a very special relationship that are evergrowing. In this May, they marked the 69th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations with China. The two countries have witnessed how the friendship has grown since

1950. He also mentioned that CPEC has significantly benefited Pakistan. He said: "In Pakistan, the BRI's signature project of CPEC, over past five years has progressed smoothly and has been a driving force of Pakistan's economic growth by one to two percentage points every year and created 70,000 jobs in Pakistan. In the town of Gwadar, the port and Free Zone have already become operational, creating opportunities for employment, investment and commerce. Pakistani women working under CPEC projects can access better health care facilities and education, and enjoy better professional working environment in Chinese companies. Socially, CPEC is aimed at

mobilizing the people to work together for the betterment of our two nations, he added. Usmani believes that people-to-people friendship organizations are an important part of a country's soft power and voice in the world. In this role they can be crucial players for the BRI. And young people are the mainstay of friendship between our people. BRI can bolster youth forums and youth camps, facilitated by friendship organizations. Further youth exchanges in education, art, media, cultural heritage, science and technology can be realized through more opportunities and financial support by friendship organizations across China and related institutions," he

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Briefs

Women MPs
celebrate
Defence Day

ISLAMABAD: Women Parliamentarians on Sunday pledged that the nation marked Pakistan Defence Day with traditional zeal and paid tribute to all the three forces' heroes for their struggle and sacrifices in the war of 1965. Secretary Women Parliamentary Caucus, MNA Munaza Hassan talking to APP said that the nation celebrated Defence Day in a befitting manner. She said special tribute paid to the national heroes and martyred on the day. She said that September 6 was a special day which marked with national fervour. Senator Najma Hameed said that the nation pledged to redouble efforts for the progress and prosperity of the country. She said all celebrations on September 6 should be dedicated to the martyred and national heroes. Parliamentary Secretary National History and Literary Heritage Ghazala Saifi said that Pakistan is great blessing of Allah Almighty for which our national armed forces heroes had given unprecedented sacrifices. She said that nation marked Defence Day with renewed pledge to work with the true spirit. — APP

CCTV cameras
installed at
Panahgahs

ISLAMABAD: The shelter homes management has installed Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras at all the 'Panahgahs' of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to ensure transparency in its affairs, besides safety of the dwellers. "The move will not only provide secure environment to the residents of shelter homes but also help enhance monitoring of the establishments which will eventually lead to the better management and provision of all the required services to the daily wage earners," Prime Minister's Focal Person Naseem ur Rehman told media. He said hectic efforts were underway to transform shelter homes into places that could truly depict the vision of Prime Minister of Imran Khan for the betterment of downtrodden segments of the society. Naseem said prime focus of management was to improve the quality services at the shelter homes for the daily wage earners. Fresh recruitment were being made at the 'Panahgahs' to transform their makeshift status into permanent one. To a query, he said there were six 'Panahgahs' operating across the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. The areas, where the 'Panahgahs' were functioning in the Federal Capital, included sector G-9, Mandi Morr, Bahara Kaho, Taramari and Ternoal. One 'Panahgah' had been serving the poor and needy at Fawara Chowk, Rawalpindi, he added. — APP

AIOU
announces
final deadline

ISLAMABAD: Candidates interested in merit based programs (BS, MSc, MBA, M Phil and PhD) offered in Autumn 2020 semester at Allam Iqbal Open University can apply for online admission till September 8. The candidates of BS programs, who fulfill eligibility criteria, will be informed to deposit admission fee for the 1st semester either through SMS or Email, a press release said on Sunday. For M Phil and PhD admission, candidates are required to qualify both entry test and interview. Entry tests of these programs will be conducted at the Academic Complex of the university from September 14-September 18. Only short listed candidates will be invited for test/interview through SMS or Email. Short listed candidates are required to bring attested copies of certificates/degrees. First and second merit lists will be uploaded on the university website on September 21 and September 28 respectively. Successful candidates will be informed to deposit admission fee for the 1st semester via SMS or Email. Deadlines for fee submission is September 25 and September 30 for 1st and 2nd merit list respectively. — APP

Pak Navy celebrates Defence Day with valour and pride

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy celebrated 55th anniversary of Defence Day of Pakistan with reverence and effervescent spirit. The day was observed to commemorate supreme sacrifices of our Armed Forces, Shuhada, Ghazis and national heroes who stood against the enemy with unparalleled display of unity and tenacity during 1965 Indo-Pak War. In his message on the occasion, Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi paid homage to the Shuhada and Ghazis who remained undeterred by the size of the enemy and foiled its nefarious designs with grit, courage and honour. On this day, nation acknowledges sacrifices of its gallant and resilient soldiers, sailors and airmen who defended the ideological and geographical frontiers of their motherland. The Naval Chief reiterated

that Pakistan Navy is fully capable and prepared to give a befitting response to any misadventure by the enemy across the entire spectrum of maritime threat. The Admiral urged that this day being a symbol of courage, resolve, sacrifice and national integrity demands a pledge to work selflessly and to adhere resolutely to the Quaid's great principles by anchoring strong faith in Allah SWT. The day dawned with special prayers offered in all naval mosques for preservation of integrity and sovereignty of Pakistan. Quran Khawani were held for interminable peace of Shuhada of the 1965 war. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi laid floral wreath at Shuhada's Monument at Naval Headquarters Islamabad, interacted with the families of Shuhada and offered Fateha. Wreath laying ceremonies and Fateha Khawani were also held at Shuhada's memorials at Field Command



Headquarters. Flag hoisting ceremonies were held at all naval units and establishments wherein Commanding Officers of all

units and establishments addressed special gatherings of officers and men and highlighted significance of the day. All ships and estab-

lishments were decorated and illuminated in accordance with naval traditions. Other activities of the day included various colorful

sports activities and Defence Day Fishing Boats Races/Races at Gwadar and Creeks area.

DG ANF pays homage to "Shuhadas of ANF"

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Defence day is the remembrance of the fact that Pakistani nation has always stood firm and tall against our adversaries. No matter it is an aggressive country or enemy within us like miscreants or drug traffickers. Today we present our tribute to our "Shuhadas & Ghazis" and pledge to ourselves that we will not waste their sacrifice and protect the legacy as "Sacred Duty". The celebrations of defence

day are a true message to the enemies that nation stands united and emerged victorious like 1965 war, against larger enemy. The nation will stand firm and will not hesitate to give any sacrifice. We will face the world in line with the principles of our Quaid "Faith, Unity and Discipline". I assure you that ANF will fight against drug menace with extreme professional commitment and despite all odds and challenges will pursue the assigned mandate with devotion and dedication.

Govt approves gas facility of NA-56: Amin

DNA

ATTOCK: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam on Sunday said the government has approved gas facilities for the residence of NA-56 Attock to facilitate residents of 25 villages and adjacent localities. "NA-56 has been neglected during the regimes of the previous governments. The

top leadership of different political parties used to exploit the basic rights of the people," he said. Talking to journalists here at his residence, he said the government's top priority is to provide basic amenities to the people at their doorsteps and this initiative is a proof of their commitment. While giving details of the villages, he said the government has allocated Rs 848.560 million for NA-56 gas projects.

NCHD devise strategy for TBTP

ISLAMABAD: National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) has devised a strategy to contribute in Pakistan's largest ever tree plantation drive "Ten Billion Tree Tsunami". An official told APP on Sunday that strategy was devised on the special directives of Chairman and Director General NCHD. He said that the initiative aimed to create awareness among people about the importance of plants and to reduce pollution in the environment. He said that NCHD volunteers not only participating in tree plantation campaign but also would take care of them as national asset, he said. NCHD planted 112,000 thousands saplings through volunteers and its field staff last year. NCHD has the capacity to plant millions of trees across the country. He said that NCHD adopting energetic and feasible approaches involving all the stakeholders including volunteers and students for this noble cause. — APP

Kaavan to be relocated soon

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Kaavan, the lone elephant from the now closed Marghazar zoo, could be moved to a sanctuary in Cambodia shortly after a medical by FOUR PAWS team cleared him for the journey. The elephant has been a part of the zoo after the Sri Lankan High Commission gifted it to Pakistan in 1985. His female companion Saheedi died in 2012. The Islamabad High Court ordered the city officials to relocate the elephant to an appropriate sanctuary and close down the zoo for up-lifting. The zoo is to be remain closed until international agency with a good repute approves it fit for animals. Dr. Amir Khalil, FOUR PAWS veterinarian and mission leader, said that there are signs of obesity and Kaavan also needs long-term foot care. Khalil added that the animal is in good enough health for the



journey. "Due to malnutrition and lack of physical exercise Kaavan shows visible signs of obesity. Also, his nails are cracked and malformed which can be attributed to the inappropriate flooring and structure of his enclosure. To solve this issue, he needs to go through a long-term foot care program, which cannot be performed in Marghazar Zoo," Khalil said. "A lack of physical and behavioural enrichments as well as the absence of a partner, have resulted in

Kaavan becoming incredibly bored. He has already developed stereotypical behaviour where he swooshes his head and trunk from side to side for hours. Overall, the results from his blood tests are good and his general health condition allows him to be relocated." In order to fly Kaavan, a special jet may have to be arranged. A special cargo jet that is built to carry heavy weights and oversized packages should do the trick. One hopes that Kaavan finds peace at his new home.

Balochistan CM promotes public-private partnerships

DNA

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal said the assets of the province are its natural resources, land, and location that could be developed through a partnership with the private sector. "A more effective, workable and comprehensive strategy was needed to attract the private sector to invest in Balochistan," said the chief minister during a meeting on the briefing regarding Public-Private Partnership Amendment Bill 2020. Planning and Development Strategic Plan and Reforms Cell briefed the meeting on the proposed amendments to the bill. The chief minister directed that such amendments should be included in the Public-Private Partnership Bill which would not create any legal ambiguity.

PNCA to start film production course

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) has planned to start one year Film Production Course to become a Professional Film Maker. The course would offer a foundation for understanding cinema and its relation to culture, history, technology and aesthetics-Film Studies. According to an official, the classes were aimed to teach students to create and analyze moving images, to produce research, and to make art. He said that classes will be start from October 5 with having two semesters. The best local and international faculty will be teaching everything you need in your capacity to become a Professional Film Maker, he said. Sarmad Khoosat, a well known Pakistani Director and Andre F Nebe German director would teach the direction. Peter Bussian American Cinematographer would teach the Cinematography. Lisa Locus American script writer and Saim Sadique will teach the techniques of script writing, he informed. — APP

Huawei playing key role in adoption of 2030 SDGs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's vision for a digitalized future is one that will enable the country to thrive through the immense potential of connectivity. A digital future will redefine societies, enabling growth and development, enhancing education and industry, and building new capacity for accelerating the economy. Pakistan has been working tirelessly towards the development of its youth. This has been reflected by the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), through which the country aims to activate a number of policies and actions that help empower and engage the youth for achieving the SDGs. In line with this vision, Pakistan has launched initiatives, such as "Digital Pakistan", that aim to empower the youth and enable them to become drivers of the country's economic growth. Such initiatives are certainly establishing a strong base for the information and communications technology (ICT) ecosystem to thrive upon - but what we now need is to put our focus on Pakistan's youth, to prepare them to take over and drive the country's digital future. Developing new skillsets for young people is something that is considered a priority in Pakistan. It also strengthens the ICT ecosystem, which will in turn contribute towards a stronger, digitally-driven economy - therefore investing in developing young ICT talents is a win-win situation that can only bring more benefits in the future, for everyone in Pakistan. Numerous initiatives were organized in Pakistan, geared towards introducing young people to the ICT sector, educating them and enhancing their skills. These talent training programs include several ICT academies - including Huawei ICT Academies - and annual ICT competitions, amongst others.

Saddar police net 22, A category POs

RAWALPINDI: Saddar Division Police in their ongoing operation against drug peddlers, bootleggers, lawbreakers and Proclaimed Offenders (POs) managed to net 22, A category criminals and 57, B category POs during August. According to a police spokesman, the division police also rounded up 297 criminals including 115 for holding illegal weapons, 71 drug peddlers and bootleggers during the period. He said, Saddar Division police under the supervision of Superintendent Police (SP) Saddar Zia ud Din Ahmed on the directives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younas conducted raids against lawbreakers in different areas of the division. He said, the division police netted 115 persons and registered 101 cases against them for possessing illegal weapons. Police also recovered 12 Kalashnikov, 14 guns, 77 pistols and two daggers from their possession during the period. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Maj. Gen (R) Khalid Amir Jaffery, President CGSS and former DG ANF called on DG ANF at the ANF Headquarters. — DNA

PTI prepares for big win in Azad Jammu & Kashmir

Saifullah said that the enemy, who suffered an extraordinary defeat and disgrace on Sept 6, 1965, is still on the lookout, and every attack and tactic has the same purpose, from committing atrocities in occupied Jammu & Kashmir to sowing the seeds of unrest and destabilization in Pak through characters like Kulbhushan Yadhav

DNA

ISLAMABAD: According to details released by the Central Media Department, Federal Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Ali Amin Gandapur called on Chief Organizer Saifullah Khan Nyazee at the PTI Central Secretariat, Islamabad, to discuss a comprehensive strategy for the upcoming elections in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. During the meeting it was decided to field the candidates with strong political credentials, public popularity and strong ties with the people. Both leaders also discussed important issues related to the formation of a high-level parliamentary board to

determine the candidates and the strategy in detail to win upcoming elections. Saifullah Khan Nyazee said on the occasion that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has become the most popular political force in Azad Jammu and Kashmir while the people of the state are rapidly embracing the message of Prime Minister Imran Khan. A large number of people and political personalities from all over Azad Jammu and Kashmir want to join the party however PTI will only welcome competent, credible, capable and well-respected political figures into the party and will field strong candidates in elections after evaluation from a powerful parliamentary board said Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief organizer Saifullah Khan Nyazee. Nyazee further said that after fielding strong candidates and winning elections, PTI aims to emerge as the sole majority party in elections and form a strong government in Azad Jammu and Kashmir which would be responsible for the welfare and development of the people of Kashmir and become their voice in the world ultimately. Member Azad Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly and General Secretary PTI Azad Jammu and Kashmir Majid Khan also attended the meeting. On the other hand, in his special message issued on the occasion of Defence Day, PTI chief organizer Saifullah Khan Nyazee said

that September 6 is the testament to the courage and bravery of the nation's defenders. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) pays tribute to the brave soldiers who have defended the country with their blood. He said that September 6 was a permanent proof of the nefarious intentions and aims of the cunning enemy against Pakistan however; the coward enemy who crossed the border in the dark of night and set his unclean foot on the soil of Pakistan was forced to lick the dust in the face of passion for martyrdom. Saifullah said that the enemy, who suffered an extraordinary defeat and disgrace on September 6, 1965, is still on the lookout, and every attack and tactic has the

same purpose, from committing atrocities in occupied Jammu and Kashmir to sowing the seeds of unrest and destabilization in Pakistan through characters like Kulbhushan Yadhav. Nyazee said that the concept of a Akhand Bharat and Hindutva has overwhelmed the state of India as it poses substantial threat to global security and regional peace. According to the PTI leader, Pakistan's defense is stronger than ever and the country is prepared to respond to any attempt of aggression by its enemies. In his special message, Saifullah Khan Nyazee prayed for the security & stability of Pakistan and expressed complete solidarity with the families of the martyrs.

The 'same page' mantra

PAKISTAN has evolved as a democracy to the extent that there have been two consecutive peaceful transfers of power from one civilian government to the other in the past decade; the PPP to the PML-N and, a relatively much less civil change of guard from the PML-N to the PTI. That is not to say that the PML-N and PPP did not have their respective set of problems with the establishment, starting in the second half of their five-year tenures. Both saw the PM being disqualified. President Zardari famously said in one interview that it took a lot of "tolerance, tolerance, tolerance" to endure through a full five-year term. Nawaz Sharif was eventually sent packing by the Supreme Court following the controversial Panama Case verdict. Things are much different with the PTI in government and Prime Minister Imran Khan wears his party being 'on the same page' with the military as a badge of honour, boasting how no civilian government of the past has enjoyed such good relations and support from the armed forces. The military top brass had to intervene on more than one occasion to smooth over an unnecessary diplomatic crises created by the Foreign Office, with the most recent incident requiring handling being Shah Mehmood Qureshi's unsavoury threatening remarks about Saudi Arabia 'dragging its feet' on the Kashmir issue. Imran Khan also has this typical pretentious thinking about relations with the military in that he genuinely believes it is only the PTI that has made revolutionary progress on national issues that matter to the armed forces such as the India policy, Kashmir cause and Afghanistan, which is the rationale behind his 'same-page' mantra. Policy and direction on these issues have always been military-dominated and therefore there has always been national consensus on these matters with previous civilian governments as well; the PTI has not done anything special here. If anything, of late, the party's incompetence and lack of performance in key areas has somewhat complicated a presumably simple civ-mil equation.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Vol: 01 Issue: 140

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



Important amendments

THE Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government is inching closer towards making two important constitutional amendments; an end to the secret ballot in the Senate elections and allowing for dual nationals to contest elections. In principle, all major Pakistani political parties are on the same page on this, but in reality, getting the opposition to side with the government might not be simple. The system of Senate elections, the inclusion of party members into the upper house and the election of the Chairman has all been decried time and again by parties on all sides of the spectrum. Parties in majority cannot get business done, and the exchange of money, gifts and favours is often the determining factor in key votes such as when choosing a chairman or moving a vote of no confidence. Since all parties have accused others of indulging in such activities, moving away from the secret ballot entirely is in everyone's best interest. Allowing for dual nationals to contest elections also stands on similar argumentative ground. All sides of the political spectrum have often accused other parties of having dual nationals in their ranks—using the 'conflict of interest' logic—but then in their time in power, they have to defend their own selection of dual national candidates for the Cabinet, from both elected and unelected cadres. It is time to put these issues to bed. But with the two-thirds majority needed to make constitutional amendments, the government must seek the opposition's support once more. Getting it for the FATF laws was simpler, because an issue of national interest was at stake. However, given that the debate on dual nationals was widely taken up by the ruling party during PML-N's tenure, PTI cannot expect an easy route to getting these amendments passed. The government must employ a conciliatory tone and look to work together if these important amendments are to be passed.

Post COVID-19 revival of Tourism sector in UAE

Lt Col (R) Khalid Taimur Akram



The UAE's hospitality industry is open for business and showing strong signs of recovery after the crippling economic impact of Covid-19. The online room reservations by the international tourists has reached to its highest. According to the recent statistics, the online registration for room booking in Dubai has doubled as compared to the previous month

THE spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has severely damaged the tourism industry across the globe. Many countries that are dependent upon the tourism economy were adversely affected by its catastrophic impacts. According to world estimates, the potential shock has caused approximately a 60-80% decline in international tourism during the period of the pandemic. UAE tourism also bore the brunt of the sharp decline of economic and tourist activities in the UAE. The IMF's assessment of the real GDP of UAE revealed that the economy of the country has contracted by 3.5% after the outbreak of the Coronavirus. However, despite a grim outlook for the global tourism industry amid the ongo-

ing coronavirus pandemic, UAE is making every effort to beat predictions of a dangerous decline. The UAE is getting back to normalization and has taken several immediate steps to deal with the growing concerns. The tourism industry and hospitality sector in UAE is reviving and benefitting from a rebound driven by a multi-pronged approach adopted and executed by the authorities.

Tourism Industry
Even though the United Arab Emirates is an oil-producing economy, the tourism industry has established itself as a major amplifier of economic divergence. The tourism industry is the major growth and revenue-generating sector for the entire UAE economy and it has been projected that the travel and tourism industry will contribute about 312.4 billion United Arab Emirates Dirham to the UAE's GDP by the year 2027. Dubai is the top tourism destination in the Middle East and is the fifth most popular tourist destination in the world. Dubai holds up to 66% share of the UAE's tourism economy, with Abu Dhabi having 16% and Sharjah 10%. To support its growth in the sector the UAE has been spending billions of dollars on infrastructural development and has managed to develop the most advanced infrastructure in the region so far. The collective spending of the United Arab Emirates government on the tourism industry is much higher in ranks than the rest of the world.

Post COVID-19 Revival of Tourism
As UAE is always prepared to evolve in the face of global challenges, the Emirates are deeming to galvanize their growth and development particularly in the tourism sector, and also maximize the available opportunities once the tourism industry will be fully reopened and embarked on its way to the final stage of its recovery. Despite the tourism industry is facing the worst challenge in modern history due to COVID-19, the UAE can evolve and adopt new strategies to make it a success story.

Global Marketing
Along with the implementation of health and safety standards, the UAE tourism department has developed an active and prudent international marketing strategy that involves close coordination with more than 3,000 partners worldwide to drive tourist bookings. A series of digital campaigns were among notable global marketing activities launched to ensure that the emirates must continue to stay the top most favorable tourist destinations. Dubai for instance has launched high impact digital campaigns – two campaigns before its reopening and one campaign have been launched after the city reopened for the international tourists. Dubai Tourism has recently partnered with Google, Microsoft, and Snapchat in marketing projects to attract potential tourists, collaborating in virtual reality experiences that give prospective travelers a preview of the city via mobile device and computer.

The efforts made by the UAE authorities are resulting in UAE becoming one of the most sought-after destinations among tourists looking to travel again after the pandemic. According to a survey by global travel company Kuoni, Dubai is the most searched travel destination for 2021. During another survey by the MasterCard Global Destination Cities Index, GDCCI in 2019, Dubai was ranked among the world's top five most visited cities in the world and has been

on the list for five consecutive years.

Health and Safety

Dubai's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of hygiene and safety in line with international best practices received a strong endorsement from the World Travel and Tourism Council, WTTC, which gave the city a 'Safe Travels' stamp in recognition of the stringent measures taken to combat COVID-19. This improved reputation in the global market and the enhanced reputation of Dubai as one of the safest destinations in the world are key drivers of the increasing momentum for recovery. The UAE has also invested in spreading its message through social media, deploying over 350 influencers to highlight Dubai in 14 different languages. Hotels across the city have offered deals and packages for stay. The current situation has provided a huge opportunity to drive demand for domestic tourism. The UAE authorities are firm to transform their challenges into opportunities to maintain its position at the forefront of the world's leading tourist destinations.

Hospitality and Airline Industries

The UAE's hospitality industry is open for business and showing strong signs of recovery after the crippling economic impact of Covid-19. The online room reservations by the international tourists has reached to its highest. According to the recent statistics, the online registration for room booking in Dubai has doubled as compared to the previous month. Apart from the hospitality sector, the airline industry is also a crucial part of the UAE'S tourism industry. International airline bookings are also showing positive signs for the tourism sector. Emirates and Flydubai are facilitating tourism growth in UAE through a wide range of measures designed to instill confidence among travelers and encourage them to make the emirates their destination of choice. Emirates will be operating to a total of 70 destinations across six continents in August, while flydubai is set to expand its network to 66 destinations over the summer. Besides the standard precautionary measures of social distancing and wearing of masks at all times by guests and employees, Dubai hotels have deployed enhanced disinfection measures across all their facilities, including the fitting of equipment for contactless screening of guests at entrances. Dubai also implemented technologically-integrated advanced safety control measures to avoid any chances of the

spread of the novel virus.

How the Tourism can fully Revive

Although UAE has reopened its doors for international tourist the emirates has expressed their commitment to follow certain codes of conduct to ensure the health and safety of the travelers. A wide range of air travel protocols for visitors has further boosted the confidence of tourists. All travelers, including tourists, residents, and citizens arriving in or transiting through the UAE, must follow the following steps;

1. Passengers must get themselves tested for COVID-19 four days before their travel to the Emirates. They are also expected to sign a declaration form that they will fully cooperate with the authorities if they contracted the novel virus. All tourists are advised to have travel insurance and they all must download the COVID-19 UAE app. This app is a Ministry of Health's Official App on Coronavirus management. It provides all the necessary information regarding the real statistics of the pandemic worldwide and within the United Arab Emirates. The app also provides a self-awareness kit and information about COVID-19 Symptoms, how you can prevent yourself from it and what treatments can be adopted to reduce the risk and offer health services and support to the patients.
2. Upon arrival in UAE, travelers' have to show their test results or carry out a re-test if required. The test will also be repeated for the tourist who exhibits COVID symptoms. Those who test positive must quarantine for 14 days. Travelers will be asked to quarantine in hotels, at homes, or in the hospitals depending on their choice. The cost of the treatment and isolation must be borne by the tourist.
3. All UAE hotels are advised to follow strict safety measures. Guests must wear face masks all the time except when in the pool, eating, or exercising. Restaurants have introduced contactless menus and serve diners who will serve you meal while following the safety guidelines as prescribed by the WHO.
4. The public transports including metros, taxis, and buses in UAE are also back and running. The tourists are allowed to use them for traveling purposes however, they must follow social distancing. Cash transactions must be avoided and passengers must use apps to make payments. Passengers can also book their ride directly through CAREEM APP. The fare will be automatically deducted from passengers' debit or credit card.
5. At the restaurant's tourists are allowed to remove their masks. Restaurants will serve food in single-use cutlery and plates. Restaurants are strictly ordered to place tables 2 meters apart to ensure social distancing. Buffets are open but the food will be served by the staff. Sharing food or touching utensils is forbidden.
6. All tourist attractions in Dubai and Abu Dhabi are now open but with strict guidelines. Water parks are open with 50% capacity. All guests are staff have to undergo thermal check, wear gloves, and face masks all the time. Rides, slides, showers, and locker rooms are also open. Sanitization of all these places is being carried out from time to time to ensure safety and health.

- The writer is the Executive Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad



Defense Day reminds 'Moral Force' of Armed Forces

Sajjad Shaukat



Military thinkers agree that although the physical force will determine the type and scale of war, yet it is the 'will to fight' or 'moral force' which determines the outcome of war. Clausewitz puts it this way, "One might say that the physical force seems little more than the wooden hilt

THE 6th of September is celebrated every year as the Defense Day by every Pakistani, as on this very day, Pakistan's courageous Armed Forces and the entire nation stood united in 1965 for the defense of the homeland against India's nefarious designs which had threatened the territorial integrity of the country through an all-out war. This time, this very day has come at a time when Pakistan is facing multiple threats of grave nature externally and internally.

Since August 5, 2019 when Indian government revoked articles 35A and 370 of the Constitution, which gave a special status to the disputed territory of the Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir (IIOK), Indian fanatic government of the ruling party BJP led by the extremist Prime Minister Narendra Modi continued lockdown there, as New Delhi unilaterally annexed the region with the Indian Federation to turn Muslim majority into minority. Implementing the ideology of Hindutva (Hindu Nationalism), Indian rulers also issued domicile certificates to more than 400000 non-Kashmiris and also martyred many people by accelerated firing at the stones-pelting Kashmiris who have been protesting against Indian illegitimate actions.

Besides, Pakistan's Armed Forces, especially, Pak Army and Rangers have been boldly responding to India's unprovoked shelling inside Pakistani side of Kashmir. Tension escalated rapidly between the two countries on February 27, 2019 in the aftermath of the false flag terror attack of Pulwama, when in response to the Indian pre-emptive air strike near the town of Balakot-Pakistan's sector of Kashmir, Pakistan Air Force (PAF) shot down two Indian Air Force (IAF) fighter jets and launched aerial strikes at six targets in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IIOK). Pak Army also captured an Indian pilot.

The truth about India's surgical strikes exposed, when Indian top civil and military leaders failed in providing any evidence. The then Indian India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj also admitted that no Pakistani soldier or citizen died in the air strike in Balakot.

Military thinkers agree that although the physical force will determine the type and scale of war, yet it is the 'will to fight' or 'moral force' which determines the outcome of

war. Clausewitz puts it this way, "One might say that the physical force seems little more than the wooden hilt, while moral factors are the precious metal, the real weapon."

In his book, "Fighting Power: German and U.S. Army Performance, 1939-1945", Crevel identifies the elements of 'moral force', whom he calls "fighting power, the willingness to fight and the readiness, if necessary, to die". The greater these elements, the less vulnerable an armed force will be to demoralization. 'Moral force', then, is the crucial factor in determining the combat power of any belligerent. During the 1965 war such elements like will to fight and 'moral force' have been more found in the personnel of Pakistan's Armed Forces than those of India.

When, on September 6, 1965, India started the war and its forces crossed the international border in Lahore, Pakistan's Armed Forces quickly responded. Indian Regiment had also crossed the BRB canal and captured the town of Batapore (Jallo Mur). The same day, a counter offensive by Pakistani soldiers forced the Indian 15th Division to withdraw to its starting point. In this context, the huge credit goes to the all men of Pak Army. Without bothering for their lives, they fought bravely. Among them, Major Raja Aziz Bhatti played a key role in the outcome of the Lahore battles and was martyred. In case of Sialkot, several soldiers of the Pak Army sacrificed their lives to stop advancement of Indian tanks. The 1965 war witnessed some of the largest tank battles since World War II, and was fought at Chawinda in Sialkot sector—The Battle resulted into victory of Pakistan whose armoured forces destroyed 120 Indian tanks.

Regarding aerial warfare between PAF and IAF, the latter emerged as victorious in the 1965 war because, at the cost of their personal safety, the personnel of PAF defeated India. PAF had destroyed 100 Indian aircraft on ground and in the air, while damaged more than 10. In this respect, Squadron Leader M. M. Alam set new records in history of air warfare on September 7 and shot down five Indian aircraft in less than sixty seconds at Sargodha.

Let us take the example of Flight Lieutenant Yunus Hussain who fought in air battles fearlessly. During one such engagement, he fought singly against 6 enemy aircraft and shot down 2 Hunters. On September 6, while attacking Halwara

airfield, his small formation was intercepted by a large number of enemy. Although his aircraft was hit, but, he refused to break off the engagement by disregarding his personal safety and was martyred.

The role of Pakistan Navy in the Indo-Pak war of 1965 is also appreciable. Securing Pakistan's coasts, it played a vital role in defeating India. The Operation Dawarka marked was launched by Pakistan on September 7. The Operation was successful—Indian warships harboured in Bombay, making the Indian Navy unable to sortie. In this regard, Ghazi, the only submarine successfully attacked heavy ships of the Indian Navy.

However, there were many other national heroes like Brigadier Ahsan Rashid, SQN LDR Sarfaraz Ahmed Rafiqi etc. who fought boldly with the Indian forces. As regards internal challenges, by imbibing the same spirit of the 1965 war, Pakistan's Armed Forces, during the successful military operations, Zarb-e-Azb, Radd-ul-Fasaad and Operation Khyber 4 have killed many terrorists through ground offensive. During street to street fighting, without bothering for their lives and by air-dropping commandos at the risky places, our forces made a great headway in disrupting the militant's supply routes and links.

And country's primarily intelligence agency ISI also recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition from the possession of the terrorists. Thus, security agencies have successfully broken the backbone of the foreign-backed terrorists. Peace has been restored in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan Karachi, including other regions. Nonetheless, it was due to the 'moral force' that despite Indian surprise invasion in 1965 and the qualitative and numerical superiority over Pakistan, by sacrificing their lives, Pakistan's Armed Forces not only recaptured the Indian territories, but also took Khem Karan from Indian forces, including various regions of Rajasthan, Sindh, and Chumb in Kashmir. Indian defeat was owing to its soldiers' demoralization.

- Sajjad Shaukat writes on international affairs and is author of the book: US vs Islamic Militants, Invisible Balance of Power: Dangerous Shift in International Relations; Email: sajjad_logic@yahoo.com

Briefs

Azerbaijan develops new strategy for exports

DNA

BAKO: "Azerbaijan's National Export Strategy (NIS) has been developed and will be submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers this month," said Yusif Abdullayev, acting president of the Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Foundation (AZ-PROMO) under the Ministry of Economy. He added that at the same time, work is underway to digitize applications for the services provided by AZ-PROMO to exporters: "During the strict quarantine due to the coronavirus pandemic, we saw that it is essential to focus on e-commerce. For this purpose, it is planned to add mechanisms to promote e-commerce to the 'Made in Azerbaijan' brand."

India reports record surge in virus cases

DNA

NEW DELHI: India saw another record surge of 90,632 cases in the past 24 hours, as infections spread to smaller cities and parts of rural India. According to the Health Ministry, India's caseload reached 4,113,811, slightly short of Brazil's confirmed 4,123,000 infections. Brazil is the second worst-hit country after the United States with 6,245,112 cases. The ministry on Sunday also reported 1,065 deaths for a total of 70,626. More than 1 million cases have been detected in India in less than two weeks. Authorities say India's daily testing exceeds 1 million now. Dr. Randeep Guleria, a government health expert, said India is seeing a resurgence with over 70 percent of its nearly 1.4 billion people still susceptible to infections. "We could say that we are seeing some sort of a second wave in certain parts of the country." India's recovery rate was 77.23 percent, leading to a decline in fatality rate to around 1.73 percent, the ministry said.

Sri Lanka: Supertanker fire extinguished

DNA

COLOMBO: A fire on a supertanker abandoned off Sri Lanka's east coast has been extinguished, a Sri Lankan navy spokesman said on Sunday. "The fire on the oil tanker has been doused. However we are continuing to spray water in case it reignites," Captain Indika De Silva told media. The New Diamond is carrying about 2 million barrels of crude oil, although a senior Sri Lankan navy official said on Friday there was no real risk of a spill. The fire broke out in the engine room on Thursday morning and spread to the bridge of the ship.

China's first reusable spacecraft lands

DNA

BEIJING: China's first reusable spacecraft landed Sunday after two days in orbit, a possible step toward lower-cost space flight, the government announced. The secretive, military-run space program has released few details of the spacecraft, which was launched Friday from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in China's desert northwest. State media have yet to publish any photos of the latest craft. Its size and shape are unclear. China fired its first astronaut into orbit in 2003 and has launched a space station and landed a probe rover on the moon. A probe carrying another robot rover is en route to Mars. The reusable craft landed as planned at Jiuquan, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The flight "marks an important breakthrough in our country's research on reusable spacecraft" that promise a "more convenient and inexpensive way" to reach space, Xinhua said.

Azerbaijan, Pakistan discuss issues of expanding military cooperation

The parties expressed satisfaction with the development of traditional friendship and mutual trust between the peoples of the two countries, including Azerbaijani-Pakistani relations, as well as the level of strategic partnership

DNA

MOSCOW: The Minister of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov, who is on a working visit to Moscow, has met with the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, General Nadeem Raza on September 5. The parties expressed satisfaction with the development of traditional friendship and mutual trust between the peoples of the two countries, including Azerbaijani-Pakistani relations, as well as the level of strategic partnership. Touching upon the mili-



tary-political situation in the region, the Minister of Defense of Azerbaijan spoke about the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and thanked Pakistan for the support of Azerbaijan's fair position in resolving this issue within international organizations. The meeting discussed issues of expanding cooperation between Azerbaijan and Pakistan in the field of security, in the military, military-technical and military-educational spheres, in the fight against terrorism, including the development of relations between the naval and air forces of the two countries, as well as conducting joint military exercises.

Turkey sanctions on table for EU meeting

PARIS: Turkey's escalating conflict with Greece and Cyprus will be the main subject at this month's European Council meeting, when sanctions will be considered against Ankara, France said on Sunday. Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said he and his counterparts in other EU countries had already discussed "the range of reprisals we could take with regards to Turkey". Turkey embarked on a military-backed hydrocarbon exploration venture in waters between Greece and Cyprus on August 10, ratcheting up tensions in a strategic corridor of the eastern Mediterranean. Greece responded with naval exercises to defend its maritime territory, which were later bolstered by the deployment of French frigates and fighter jets. The dispute between NATO members has underscored the rising geopolitical risks in the area as Turkey pursues more aggressively nationalist policies under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The European Union's diplomatic chief Josep Borrell has also raised the possibility of sanctions against Ankara but so far Paris has been unable to persuade other EU nations to join its hard-line response. — APP

Beirut blast miracle rescue hopes snuffed out

BEIRUT: Faint hopes of a miracle rescue from the rubble of the Lebanese capital's catastrophic August 4 explosion were snuffed out Sunday as a civil defence chief announced the search had been in vain. "There's nothing more," after an exhaustive search that lasted three days, George Abou Moussa, Lebanon's civil defence operations chief, told AFP. "There was nobody alive and there were no dead." Rescue workers already said Saturday there was no longer any sign of life, dashing hopes raised by sensor readings of an apparent pulse from under a building that collapsed in last month's blast. The cataclysmic explosion in the port of Beirut killed at least 191 people, making it Lebanon's deadliest peacetime disaster. Seven people are still listed as missing. — APP

Pakistan Cricket Board recommends harsh punishments for corrupters

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board has recommended tough sanctions for the corrupt in cricket in its drive to assist the government around legislation on criminalizing corruption in sports. "The PCB has reviewed the existing legislation enacted within Pakistan and has noted that the same fail to adequately target and address corruption/illegal manipulation in sports," Chairman Ehsan Mani said on Sunday while talking to APP. The one-man Commission of Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum in 2,000

had recommended that the Pakistan Government should investigate gambling in Pakistan, but because his advice was not taken forward and no legislation was done, Pakistan continued to face embarrassment with Salman Butt, Mohammad Amir and Mohammad Asif ending up behind bars in England in 2010. The country was at the receiving end again during the Pakistan Super League when a number of players was banned and fined for breaching the PCB Code of Conduct. "In the draft paper, the PCB has proposed severe sanctions pertaining to corruption, illegal manipulation, betting, match and spot-fixing as well as

aiding and abetting such conduct and has proposed penalties to be imposed on individuals found guilty of engaging in such offences," Mani added. The PCB is presenting engaged in a corruption battle with Umar Akmal and has filed an appeal in the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) against the independent adjudicator's decision to halve Umar Akmal 36-month sanction for failure to report corrupt approaches in two unrelated incidents. "The PCB takes matters relating to anti-corruption very seriously and firmly maintains a zero-tolerance approach. The PCB doesn't take any pride in seeing a cricketer of

Umar's stature being banned for corruption, but as a credible and respectable institution, we need to send out a loud and clear message to all our stakeholders that there will be no sympathy whatsoever for anyone who breaches the regulations," the PCB has said last month. While reports suggest the world's wealthiest cricket board — the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) — may not be able to host the 2020-21 domestic season, the PCB earlier this month released a complete domestic schedule with focus on the ICC T20 World Cups 2021 and 2022, and the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023.

Israel demolishes 51 Palestinian structures in Jerusalem

DNA

JERUSALEM: Israeli authorities escalated demolitions in occupied East Jerusalem in August, knocking 51 Palestinian buildings and displacing 85 people, many of whom were children, a Palestinian rights group said. The demolition of homes, which Israel says were built without proper

permits, have been conducted in an "unprecedented manner" in the past month, Palestinian rights group, Wadi Hilweh Information Center, said in a fresh report. The authorities have been acting in this way despite a difficult situation with coronavirus in Israel and particularly in Jerusalem, which is claimed as the capital by both Israelis and Palestinians. Earlier this week, Israeli TV reported

that the country had the highest rate of infections in the world per capita. According to data from Johns Hopkins University, which the journalists analyzed, it averaged 199.3 new confirmed cases a day per million residents. Most of the destroyed structures were inhabited housing units. A total of 36 homes, five commercial establishments, seven agricultural shacks and other facilities were removed in the

city, the rights group said. More than a half of the demolitions were carried out by Palestinian owners themselves "under pressure from the municipality," while the rest were knocked by Israeli bulldozers and other heavy machinery. A 2017 law introduced harsh sanctions for building illegal structures in the city, stating that perpetrators could be charged not only for the demolition, but for the construction itself.



OSLO: Birthday of Hadia Munashar daughter of Munashar Bhatti and niece of Chief Editor Daily Islamabad Post. — DNA

Deaths in Bangladesh floods rise to 257

DNA

DHAKA: Six new deaths raised the death toll from floods in Bangladesh to 257, with people facing difficulties amid the coronavirus pandemic, including losses to the country's agriculture and fish farming, according to officials. Of the total fatalities, 212 drowned, 27 died of snakebites and 15 were killed in thunderstorms, while three lost their lives to other diseases, according to the Health Emergency Operation Center serving under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Furthermore, 78,000 people were infected with waterborne diseases, including some 800 fresh infections as the country has already witnessed one of the worst floods in its history. Meanwhile, some 26,500 people in flood-hit areas are also suffering from diarrhea, with one dead, it added. Heavy rains in neighboring India every monsoon between June to September added to huge inflows into downstream Bangladesh. Bangladesh Water Development Board, however, said the floodwater level in the Ganges basin started declining.

Gaza records 162 new virus cases

DNA

GAZA CITY: Palestinian health authorities registered 162 additional fatalities from the coronavirus pandemic in the blockaded Gaza Strip on Sunday. In a statement, the Health Ministry said the seaside territory's tally rose to 969 confirmed cases, including seven deaths and 89 recoveries. "The number of active cases in Gaza rose to 873," the ministry said, calling on residents to abide by health protocols to help stem the virus' spread in the strip. The Hamas-led government imposed a lockdown in Gaza on Aug. 24 to help curb the outbreak in the blockaded enclave.

UAE reports highest COVID-19 recoveries

DNA

ABU DHABI: The UAE on Sunday recorded the highest recoveries of COVID-19 cases in a single day with 2,443 patients being fully cured, taking the country's total number of recoveries to 66,095. According to the Ministry of Health and Prevention (Mohap), some 513 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours, pushing the total number of confirmed infections in the country to 73,984. Meanwhile, no new deaths were recorded, leaving the country's death toll at 388. The latest coronavirus patients, all of whom are in a stable condition and receiving the necessary care, were identified after conducting more than 87,336 additional COVID-19 tests among UAE citizens and residents over the past few days.

MI and CSK to clash in IPL opener

NEW DELHI: The Chennai Super Kings will take on defending champions Mumbai Indians in the IPL's opening match, officials said Sunday, despite being the last team to start training after two players tested positive for coronavirus. The fixture list for the league — which runs from September 19 to November 10 in the United Arab Emirates — was released by the Board of Control for Cricket in India. The lucrative tournament was delayed and then moved out of India because of the pandemic. "The season will kickstart on 19th September in Abu Dhabi with a blockbuster clash between defending champions Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings," BCCI's Honorary Secretary Jay Shah said in a statement. "There will be 10 double headers... In all, 24 matches will be held in Dubai, 20 in Abu Dhabi and 12 in Sharjah." The venues for the playoffs and the final would be announced later, he added. — APP

Munir reaffirms Pakistan's pledge for Kashmir

It is unfortunate, however, that despite our commitment and best efforts, strategic stability in region continues to be held hostage by our eastern neighbour who shows no regard for the principles of the UN Charter or for human rights

DNA

NEW YORK: Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram has renewed Islamabad's commitment to achieving a just solution of the festering Kashmir dispute through a plebiscite guaranteed to the Kashmiri people by numerous Security Council resolutions. "We desire peace in the region," he said in a message released in New York on Sunday to mark Pa-

kistan's Defence Day. "It is unfortunate, however, that despite our commitment and best efforts, strategic stability in region continues to be held hostage by our eastern neighbour who shows no regard for the principles of the UN Charter or for human rights," the Pakistani envoy said in an obvious reference to India. He said Qaid-e-Azam visualized a Pakistan that would work for peace, extending material and moral support to

the world's oppressed and suppressed people and upholding the UN Charter. "It is in line with the same vision that Pakistan has supported United Nations' efforts to maintain International Peace and Security as a leading troop contributing country for more than six decades," he said, pointing out that since 1960, Pakistan has contributed more than 200,000 peacekeepers in 46 UN missions in 28 countries. "Our troops have served under

the UN flag with professionalism and dedication," Ambassador Akram said, adding, "They have helped war-torn societies rebuild, establish law and order, and achieve peace through political solutions. "Our contribution to the cause of global peace has not been without cost; 157 of our best and bravest, including 24 officers and a female peacekeeper, have made the ultimate sacrifice during these missions." Pakistan, he said, took pride in

leading the global efforts in eradicating terrorism, successfully turning the tide against terrorism. "This has come at the grave cost of tens of thousands of precious and innocent lives." Pakistan's endeavours for a peaceful Afghanistan were well recognized by the international community and the United Nations, his message said. "On this auspicious day we honour the sacrifice of our sons and daughters who laid down their lives defending the motherland.

Briefs

Political leaders pay tribute to martyrs on Defence Day

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prominent political leaders on Sunday have paid tribute to the martyrs of armed forces on the occasion of 55th Defence Day. Special Assistant to the PM on Information and Broadcasting and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) chairman Asim Saleem Bajwa has saluted all the martyrs and paid tribute to valiant armed forces for their sacrifices in keeping Pakistan strong. "The whole nation stands behind you with full trust. Let's not forget ours are the best and only forces in the world to have won War on Terror so comprehensively," he added. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president and opposition leader in National Assembly (NA) Shehbaz Sharif has visited martyrs monument in Lahore and lauded the valor and bravery of the soldiers. Interior minister said that entire nation is proud of armed forces of Pakistan. He further pledged to continue support for Kashmiri people till the resolution of the conflict.

Pakistan's nuclear reactor completes thermal testing

BEIJING: The K2 unit at the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant in Pakistan, the first overseas unit using China's homegrown Hualong One technology, has successfully completed Hot Functional Tests (HFT), said China National Nuclear Corporation. The success has laid a solid foundation for subsequent major processes, including nuclear fuel loading and grid-connected power generation, China Global Television Network (CGTN) reported on Sunday. HFT play a significant role in the construction of the nuclear power project, simulating the actual operation conditions of the nuclear power plant to verify the reliability of the main equipment and systems under the thermal conditions, before the nuclear reactor is loaded with nuclear fuel. - APP

Over 60% parents comfortable with school reopenings

ISLAMABAD: With turnaround of coronavirus cases and reopening of businesses across the country, most of the parents feel now comfortable to send their children to schools, a survey revealed. Conducted by IPSOS, the nationwide tracking research on COVID-19 in Pakistan, observed a drastic change in parents' comfort level while sending children back to school since June. The parents' opposition of sending children to schools has dropped from 80% in June to 37% now. According to survey, four out of five Pakistanis had now been able to completely resume their business or employment activities. It observed that the awareness level above coronavirus among the public was highest in April that has been stagnant since then and now seems to be settling at 86%.

NA, Senate sessions postponed

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to postpone the sessions of the National Assembly and the Senate. Sources said that the sessions have been postponed due to engagements of the parliamentarians in the wake of the ongoing flood relief operation in the country. Prime Minister Imran Khan held a discussion with Adviser on Parliamentary Affairs Dr Babar Awan on the approval of FATF laws. - DNA

EU envoy lauds Pakistan's COVID-19 response

It was heartening that the Pakistan government's measures such as smart lockdowns as well as testing and tracing had helped slow down the spread of virus considerably, Androulla Kaminara remarked

ISLAMABAD: EU Ambassador to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara Sunday said the European Union fully backed Pakistan's efforts to overcome the socioeconomic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and build back better for a more sustainable future. "The COVID-19 has shaken the world unexpectedly - and we will continue to feel the socioeconomic consequences of the virus for quite a long-time. Showing solidarity with each other during the trying times is the responsibility of all of us," she said in an exclusive interview with APP. She said it was an unprecedented challenge, but Pakistan had so far managed the crisis very well. "The data from the WHO (World Health Organization), which I have followed closely over the past few months, suggests that COVID-19 cases and

deaths are on a steep decline in Pakistan. At the peak of the daily infections in mid-June there were over 6,000 new infections per day and for most of August this has been reduced to about 500 new infections or lower per day." It was heartening that the Pakistan government's measures such as smart lockdowns as well as testing and tracing had helped slow down the spread of virus considerably, Androulla Kaminara remarked. The government, she said, had taken a number of positive initiatives to stimulate the economy during the difficult time and also to help those segments of the population, which had been particularly affected by the pandemic. One example was the expansion of the Ehsas Programme to cover approximately 23 million households, she added.



As regards the Pak-EU relations, Ambassador Kaminara said the European Union had been an honest and long-standing partner and friend

to Pakistan. "We have had formal relations for nearly the past six decades and co-operation in a number of areas during that time."

The EU-Pakistan bilateral relations received a major boost when the Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP) was signed in June 2019, to further enhance engagement between the two sides, and address emerging global challenges, she added. Giving details of the SEP projects, she said it included the traditional areas of cooperation such as peace and security, democracy, rule of law, good governance, human rights, migration and mobility, trade and investment. The SEP had also introduced cooperation in additional increasingly important areas such as energy, climate change, connectivity, education and culture, and science and technology. Trade, the envoy, said was one of the cornerstones of the EU's relationship with Pakistan as the EU support-

ed the latter's integration into the world economy and its sustainable economic development. "The EU is the biggest export market for Pakistani goods. We account for about one-third of all Pakistani exports, with the second destination accounting for about half of this." Pakistan's export volume, she said, increased from 4.5 billion in 2014 when GSP+ was awarded to the country, to 7.5 billion in 2019, which reflected a handsome 66.6% increase. Between 2018 and 2019, there was an increase of 9% in the exports to Europe, which was also quite substantial. "So overall, definitely the EU-Pak relations have been progressively getting stronger and also expanding in new areas," she remarked. - APP

Pakistan to enter into Bonn Challenge 2030

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided to enter into the Bonn Challenge 2030, a global environmental restoration endeavour under which globally 350 million hectares of degraded and deforested land would be restored through afforestation activities. In a statement in Islamabad on Sunday, Special Assistant on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam, said as a part of the global effort, one million hectares of degraded and deforested lands in different parts of the country would be restored. He said the present government is implementing world-acclaimed programmes and projects including Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme, Protected Areas Initiative, Clean Green Pakistan Initiative and Recharge Pakistan. The Special Assistant said all these programmes are aimed at achieving Pakistan's pledge of restoring one million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes as a part of the Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision for Clean and Green Pakistan.

2nd vessel carrying wheat reaches Karachi

DNA

KARACHI: Second vessel carrying 65,000 metric tons of wheat has reached Karachi from Ukraine. According to statement of National Food Security, efforts are being made not only to tackle the ongoing wheat price hike issue but also to keep the strategic wheat reserves at required levels. It said the third wheat import vessel carrying 69,000 metric tons wheat will reach Karachi port on Tuesday.

'Several projects underway for special persons'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser says several projects are under consideration for the welfare of the special persons in Islamabad, the speaker said the government is mulling over the establishment of Model Schools for the special children. He said that serving the special children is the main and real message of our religion and we all should come forward for it to uplift the society.

NEPRA forms body to probe KE's 'negligence'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Authority (NEPRA) has formed a three-member committee to probe the K-Electric's alleged negligence in deaths from electrocution in Karachi during the recent monsoon rains. According to a press release issued by NEPRA, the committee will be headed by the director-general of monitoring and enforcement. The authority will present a comprehensive report to NEPRA after a thorough investigation. The NEPRA will decide whether legal action should be taken against K-Electric or not after receiving the report. The spell of monsoon rains in Karachi from July 6 to August 12 resulted in multiple people dying due to electrocution. The regulatory authority has received 57 complaints of deaths from electrocution in Karachi so far. The committee members will seek details from families who lost their loved ones due to electrocution in the monsoon season.

FBR to facilitate taxpayers by shifting cases

KHAYAM ABBASI

PESHAWAR: Member Inland Revenue, Federal board of Revenue, Dr. Mohammad Ashfaq has said that the shifting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cases to LTU Islamabad aimed to facilitate the taxpayers, said a press release issued by Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) here Sunday. During a meeting with local businessmen, he ruled out any physical involvement in cases after their shifting to LTU Islamabad as the whole process will be carried out by using modern technology and an online system. Beside, SCCI Senior Vice President Shahid Hussain, Senator Nauman Wazir, former president and Chairman SCCI Standing Committee on Sale Tax, Zahidullah Shinwari, Chief Inland Revenue (Analysis), FBR Nasir Janjua, Chief Inland Operation, FBR Ijal Khattak, Chief Commissioner Regional Tax Office, Sardar Ali Khawaja and RTO Peshawar, Tariq Jamal Khattak attended the meeting.

Sudan declares three-month emergency

KHARTOUM: Sudanese authorities have declared their country a natural disaster area and imposed a three-month state of emergency across the country after rising floodwaters and heavy rainfall killed around 100 people and inundated over 100,000 houses since late July. The announcement was made late on Friday following a meeting of the country's defence and security council, which is headed by a top government official, General Abdel Fattah Burhan. Flooding caused by seasonal heavy rainfall, mostly in neighbouring Ethiopia, led the Nile River to rise about 17.5 metres late in August, the highest level it has reached in about a century according to the Sudanese Irrigation Ministry. The ministry said water levels of the Blue Nile are higher than the 1988 flood levels that destroyed tens of thousands of homes in several parts of Sudan and displaced over one million people. - DNA

Palestine: Serbia moving embassy to Jerusalem illegal

DNA

ELGRADE: The announcement by Serbia to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is contrary to international law and UN resolutions, Palestine's ambassador to Belgrade said Friday. Mohammed Nabhan's remarks came after Washington announced Serbia is committed to moving its embassy.

"That is, as far as it happens, contrary to international law and to UN resolutions relating to the Palestinian question and to Jerusalem as an occupied city and that it harms the rights of the Palestinian People to exercise its state in all the territories that Israel occupied in 1967 including Jerusalem," said a statement from the embassy. Nabhan said the decision would strain relations between the two countries.

"There is no doubt that this would harm the traditional friendship between Palestine and Serbia and would not serve this development," said Nabhan, adding that he is considered a friend to Serbia and the Serbian people and he is hoping friendly Serbia would distance itself from statements form Washington. Serbian and Kosovar leaders met in a US-sponsored two-day dialogue in

Washington where they reached an historic milestone - agreeing to normalize economic ties. Serbia and Kosovo signed separate agreements with the US in which Serbia agreed to move its embassy to Jerusalem. Kosovo and Israel agreed to normalize relations and establish diplomatic ties. Serbia also agreed to open a commercial office in Jerusalem in September.

Pak to keep raising voice for Kashmir, says Qureshi



SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: In a tweet, he warned India to make no mistake as Kashmir is a global issue. The Foreign Minister said the fascist Indian government is murdering and blinding innocent Kashmiris and systematically trying to change the demography of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He reiterated Pakistan's resolve to ensure a free Kashmir will continue to be strengthened despite the Indian government's repeated attempts to have the illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir removed from UN Security Council agenda. Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Indian repeated attempts met consistently with failure and rejection.

IIEP holds technical session for engineers

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Institution of Engineers, Pakistan (Rawalpindi-Islamabad Center) held here a technical lecture for graduate engineers on monitoring and evaluation of development projects. It was aimed at appraising the young engineers about their role and responsibilities for execution of the development projects in accordance with the laid down specifications. The event was arranged by

the Center as part of their continuing professional development program (CPD) for the young engineers. Engr. Prof. Dr. Attaullah Shah, Vice Chancellor Karakorum International University, Gilgit-Baltistan was the resource person who explained in detail about the various aspects of monitoring and evaluation in execution of public sector's projects. Engr. Ahmed Shamim, convener of CPD conducted the session and more than fifty engineers attended the

lecture. Also present on the occasion were chairman IIEP-RIC, Engr. Hafiz M. Ehsan ul Haq Qazi, Secretary IIEP-RIC Gp. Capt. @ Engr. Najamuddin and chairman building committee IIEP Prof. Dr. Sharif Bhatti. It was communicated that the monitoring and evaluation could work as powerful accountability mechanism for achieving the stipulated targets of any project. Engr. Dr. Attaullah, sharing his rich experience and expertise with young engineers emphasized that

impact and outcome of the development projects must be kept in view in the execution of projects. Focus of projects' monitoring must be on quality of work and upholding the required standard. He also briefed the graduate engineers about the techniques of data's collection for proper monitoring of the projects. He also told them about the designing and monitoring system and different mode of projects' execution for achieving the desired results.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa called on President Dr. Arif Alvi. - DNA

'China has deep strategic interests in Pakistan'

The Pentagon states that Pakistan is also among the countries where Beijing has developed a series of "campaigns," outlining operational military activities to achieve its strategic objectives

DNA

WASHINGTON: An official US report indicates that China has deep strategic interests in Pakistan, which will persuade both countries to stay engaged despite possible irritants. In its 2020 report to Congress on "Military and Security Developments in China," the US Department of Defence suggests that Pakistan is among a handful of countries where Beijing seeks to enhance both "bilateral and multilateral" engagements.

The report - published earlier this week - notes that Pakistan is among the countries where China "has likely considered locations for military logistics facilities," a claim both Beijing and Islamabad reject as speculative. The Pentagon states that Pakistan is also among the countries where Beijing has developed a series of "campaigns," outlining operational military activities to achieve its strategic objectives. As part of these campaigns, China is seeking "an increase in bilateral and multilateral engagement" with nations like Russia, Pakistan, and

the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) that "can improve its ability to organise and manage combined operations that integrate foreign forces," the report adds. The report also claims that China's Strategic Support Force (SSF) "runs tracking, telemetry, and command stations in Namibia, Pakistan, and Argentina." The Pentagon notes that China's One Belt, One Road (OBOR) projects in Pakistan are associated with pipelines and port construction that intend to decrease China's reliance on transporting energy resources through strategic

choke points, such as the Strait of Malacca. In 2019, the Chinese military participated in Russia's national-level exercise TSENTR-19 along with forces from Pakistan and India, the report adds. The Pentagon reports to Congress that China's counter-terrorism cooperation with Tajikistan is likely tied to the August 2016 creation of a quadrilateral counterterrorism coordination mechanism between Afghanistan, China, Pakistan and Tajikistan. Under this arrangement, all four countries agreed to jointly strengthen border securi-

ty against China's defined "three evils," terrorism, separatism, and religious extremism. A recent report in the Forbes magazine says that China has commercial and political interests in developing Gwadar but there is no evidence to suggest that it is building military installations in the port city. Like the Pentagon report, the author of the Forbes report, H. I. Sutton, argues that Gwadar has strategic importance for Beijing because it will provide "a port facility connected to China by road and rail that bypasses the Strait of Malacca."