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Germany and Pakistan to continue trusted partnership: Envoy

Denmark-Pakistan relations to grow further, says envoy

Restoration of economic activities a good omen



Briefs

Govt to complete its term

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday said there was no threat to the government or democracy, and he was confident that the present democratic set-up would complete its mandated term. "I don't see any threat to the government or democracy in the country. I am confident that the present government will complete its term like the two previous regimes," he said when asked to comment on the current political situation in the country in an interview with a private television channel. - APP

FM pens tribute to late Kuwait Emir

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Friday visited embassy of Kuwait in the capital to offer condolences on passing away of Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Kuwait's ambassador in Pakistan Nasir Al-Mutahiri received the FM on his arrival at the embassy. The Foreign Minister offered Fateha for the late Emir of Kuwait and prayed for the blessings upon the departed soul. He penned his remarks in the condolence book, terming Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, a peace-loving and compassionate ruler.

Details of Nawaz' assets submitted

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and PML-N Supreme Leader Nawaz Sharif owns land spread over thousands of acres in Murree, Lahore, Abbottabad and Sheikhupura, the National Accountability Bureau revealed. The bureau released a report of the assets owned by the PML-N founder in the Toshakhana reference on Friday. Earlier this week, NAB had asked for Nawaz's bank account, property and vehicle records from the Lahore Development Authority and the excise and taxation department in the Toshakhana reference.

Govt decides to deal with Opp sternly

The PM further said that the entire nation was standing with the state institutions adding people would reject all such moves meant to destabilize govt

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to deal with Opposition and its scheduled protests with an iron hand. The Prime Minister Imran Khan in this regard chaired a high level meeting on Friday. The govt spokespersons attended the meeting. The Prime Minister asked the govt spokespersons to come heavy on the Opposition and counter them on all forums. The Prime Minister further said that no deal shall be made with those who criticize national institutions. The Prime Minister further said that the entire nation was standing with the state institutions adding people would reject all such moves meant to destabilize democratically elected government. It may be mentioned here that the Opposition parties are launching a movement against government from October 11 by holding public rallies. The opposition parties have also threatened to resign from assemblies in case their demands were not met. They are demanding resignation of the prime minister and snap elections in the country.

Opp postpones PDM session

NAVEED MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: The central leadership of 12 opposition parties have postponed session of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) on Friday. According to details, the meeting was deferred due to non-availability of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chairman Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party chief, Mahmood Khan Achakzai. Sources told that the session will be held on September 3. On the other hand, the meeting of the steering committee of the PDM will be carried out on October 5 in Islamabad under the chairmanship of Ahsan Iqbal. The meeting will decide about the roadmap for anti-government rallies, meetings and protests.

'Pak, Thailand enjoy cordial relations'

The Thai ambassador also thanked the interior ministry's cooperation for returning of Thai students during the corona pandemic

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan Pornpop Uampidhaya Friday called on Minister for Interior Brig (R) Syed Ijaz Ahmed Shah. Matters of mutual cooperation came under discussion during the meeting, said a press release issued here. The Thai ambassador felicitated the interior minister for effectively controlling the coronavirus situation. Restoration of economic activities in Pakistan was also a good omen, he said. The Thai ambassador also thanked the interior ministry's cooperation for returning of Thai students during the corona pandemic. Pakistan was very popular



among the Thai students, he added. Speaking on the occasion, the interior minister said Pakistan and Thailand enjoyed cordial relations and it would be further strengthened. The minister said Pakistan would extend all possible support to the Thai government. He said coronavirus situation had considerably improved in Pakistan and expressed the hope that it would further improve in coming days. - APP

Saudi Arabia issues guidelines for travellers

RIYADH: The Saudi Arabian aviation authority has issued fresh guidelines for passengers from Pakistan and other countries during the coronavirus pandemic after announcing plans for gradually lifting travel restrictions. GACA stated that the passengers (non-Saudis) will submit their negative PCR test reports from a verified laboratory abroad. The test report must be done no later than 72 hours before the scheduled departure to any of the airports in Saudi Arabia.

It said that the condition for PCR test is limited to non-Saudis only who are over the age of eight years. The guidelines also include that 'different regulations of the departure country must be considered and observed in determining the appropriate age to conduct COVID-19 (PCR) test for children.' The aviation authority had earlier directed all foreign airlines including Pakistan to strictly implement the prevention measures during flights to Saudi Arabia.

Mecca to reopen for limited pilgrimages

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia will reopen the Muslim holy places for the year-round umrah pilgrimage on Sunday, scaled back and with extensive health precautions, seven months after

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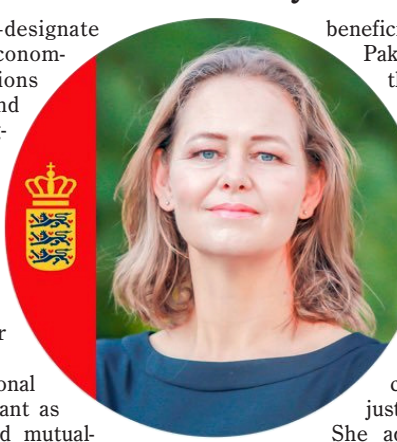
Denmark-Pakistan ties to grow further: envoy

I aim to expand mutual-beneficial opportunities for Pak and Denmark in the recovery from the virus crisis promoting a sustainable and resilient economy in closer harmony with the natural world

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The newly appointed ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan Lis Rosenholm has said her job as ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan would be to further promote and strengthen bilateral relations. The ambassador-designate expressed these views in her message upon arrival in Islamabad. She said, she would like to express her utmost appreciation for the Pakistani people who have given her a warm welcome. 'It is truly an honor for me to take up my assignment as the Ambassador Designate of Denmark to Pakistan'.

The ambassador -designate said the political, economic and cultural relations between Denmark and Pakistan are long-standing, reliable and forward-looking. One of the most important tasks of the Royal Danish Embassy in Islamabad is to bring our interests together in a fair and mutual dialogue. Strong international cooperation is important as ever. I aim to expand mutual-



beneficial opportunities for Pakistan and Denmark in the recovery from the coronavirus crisis promoting a sustainable and resilient economy in closer harmony with the natural world. I will explore how Denmark and Pakistan can work closer in health, renewable energy, water, food, climate change, gender equality - just to mention a few areas. She added, she believed that

it was essential to build a wide range of partnerships to enhance ties between our countries - across our governments, businesses, academia, artists; community based organizations and not least people. We will always base our contacts on mutual respect, understanding and open dialogue. The youth holds the keys to a better and more sustainable future for all in their hands, not least in Pakistan. To strengthen dialogue with the Pakistani youth, we will launch a number of initiatives. 'Together with my excellent Embassy team, I look forward to engaging with you in developing and strengthening the important ties between Pakistan and Denmark' Ambassador Lis added.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister of Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. - DNA

Buzdar, PM Imran discuss protests

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister of Punjab (CM) Sardar Usman Buzdar on Friday met Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan and discussed strategy regarding Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) protests against the arrest of Opposition Leader in National Assembly (NA) Shehbaz Sharif by National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in money laundering case. According to details, both the leaders have also discussed ongoing political situation, development projects and administrative matters in the province. CM Buzdar is also scheduled to participate in the meeting that will be chaired by PM Imran to devise plan to combat opposition's anti-government campaign. He will also meet NA Speaker Asad Qaiser and other ministers during his visit. The development came after PML-N announced to hold phase-wise protests from October 3. PML-N sources told that in the first phase, demonstration will be carried out in Lahore while protests will also be staged in Gujranwala, Faisalabad and other cities of Punjab in the second round. Party workers and leaders were also given responsibilities in this regard.

Import of 180,000 MT of wheat approved

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet here at the Cabinet Division. ECC considered and approved the import of 180,000 MT of wheat from Russia on GTG basis waiving off all taxes/levies duties on GTG import of wheat. The forum was informed that about 5 million tons of wheat was available with the public sector in stocks.

No military presence in Azerbaijan: FO

The FO spokesperson said that Pakistan supports Azerbaijan's position on Nagorno-Karabakh

SAIFULLAH \ DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday refuted "irresponsible" reports claiming that Pakistan Army is fighting alongside Azerbaijani forces against Armenia in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said the reports were "speculative and baseless". "Pakistan is deeply concerned over the deteriorating security situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh region," Chaudhri said while reiterating Pakistan's position on the conflict.



The spokesperson also said that intensive shelling by Armenian forces on the civilian populations of Azerbaijan is reprehensible and most unfortunate. "This could compromise peace and security of the entire region. Armenia must stop its military action

to avoid further escalation," the spokesperson said. Chaudhri said that Pakistan supports Azerbaijan's position on Nagorno-Karabakh, adding that the position was in line with the "several unanimously adopted United Nations Security Council resolutions". The FO's statement came as fighting between the Armenian and Azerbaijani forces continued despite calls for a ceasefire. Armenia and Azerbaijan have been locked in a simmering conflict for decades over the region and new fighting that erupted on Sunday has been the heaviest in decades.

Trump, Melania test corona positive

The future of Trump's re-election campaign is in doldrums due to his illness



NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump announced on Friday that he and First Lady Melania Trump have tested positive for coronavirus and are going into quarantine "immediately". "We will begin our quarantine and recovery process immediately. We will get through this TOGETHER!" tweeted the US president. Trump is the latest world leader to have contracted the virus. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was the first major leader who was diagnosed with COVID-19 in March. The future of Trump's re-election campaign is

PM wishes speedy recovery

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday wished for a speedy recovery for United States President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump after they announced to have contracted the coronavirus. In a tweet, the Premier said, "Wishing President Trump and First Lady Melania Trump speedy recovery from COVID-19".

in doldrums due to his illness and inability to address the rallies before the crucial November 3 vote.

According to a New York Times report, "Even if Mr. Trump, 74, remains asymptomatic, he will have to withdraw from the campaign trail and stay isolated in the White House for an unknown period of time."

Registered voters cross 115.74m

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan has released the final voter lists showing 115,748,753 of registered voters in Pakistan. According to ECP, there are 64,078,616 men, 51,667,599 women and 2,538 transgender voters in the country. The total registered voters in Punjab are 66,236,144, including 36,371,326 male, 29,862,932 female, and 1,886 transgender voters. In Sindh, total numbers of voters are 24,351,681, which include 13,443,983 male, 10,907,267 female, and 431 transgender voters. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, there are 19,533,964 voters in total, including 11,076,630 male, 8,457,201 female and 133 transgender. Total number of voters in Balochistan is 4,801,131, which include 2,753,946 men, 2,047,104 women, and 81 transgender. In Islamabad Capital Territory, there are 825,833 voters, including 432,731 men, 393,095 women, and seven transgender.

Govt acquires 86% land for D-B dam

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The government has acquired nearly 32,139 acres of land, out of the total 37,419 acres required for the construction of the Diamer-Bhasha dam, it emerged on Friday. A News Agency reported that almost 86% of the land for the mega project has been acquired so far. According to the publication, construction work on resettlement of the model village at Harpan Das was in progress, and almost 95% of the work is complete. The construction of RBPR is in progress, sources told the publication. The contracts for RBPR-01 and 02 have also been awarded, with 86.5% and 40% work, respectively completed on the projects.

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Briefs

'Mandatory demand of test from students'

LAHORE: Coronavirus test is not mandatory for students or staff members of any educational institution in the province, said Primary & Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) Punjab Secretary Captain (ret'd) Muhammad Usman Younis in a statement issued here on Friday. He said that complaints had been received that some educational institutes were demanding COVID-19 test from their students and staff members. He said that such demands were 'illegal'. He clarified that P&SHD would conduct random sampling according to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) devised by the government in the educational institutions. He said that one-time test for COVID-19 did not guarantee full protection against the coronavirus pandemic therefore the demand of coronavirus test report from students or staff was unnecessary additional financial burden on them. "The government does not allow any mandatory COVID-19 test report from the students or staff," he added. Captain Usman said that sampling for coronavirus test for 'every citizen' was not mandatory on detection of few cases in the most sensitive areas for COVID-19, and test of a citizen would only be conducted if he or she showed symptoms of coronavirus. All departments and educational institutions were directed to ensure implementation of SOPs instead of testing, as the single best solution for protection from COVID-19 was social distancing and following precautions according to the SOPs, the secretary stated. "A collective effort against coronavirus is important than anything else," he said. — APP

Woman arrest for supplying narcotics

DNA

KARACHI: City's Sukhan police on Friday claimed to have rounded up a most-wanted drug-peddler woman in Karachi. As per details, the woman identified as Sharifa alias Aalia was taken into custody by Sukhan police and two kg of hashish was also recovered from her custody. The woman was involved in supplying narcotics through her racket of women in various parts of the city, the police said and added that Sharifa was jailed several times in different cases. The case has been registered against the woman. Earlier this year, a four-member racket involved in supplying ice drug to students had been arrested by police officials during a raid conducted near Tipu Sultan road in Karachi. The raid conducted by the officials of Ferozabad police station where they had seized a huge quantity of ice powder from the possession of the arrested persons besides confiscating anti-dote, heroin and charas. Police officials had said the men were identified as Gul Ameer, Sadam Hussain, Naim and Hazrat Gul.

Punjab: 5 dengue cases reported

DNA

LAHORE: Five confirmed cases of dengue virus have been reported in the province during the last 24 hours from different cities. According to Primary & Secondary Healthcare department here on Friday, 570 suspected cases of dengue virus have been reported in the last 24 hours who were kept in surveillance and their tests were being conducted. So far 72 cases of dengue have been confirmed from January this year in the province, however, 67 persons have been discharged after recovery and currently 5 patients of dengue virus were under treatment. It may be noted that no death from dengue has been reported this year due to effective measures taken by the government. Punjab government has been continuously working to prevent spread of dengue across the province. Anti-dengue staff recovered dengue larvae from 5,586 places during the last seven days. P&SHD urged the people to adopt precautionary measures and keep their environment clean and dry to protect themselves from dengue.

Conciliatory Committee System effective to resolve cases of minor nature

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The conciliatory committee system is the best to resolve the cases of minor nature and it helps police to save its precious time and pay attention on important tasks of public welfare. It was stated by SP Industrial Area Zubair Ahmed Sheikh while addressing members of Conciliatory Committees in a meeting at Sabzi Mandi police station. The meeting held following directions of IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfikar Khan was attended by DSP Ghulam Muhammad Baqir and heads of four police stations and members of Conciliatory Committees there. The interaction between police officials and members of Conciliatory Committees remained very much help in setting future course of action and they gave many recommendations to improve working. SP Zubair Ahmed Sheikh said that conciliatory system is very much effective for resolving cases of minor nature. He urged all the participants to decide cases purely on merit and with honesty. It would not only bring good repute for them but also to ensure justice and peace in society. He asked the participants to immediately contact



with him in case of any hurdle by any police official towards justice. He said it is our duty to serve the people with dedication and honest-

ty. He also lauded the services of Industrial Area Zone Conciliatory committees and said mutual co-operation of police and public can

ensure complete peace in the society. It was told that 2-3 members of committees sit at police stations on daily basis and try to resolve cases.

Police officials hoped that well reputed and educated persons would join these platforms and assist police in winning public confidence.



ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner Christian Turner and boxer Aamir Khan posing for a camera shot, on Friday. — DNA

HRCP slams PEMRA order

DNA

LAHORE: The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) takes serious exception to the recent order issued by PEMRA, prohibiting news channels from broadcasting interviews and public addresses by 'proclaimed offenders and absconders' on national television. This step violates not only citizens' right to freedom of expression under Article 19 of the Constitution,

but also impinges on people's right to know. HRCP believes that such orders reflect arbitrary censorship, with the very people who advocate it in one instance when it favours them, abandoning it in another when it does not. The fact that this order follows closely on the heels of a speech by political opposition leader Mian Nawaz Sharif, questioning the legitimacy of the 2018 elections, indicates that PEMRA appears to be little more than a tool of political

convenience rather than an objective, independent regulatory body. It is worth recalling that PEMRA did not deny airtime to former President Pervez Musharraf, who is also a proclaimed offender. HRCP has consistently pointed to the growing censorship in Pakistan, even as the government claims that the press has never been more free. We demand that this order be withdrawn immediately and that the government refrain from weaponizing censorship in this blatant manner.

Govt to start register of seminaries from October five

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal government started registration of seminaries (madressahs) for the first time in the country and established offices in all four provinces, Islamabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). The registration process of seminaries will commence from October 5. The madressahs will be registered under the agreement between the federal government and Ittehad-e-Tanzeemate-Madaris, sources told a private television channel. After the completion of the registration process, the

seminaries will be linked with the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training. Those madressahs will also be registered where students are residing besides taking religious education. The government established registration centres in 133 districts and also in the federal capital, whereas, provincial officers will perform duties in major cities including Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Quetta, Muzaffarabad, Gilgit. Sources added that the authorities also deputed district-level officers in all provinces including Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB).

Govt decides not to seek military assistance

DNA

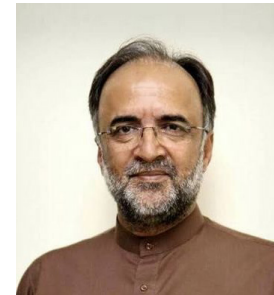
GILGIT: Caretaker government of Gilgit-Baltistan has decided not to seek the help of army in Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly elections. According to details, it was decided not to seek the help of army in Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly elections. The caretaker Chief Minister Mir Afzal said that only paramilitary forces and police would be involved in the election. The caretaker Chief Minister Mir Afzal said that the police and paramilitary forces will prove that they are fully capable of holding elections. However, the deployment of troops in sensitive areas can be carried out according to the circumstances.

Kaira questions PEMRA's authority to ban Nawaz speeches

He noted that Prime Minister Imran Khan had said that he had permitted airing of Nawaz's speeches on TV

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party leader Qamar Zaman Kaira criticized on Friday the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority for imposing a ban on airing of Nawaz Sharif's speeches and questioned the regulator's authority to do so. PEMRA's directives came after recent speeches by Nawaz Sharif that were critical of the government and the military establishment. "Under which law, PEMRA is stopping



Nawaz Sharif's speeches," Kaira asked. He noted that Prime Minister Imran Khan had said that he had permitted airing of Nawaz's speeches on TV. How could the prime minister permit something that was against the law,

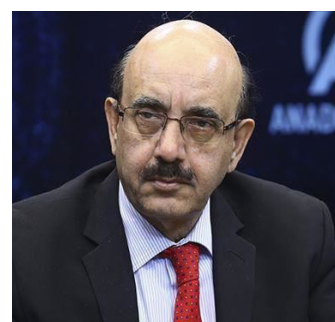
he questioned. PEMRA issued a notification regarding the ban on showing the speeches of "proclaimed offenders" and absconders Thursday. The Islamabad High Court had issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Nawaz in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills case after he had failed to appear before the court. Kaira said PM Khan's government should stop hiding behind institutions as they belong to all Pakistanis. He said the opposition had decided that this government had to go home.

India acquiring more lethal arms to kill Kashmiris: AJK President

DNA

ISLAMABAD: While expressing his deep concern over reports of procurement of one million multi-mode hand grenades by India's Defense Ministry, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood said that war-monger Modi-RSS regime piling up arms and ammunition to use them against defenceless people of illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). Media reports suggest that India's Defence Ministry has signed a Rs 4,000 million contract for procurement of new one million multi-mode hand grenades to further equip the Indian army, a major

chunk of which is deployed in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. During his meeting with the different public delegation that called on him here at Jammu and Kashmir House on Friday, AJK President remarked that India's armed to the teeth forces are to the people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir who are fighting to end the illegal and illegitimate occupation of their land by India. AJK President said BJP-RSS leaders have intensified chauvinistic rhetoric to paint the image of Modi as a true leader of the Hindu community, who is capable of leading the armed forces successfully against Muslim within India and against Pakistan.



India is stockpiling the weapons war arsenals of all kinds to kill people of Kashmir and Pakistan, but our message to fanatic Hindu leadership is clear and loud that wars may be fought with weapons and machines, but they are won by men imbued with

spirit and determination, and by the grace of God, Pakistanis and the Kashmiris will emerge victorious in the war because of their courage and determination. India, he said is habitual of spoiling regional peace through its hegemonic attitude towards its neighbouring countries. The President asked the regional countries to challenge New Delhi's bullying behaviour. Saying that India is committing war crimes in IOJK by transforming its demography, carrying out genocide, ethnic cleansing and barefacedly violating human rights in Occupied Kashmir but unfortunately the world powers have turned a blind eye towards these crimes. Paying tribute to the

people of India-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, who are braving Indian atrocities and barbarities, Khan said the struggle waged by oppressed Kashmiris is destined to succeed. He went on to say that repression of Indian occupying forces can never compel Kashmiris to abandon their right to self-determination as promised to them by the world community in UNSC resolutions. Khan also paid tributes to the people of Kargil and Ladakh for rejecting India's move to separate them from rest of Jammu and Kashmir and making it clear to Delhi that they want to be part of Jammu and Kashmir and wouldn't accept anything less than it.

PEMRA bans airing motorway incident

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) Friday refrained television (TV) channels from airing contents regarding Sialkot Motorway incident following the direction of Anti-Terrorism Court, Lahore. "All satellite TV Channels (News & Current Affairs) are, therefore, directed to comply with the above orders of the Anti-Terrorism Court, Lahore regarding Sialkot Motorway incident in letter and spirit and refrain from airing any content with regard to the instant case, in future," the media regulatory body said while reproducing the operative para of the court's order in a news release. The operative para said; "Instant case one of the accused has been shifted to the judicial lock up for the purpose of identification parade and if media coverage of the instant case is not stopped it will certainly be diminished the evidentiary worth of the material collected by the prosecution. "It is an offence related to sex and certainly due to media coverage concerned victim and his family will also be disgraced. So PEMRA chairman is hereby directed to stop the coverage of case FIR No.1369/2020 dated 09.09.2020, offence u/s 392, 376 (II), 427, 34 PPC and anti terrorism Act, 1997 Police Station Gujerpura, Lahore, immediately on electronic, print and social media." — APP

ECC allows import of 0.18 million tons wheat

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet Friday approved the summary for importing 180,000 metric tons of wheat from Russia on government to government (GTG) basis, waiving off all taxes/levies duties on these imports. The meeting of ECC was chaired by Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, according to press statement issued by the Finance ministry here.

According to the statement, the forum was informed that about 5 million tons of wheat were available with the public sector in stocks. In terms of import 430,000 tons has already been imported by the private sector and another 1.1 million ton was expected to be imported by the end of December 2020. In terms of wheat import by the public sector, Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) has already opened an LC for importing 330,000 MT of wheat while TCP is in the process of tendering another about 1.2 million tons while another 180,000 tons are imported through GTG arrangement from Russia.

The cabinet committee allowed the exemption from sales tax on supply of sugar imported through Trade Corporation of Pakistan of upto 300,000 MT and allowed the amendment of SRO 751(1)/2020 dated August 20, 2020 of the Revenue Division for the purpose. — APP

39 million children vaccinates

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Polio Eradication Program on Friday said that approximately 39 million children had been vaccinated against poliomyelitis during a nationwide immunization campaign from September 21 to 25. The nationwide campaign was implemented by a workforce of almost 270,000 frontline workers who carried out door-to-door vaccination of children under the age of five, said an official of the programme. He said that this was the first nationwide campaign since February due to a four-month suspension on supplementary immunization activities during the COVID-19 outbreak in Pakistan. He said that the campaign was inaugurated by provincial and district leadership across the country, while the Pakistan armed forces, members of medical associations, prominent religious leaders, celebrities, activists and leadership from across the political spectrum came forward to support the campaign.

Briefs

Distillery raided, liquor recovered

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A distillery was raided in Golra police area which led to the recovery of a huge quantity of liquor and alcohol, police said. On a tip off, SP (Saddar) Muhammad Sarfraz Virk constituted a team to raid at a distillery in the area of Bani Stop area of Golra police station. The team under the supervision of DSP Khalid Med-mood Awan including SHO Golra police station Inspector Shams-ul-Akber, ASI Muhammad Saleem along with others officials conducted a raid and recovered 200 wine bottles, 20 litre alcohol and other materials from there. Police team also nabbed Daud and Farhan during the raid. Case has been registered against those running this distillery. DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed has appreciated the performance and directed for further effective measures against those involved in bootlegging or anti-social activities.

Cases disposal rate at NIRC goes up by 37%

ISLAMABAD: The disposal rate of cases at National Industrial Relation Commission (NIRC) has jumped to 8,633 in first eight months of 2020, posting a growth of 37 per cent as compared to the corresponding period of 2019. The National Industrial Relation Commission had resolved at least 6,277 industrial disputes during the first eight months of 2019, said an official document. The disposal rate of cases, filed by the industrial workers, employers and trade unions in 2020, was stood at 95 per cent as a total 9,002 cases were filed with the National Industrial Relation Commission during first eight months. The disposal rate remained highest during June as the National Industrial Relation Commission disposed of 1,577 cases in this month, followed by May and July when it resolved 1,401 and 1,348 industrial disputes, respectively. — APP

Commissioner Hazara reviews work on Dasu dam

ABBOTTABAD: Commissioner Hazara Division Riaz Khan Mehsud Friday visited the site of Dasu dam and reviewed the quality and pace of construction work on the mega project. Flanked by Deputy Commissioners Kohistan, Kohistan Lower and Kolai Palas, District Police Officer Kohistan and Advisor to Authority Col (R) Abdul Ghafar Khan and representatives of Chinese construction companies, the Commissioner directed the concerned quarters to expedite the pace of work and ensure timely completion of the project. On the occasion he was briefed about the project and tunnels of the project. He said that dams are testimony of prosperity and development of the country and Dasu dam would usher a new era of development in Kohistan. — APP

Senate body seeks apology from 13 newspapers

ISLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting Friday sought apology from specific newspapers for publishing remarks, expunged by Chairman Senate during proceedings of the House. The committee issued the direction for apology after Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak raised the matter regarding non-adherence to the restriction on use of expunged words. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz stressed that media organizations should put in place a mechanism to promote good parliamentary practices. — APP

Full participation of women in HAP to be ensured

Newly elected chairperson said that Fahad Barlas and his team rendered excellent services and the newly elected officials would continue the activities of the association effectively so that the objectives of Handicraft Association of Pakistan could be achieved

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Newly elected chairperson of Handicraft Association of Pakistan Halima Usman has said that full participation of women in the association will be ensured and handicraft fits in different parts of Pakistan will be ensured. Every possible encouragement will be given to the industrialists and artisans by promoting it in the country and abroad. She was speaking on the occasion of her visit to Islamabad at a lunch hosted by former chairman Handicraft Association of Pakistan Fahad Barlas.



Vice Chairman HAP Amin ur Rehman, Ex Chairman HAP Khurshid Barlas & Mohsin Khalid were present. Halima Usman said that Fahad Barlas and his team rendered excellent services and the newly elected officials would continue the activities of the association effectively so that the objectives of the establishment of Handicraft Association of Pakistan could be achieved. Expressing his views on the occasion, he said that Pakistan's craftsmen and artisans have high potential and their products are popular in Pakistan and abroad. He assured the new HAP team of his full support.

Network security workshop organized at FJWU

RAWALPINDI: Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization of Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU) in collaboration with Riphah International University and Pakistan Education and Research Network (PERN) organized comprehensive Network Security Training and workshop for the faculty and students here on Friday.

The workshop and training is first training in the project "Network Security Training and Workshop across select-

ed women Universities in Pakistan," funded by European Union via Trans-Eurasia Information Network* Corporation Center (TEIN*CC) through its 4th call of Asi-connect program and granted to the department of cyber security and Data Sciences, Riphah Institute of Systems Engineering, Riphah International University, Islamabad. Resource persons of the workshop were Syed Muhammad Sajjad, Senior Lecturer and Ms. Sumaira

Salim, Assistant Professor, Riphah International University. The objective of the workshop was to train the women network engineers of Pakistan in field of network security. The training discussed the issues of cyber-bullying and online harassment of women in Pakistan. The effects of cyberbullying (depression, isolation, illness, anger, low self-esteem, suicide) and safety advices were shared with the audience in details.

Vulnerabilities in protocols and their exploitation were covered in depth to provide the students a better understanding of how to secure their data on the internet from hackers. The participants were briefed about the use of public key cryptography and infrastructure. It was emphasized that Network Access Control must be used in academic campuses and enterprises to control illegitimate users' access over the organization network. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Lis Rosenholm meeting with Pharma industry officials at Embassy of Denmark. — DNA

Imam terms anti locust operations exemplary

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research (NFSR) Syed Fakhar Imam Friday said the anti locust operations by National Locusts Control Center (NLCC) were exemplary. The minister was chairing the meeting of the NLCC. NLCC Coordinator Lieutenant General Moazzam Ejaz also co-chaired the meeting. Later, briefing the media, the minister said during last seven days, an area of about 12,514 square kilometers had been surveyed whereas

control operation was done at 6 sq km in last week. On the occasion, Dr Mubarak from Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) briefed about locust forecast. He said the FAO was quoting anti locust operation in Pakistan as an ideal. As per forecast, in South-west Asia, the situation continues to improve as the seasonal monsoon withdraws from the summer breeding areas along both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border. Control operations continue in Pa-

kistan against small infestations that persist. The Pakistan Meteorological Department informed that continental air was prevailing over most parts of the country. Hot and dry weather was likely to prevail over most parts of the country. The minister said Sindh reported that recently locust was found in Jamshoro but it was controlled effectively whereas no locust was found in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Punjab provinces.

PANAH holds awareness workshop

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) on Friday arranged a workshop at Rawalpindi Arts Council in connection with World Heart Day to create awareness about the heart diseases. Speaking on the occasion as a Chief guest President PANAH Major General (retd) Masood-ur-Rehman Kayani said that the ratio of death from cardiac disorder could be minimize through preventive measures. He elaborated that Hypertension, Diabetes, Smoking, Obesity, Alcohol, Physical inactivity. — APP

Work on 'Gulberg-Rawat' section from next week

ISLAMABAD: The construction work on next phase of Islamabad Expressway Signal Free Corridor (Gulberg-Rawat) will start in coming days to regulate traffic flow on one of the most traffic-laden artery, said a top official of the Capital Development Authority (CDA). "All the relevant departments are mobilized, machinery is moving and the work will start with full force as alternate traffic plan is being prepared by member engineering, director traffic planning and traffic police," CDA Chairman Amer Ali Ahmed told media. The work on final phase of the Islamabad Expressway Signal Free Corridor has remained in limbo for last couple of years, mainly due to financial constraints, faced by the civic agency, whereas it is the public who have been bearing the brunt of long-hour traffic clogs daily while traveling on such road. Talking to this scribe, the project director said initially, the CDA would add two more lanes on both sides of one kilometer patch on Korang Bridge and construct Underpass at the Public Works Department (PWD) intersection under the PCI, approved by the Central Department Working Party with an estimated cost amounting Rs 1.6 billion. The timeline for widening Korang Bridge and PWD underpass had been set for 15 and seven months, respectively, he added. The director said the contractors had been hired through transparent bidding process for executing the project and it was expected that the construction work would be started by the next week. When asked about the rest of work on project that involved addition of two more lanes on both sides of the expressway till Rawat and construction of three more bridges, he said the option of completing the project under Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) plus was under consideration. — APP

IHC issues order in Zoo's animals shifting case

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday issued a written order in a case pertaining to the shifting of Muragzar Zoo Islamabad's animals to sanctuaries. Chief Justice Athar Minalah issued a written judgment which ordered the government to complete all arrangements for the shifting of Kavan elephant and bears abroad so that they could enjoy the natural environment. The order stated that there was no appropriate sanctuary in Pakistan to shift the Himalayan brown bear, even the Punjab government was also not ready to take the responsibility of those animals. The decision further said

the animal had faced a lot of miseries during their exhibition in zoo, adding it was violation of the law to keep the animals in unnatural environment. The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board chairman had informed the court that all arrangements were being made to shift Kavan to Cambodia in compliance of court orders. However, the deputy director of the climate change ministry adopted the stance that no objection certificates would be issued within three weeks pertaining to shifting of animals. The decision stated that it had been very sad that the animals were ignored in the past and their miseries were increased.

Men arrested for displaying weapons

ISLAMABAD: A number of men in Islamabad were arrested for terrorising residents and spreading fear by uploading pictures and videos of weapons on social media, the police said. According to the police, in the last few months the trend of displaying weapons on social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram has increased. "These young men put up videos with guns and rifles and add songs in the background which hint that they are gangsters," Islamabad SP Sarfraz Virk said. He pointed out that most of these youngsters do this for fun without realising the grave impact such content can have on other users on the applications. "Parents play a huge role here. They need to monitor what their children are doing," Virk added. Behavioral experts call this habit "youth's need for power". — APP

Concerns raised over Parliament Lodges' condition

ISLAMABAD: The Sub-Committee-VII of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Friday expressed concern over the poor maintenance and cleanliness conditions here at the Parliament Lodges. The committee, which met at the Parliament House with its convener Riaz Fatyana in the chair, examined the audit reports for the year 2017-18 pertained to the Ministry of Interior, Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Municipal Corporation Islamabad (MCI). The meeting was attended by committee member Munaza Hassan. Riaz Fatyana directed the CDA to improve cleanliness and sanitary conditions at the Parliament Lodges, besides resolving the parking issues being faced by the parliamentarians. The committee pended the audit para pertaining to non-cancellation of commercial plots due to non-renewal of their lease worth Rs 40,155,648 million. The committee directed the CDA to conduct inquiry and submit a report within a month. It also examined the audit para pertaining to the loss occurred due to uncompetitive disposal of a plot for Rs 10,527,026 million. The committee gave the CDA further two months to settle the audit para. — APP

Group painting exhibition concludes

RAWALPINDI: A five-day group painting exhibition arranged by the students of Arts Knowledge Academy was concluded at Punjab Council of the Arts on Friday. Prominent artist and Ex-PNCA Director General Jamal Shah was the chief guest on the occasion. More than 60 artists participated in the exhibition featuring landscape, sketches, and calligraphy. Addressing at the closing ceremony, Jamal Shah said it was appreciable step to turn the youth to positive activities. He further said Pakistan was full of talented people who were bringing a good name to the country across the world. At the end, Jamal Shah also distributed certificates among the artists. — APP

SC summons CDA, ICT, Forest Dept officials

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Friday summoned the Capital Development Authority (CDA), Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and Forest Department officials in a suo moto notice case about encroachment in the Bani Gala Botanical Garden. A three-member SC bench headed by Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Munib Akhtar and Justice Sayyed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi heard the case. During the course of proceedings, the Additional Advocate General Punjab said the court had ordered demarcation of the botanical garden in the forest land case, which could not be done due to non-availability of some documents. Justice Bandial observed said that the demarcation order was issued by the Supreme Court in 2017 but no progress had been made. The Additional Advocate General Punjab said the record would be obtained in the next four to five days. — APP

Nayyar Bukhari tested positive

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Secretary General Nayyar Hussain Bukhari was tested positive for the coronavirus, a private news channel reported on Friday. Bukhari has been experiencing symptoms of the infection over the past few days after he attended a meeting of the opposition's Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). He undergo a test of COVID-19, the result of which came back positive. — APP

CGSS, UoP to establish Regional Integration Center

During the meeting, CGSS gave a detailed presentation on the establishment of "PU - CGSS Regional Integration Center". It was decided that CGSS in collaboration with University of the Punjab, Lahore will establish a "Regional Integration Center", that will provide a platform for long term opportunities for the regional countries to cooperate in social, economic and cultural domains

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Senior management of Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad under the leadership of Major General Hafiz Masroor Ahmed (Retd), Vice President, CGSS held a meeting with Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad

Akhtar, Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Lahore. During the meeting, CGSS gave a detailed presentation on the establishment of "PU - CGSS Regional Integration Center". It was decided that CGSS in collaboration with University of the Punjab, Lahore will establish a "Regional Inte-



gration Center", that will provide a platform for long term opportunities for the regional countries to cooperate in social, economic and cultural domains. Furthermore, this Regional Integration Center will enhance academic exchange, strengthen and broaden research on regional issues and coopera-

tion between Pakistan and Eurasia. This Center will create a concept of community with shared future for regional prosperity. Meeting was attended by the Deans of various departments of the University and senior faculty members. The senior management of CGSS also attended the meeting.

Briefs

Nazarbayev concerned over Karabakh

DNA

NURSULTAN: The First President of Kazakhstan - Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev expressed concern over the escalation of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, media reports citing the press service of Elbasy. According to the press service, Nazarbayev supported the call for an end to hostilities in Nagorno-Karabakh. Nursultan Nazarbayev expressed concern over the escalation of the conflict, noting the importance of starting negotiations between the two states, which will serve to quickly stabilize the situation in the region. Armenian Armed Forces launched a large-scale military attack on positions of Azerbaijani army on the front line, using large-caliber weapons, mortars and artillery on Sept. 27. Azerbaijan responded with a counter-offensive along the entire front. As a result of retaliation, Azerbaijani troops managed to liberate certain territories previously occupied by Armenia, as well as take important heights under control. Military actions continued on Sept. 29 - 30. According to a statement from Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry, the Armenian armed forces have suffered heavy losses along the entire front line from Sept. 27 through Sept.

Saudi Arabia issues guidelines for travellers

From Page 01

Earlier in September, Saudi Arabia had decided to lift travel restriction in the kingdom from 01 January 2021, imposed earlier owing to COVID-19 pandemic. The kingdom's interior ministry had announced that airports, ports, and border routes will be made operational from January 01. Saudi citizens would be able to freely move in and out of the kingdom while citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council states, as well as expatriates and their dependents on valid visas, will be allowed to enter the Kingdom effective from Sept. 15. They include expatriates who have a valid exit and re-entry visa, work visa, residency permit (iqama) and visit visas provided that they fulfil all the coronavirus related precautionary measures and protocols and a coronavirus negative test result carried out 48 hours before the entry of the Kingdom. The Arab media reports had also stated that the specific date for the lifting of restrictions will be given 30 days before the end of the year and the health ministry may stipulate preventative measures on travellers and transport providers during travel and at airports, ports, and stations. A plan will be announced to allow the performance of Umrah gradually according to developments, it further said. It is pertinent to mention here that the move was announced days after Saudi Arabia has extended a ban on the arrival of foreign airlines within the kingdom amid COVID-19 pandemic on August 29.

Mecca to reopen for limited pilgrimages

From Page 06

coronavirus prompted its suspension. The umrah, the pilgrimage that can be undertaken at any time, usually attracts millions of Muslims from across the globe each year. It will be revived in three stages, with the initial phase seeing just 6,000 citizens and residents already within the kingdom allowed to take part each day. "In the first stage, the umrah will be performed meticulously and within a specified period of time," Hajj Minister Mohammad Benteen told state television last week. He said pilgrims will be divided into groups to ensure social distancing within the Grand Mosque in Mecca. Worshippers will on Sunday be able to perform the ritual of circling the sacred Kaaba - a cubic structure inside the Grand Mosque towards which Muslims around the world pray - along socially distanced paths. On October 18, the number of pilgrims will be increased to 15,000 per day, with a maximum of 40,000 people allowed to perform prayers at the mosque.



MULTAN: A view of the cricket match between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan teams during National T20 Cup played at Multan Cricket Stadium. - DNA

EU warns Turkey of sanctions over 'provocations' in Mediterranean

We therefore expect that Turkey from now on abstains from unilateral actions. In case of such renewed actions by Ankara, the EU will use all its instruments and options available

DNA

BRUSSELS: The EU says it could impose sanctions on Turkey over "provocations and pressures" in a row with Greece over energy resources and maritime borders. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen called on Ankara to "abstain from unilateral actions" in the eastern Mediterranean. She spoke early on Friday during a meeting of EU leaders in Brussels. Earlier, Turkey and Greece set up a military hotline to try to reduce the risk of clashes in the region. Tensions rose earlier this year when Turkey sent a ship into a disputed area to search for potentially rich oil and gas deposits. Mrs von der Leyen told reporters that the EU wanted



"a positive and constructive relationship with Turkey and this would be also very much in Ankara's interest." "But it will only work if the provocations and pressures stop," she said. "We therefore expect that Turkey from now on abstains from unilateral actions. In case of such renewed actions by Ankara, the EU will use all its instruments and options available. We have a toolbox that we can apply immediately." Af-



ter their late-night meeting, EU members agreed to review Turkey's behaviour in December and impose sanctions if "provocations" had not stopped. Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, posting on Twitter after the meeting, said: "The EU issues a clear threat of sanctions against Turkey should it continue to violate international law." European Council President Charles Michel said the EU was offering Turkey closer re-

lations on trade and other areas, but holding out the threat of sanctions if tensions in the Mediterranean did not de-escalate. "We very much want to give political dialogue a chance to move toward greater stability," he said. Arriving for the second day of the EU summit in Brussels, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said the EU had sent "a message of unity, solidarity and determination" to Ankara, which made clear the consequences of its "aggressive behaviour". But a Turkish official said it was hoped talks with Greece would resume soon and that sanctions would put dialogue at risk. "If the EU applies sanctions, this will not deter us. On the contrary this would increase our resolve," the official told media. The European

Union and Turkey have long held a fragile relationship. Turkey has been a long-term candidate for membership of the EU, but efforts have stalled. EU leaders have criticised Turkey's record on human rights and the rule of law, in particular in the wake of the 2016 failed military coup. Despite the strains, Turkey remains an important partner for the EU. Turkey hosts millions of migrants and struck a deal with the EU that limited the numbers arriving in Greece. Greece and Turkey are both Nato members, but have a history of border disputes and competing claims over maritime rights. Tensions flared in August when Ankara sent the research ship into an area south of the Greek island of Kastellorizo which is claimed by Greece, Turkey and Cyprus.

Pakistan's MMA fighter Mehmosh beats Scotland's Murrie

DNA

MANAMA : Pakistan's MMA fighter Mehmosh Raza 'The Renegade' has defeated Scotland's Calum Murrie by split decision (29-28, 28-29, 30-27) in Bahrain on Thursday. Mehmosh claimed the victory in a featherweight



bout over Calum, former Taekwondo champion and who is acclaimed as one of the best fighters of Mixed Martial Arts. With this victory, Mehmosh his career record has improved to 10-4 in the MMA circuit. Islamabad based fighter has now aimed to win more fights for the nation.

Thailand to allow foreigners from next week

BANGKOK- Thailand will start allowing in foreign tourists from next week, authorities said on Friday. The Tourism Authority of Thailand confirmed that the Special Tourist Visa (STV) scheme will proceed as planned. The government launched the STV scheme as part of measures to revive the country's economy, which is heavily reliant on tourism and exports. Thailand suspended international flights in April to curb the spread of the coronavirus. The country has reported 3,575 infections so far, including 59 deaths and 3,384 recoveries. "Despite the delay, the first group of tourists from China will arrive in Phuket within this month," said Yutthasak Supasorn, head of the Thai tourism authority. Some 120 tourists are expected to arrive in Thailand on a flight from China's Guangzhou city on Oct. 8. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Canadian Commissioner in Pakistan, MS. Wendy Gilmour called on advisor to the Prime Minister on commerce and investment, Abdul Razak Dawood - DNA

Azerbaijan rejects French president's statement on Karabakh

DNA

BAKU: The statements of French President Emmanuel Macron and other French politicians addressed to Azerbaijan, voiced during the military operations of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, are completely unacceptable, we reject them, Head of the Azerbaijani community of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, MP Tural Ganjaliyev said, Trend reports. Ganjaliyev turned to Macron from the parliamentary chair with a rhetorical question: "What would Macron do if the city he grew up in was occupied?" "During our meetings with the French ambassador, he repeatedly expressed support for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. But why did Macron change his mind? Undoubtedly, pro-Armenian forces and

the Armenian lobby are behind this. This statement by Macron showed that the format of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs should be revised. The institution of co-chairmanship is not in anyone's monopoly. France must immediately be removed from this group. Because nowhere is written that the three co-chair countries are elected for a permanent term," said the MP. Armenian Armed Forces launched a large-scale military attack on positions of Azerbaijani army on the front line, using large-caliber weapons, mortars and artillery on Sept. 27. Azerbaijan responded with a counter-offensive along the entire front. As a result of retaliation, Azerbaijani troops liberated a number of territories previously occupied by Armenia, as well as took important, strategic heights under control. Military actions continued on

'Armenia must withdraw from occupied territories for cease-fire'

DNA

BAKU: For Azerbaijan to agree with a cease-fire, Armenia must withdraw its forces from occupied Azerbaijani territories, the Turkish foreign minister said Friday. Speaking at a joint news conference with his Italian counterpart

Sept. 29 - Oct. 1. According to a statement from Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry, the Armenian armed forces have suffered heavy losses along the entire front line from Sept. 27 through Sept. 30, including tanks, armored vehicles, artillery installations, rocket launch systems, as well as

Luigi Di Maio, Mevlut Cavusoglu said Turkey stands in solidarity with Azerbaijan against its struggle for the occupied territories of Upper Karabakh. "If the international community wants to do something about Upper Karabakh, they should get Armenia to leave Azerbaijani lands at once," he said. Border clashes first

broke out on Sunday when Armenian forces targeted Azerbaijani civilian settlements and military positions, leading to casualties. Azerbaijan's parliament declared a state of war in some of its cities and regions following Armenia's border violations and attacks in the occupied Upper Karabakh, also known as Nagorno-Karabakh. Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts. The 1994 ceasefire agreement was followed by peace negotiations. Armenia has not yet implemented four UN Security Council resolutions on the withdrawal of its armed forces from Nagorno Karabakh and the surrounding districts.

561 students infected in South Korea

DNA

SEOUL: At least 561 students have reported COVID-19 infections, out of a total of 23,952 cases detected in South Korea, a lawmaker revealed on Friday. Citing data from Education Ministry, Jung Chan-min of the main opposition People Power Party said 561 students from kindergarten, elementary, middle, and high school levels were infected by the deadly virus from May 20-Sept. 23, South Korea's state-run Yonhap News Agency reported on Friday. A whopping number of 220 infections were reported from elementary schools. The national capital Seoul has registered most of the cases among the student community. Around 473 students were treated and discharged from hospitals.

'Armenia uses foreign journalists for propaganda'

DNA

BAKU: The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry has said that Armenia is endangering the lives of foreign journalists and is violating the international humanitarian law by inviting them to the area of ongoing military operations. The ministry made the remarks on October 2 while commenting on the reports that two journalists of the French newspaper "Le Monde" were injured in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region. "The deliberate taking of foreign journalists to the dangerous zone clearly shows that the Armenian government ignores its obligations to ensure the safety of journalists and uses foreign journalists for its own propaganda purposes," the ministry said. Furthermore, the ministry appealed to foreign journalists to obtain Baku's consent in connection with the visits to the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding regions of Azerbaijan.

'Turkey's support for Libya will continue'

DNA

ANAKARA: Turkey will continue to support Libya's government with training, consultation, and other support, Turkey's National Defense Ministry said on Friday. "Our versatile relations based on 500 years of common history with Libya and our training, support and consultancy support to the UN-recognized Gov. of National Accord will continue," the ministry said on Twitter. It added that an agreement signed last November "determining the maritime jurisdictional zones between Turkey and Libya is registered by the UN." Turkey has pointed to the pact as bolstering its case for claiming its fair share of energy resources in the Eastern Mediterranean, against Greece's maximalist claims flouting international law. Last fall, Ankara and Tripoli signed two memorandums of understanding, one on military cooperation and the other on maritime boundaries of countries in the Eastern Mediterranean. Libya has been torn by a civil war since the ouster of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

Briefs

Saudi Arabia
tries to boost
property
market

DNA

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has lowered the transaction costs of buying property as it tries to revitalise its economy which has been battered by a plunge in oil prices due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Its ruler issued an order on Friday exempting real estate deals from a 15 percent value added tax (VAT) and instead imposed a new 5 percent tax on transactions. The finance minister said on Twitter that the order, issued on state media, aimed to support Saudi citizens who want to buy homes. The world's largest oil exporter is facing a deep recession, with the economy shrinking by 7 percent in the second quarter and unemployment hitting a record high of 15.4 percent. The government had in July tripled VAT to 15 percent to boost non-oil revenues, but the move proved unpopular. "The royal order aims to support citizens and ease their burden ... and enable them to own homes, and helps develop the kingdom's economy by spurring the residential and commercial property sector," Finance Minister Mohammed al-Jadaan tweeted.

Oil rents - the profits the government makes in producing crude - made up 28.7 percent of Saudi Arabia's economy in 2018, the highest proportion among the world's 20 largest economies, making it one of the most oil-dependent nations.

US, Vatican
clash over
China

DNA

NEW YORK: The Vatican's number-two official asserted the city state's right to pursue an accord with Beijing on the appointment of bishops that has been strongly criticised by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo following talks between the two sides in Rome. Pompeo met Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin and Foreign Minister Archbishop Paul Gallagher on Thursday on a visit marked by Vatican irritation over Pompeo accusing the Holy See of putting its "moral authority" at risk if it renewed an agreement with China on the appointment of bishops. The essay, published in a conservative US Catholic publication that has called Pope Francis' pontificate a failure, sparked a minor diplomatic crisis. Vatican officials suggested Pompeo was trying to drag the Catholic Church into the US presidential election by denouncing its relations with China; an allegation Pompeo denied.

Assange
extradition
verdict on
January 4

DNA

LONDON: After hearing four weeks of evidence in the extradition trial of Julian Assange, District Judge Vanessa Baraitser announced on Thursday she will pronounce judgement on January 4. The WikiLeaks founder's trial in London's Central Criminal Court, also known as the Old Bailey, started on September 7. Australian-born Assange has been charged under the US's 1917 Espionage Act for "unlawfully obtaining and disclosing classified documents related to the national defence". The case marks the first time in United States history that publishing information is being charged under the Espionage Act. Assange, 49, has been indicted on 17 spying charges and one charge of computer hacking regarding the publication of secret military documents. The hacking charge was included recently - meaning that the defence had no witness to appropriately deal with the hacking allegations. As this stage of the hearing concluded, Nils Melzer, the United Nations special rapporteur on torture, told Al Jazeera that he was "very worried", as Assange might face torture should be extradited to the US - a key argument of the defence.

NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT

Armenian forces continue to
target civilian population

The two former Soviet republics went to war over the territory between 1988 and 1994, eventually declaring a ceasefire, and they have never reached a settlement over the dispute

DNA

BAKU: The armed forces of Armenia have been continuing to target the civilian population, private houses and other civilian infrastructure in residential areas along the line of contact in a gross violation of its obligations under international humanitarian law, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Civilian facilities, such as hospitals, medical centers, school buildings and kinder-

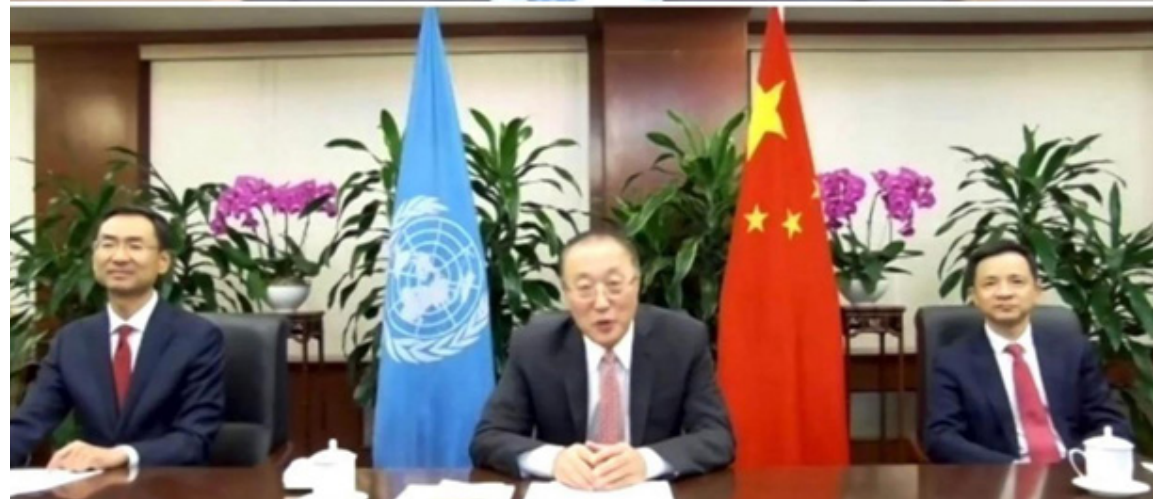
gartens have been subjected to indiscriminate shelling of armed forces of Armenia, including from artillery and other large-caliber weaponry. As of 01 October, totally 19 civilians, including children and elderly were killed, 55 civilians have been hospitalized. 169 damaged private houses and 40 private properties are out of use as a result of armed attack. Below are photo evidences of the humanitarian law violations of the armed forces of Armenia.

Armenia 'ready' for ceasefire talks

BAKU: Armenia's foreign ministry has said it "stands ready to engage" with France, Russia and the US on halting six days of fighting with its neighbour Azerbaijan. Casualties have mounted in the southern Caucasus with both sides accusing each other of launching deadly attacks. The conflict around the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh erupted on Sunday.

The enclave is officially part of Azerbaijan but occupied by ethnic Armenians. The two former Soviet republics went to war over the territory between 1988 and 1994, eventually declaring a ceasefire, and they have never reached a settlement over the dispute. France, Russia and the US, which co-chair the OSCE Minsk mediation group, have called for

a ceasefire, but so far Azerbaijan has not given a positive response to proposed talks. In the latest fighting, Azerbaijan forces said they had made further advances, but accused Armenia of artillery attacks on four villages, causing civilian casualties. Armenia says it has shot down seven drones flying near the capital, Yerevan, but the claim has been rejected by Azerbaijan.



NEW YORK: Permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, Ambassador Munir Akram at the virtual reception hosted by Chinese ambassador Zhang Jun, on the occasion of Chinese National Day. - DNA

SCCI stresses
interest-free loans for
furniture manufacturers

DNA

SIALKOT: Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Qaisar Iqbal Baryar Friday called for interest-free loans to furniture producers for five years for the import of new technology to improve overall infrastructure of the industry. He expressed these views while inaugurating Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) 3-day mega 12th Interiors Pakistan Expo 2020 held here at Dustoor Event Complex Sialkot today. Pakistan's top interior designers and furniture manufacturers have displayed their work to promote the local furniture industry. Qaisar Iqbal Baryar said the government needs to streamline existing markets and identify new potential markets for 'Made-in-Pakistan' products in Far-East, Central Asian Republics, Latin America and Russia. Sialkot is an export hub and earning US\$2 billion through its exports and strengthening national exchequer despite certain problems, he said. He said that setting up a "Marketing Intelligence Cell" at Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) for providing assistance to furniture manufacturers and exporters in obtaining information pertaining to international demands for furniture, competitive price index, expanding markets and other

essential trends. Talking to media persons here on this occasion, PFC Chief Executive Mian Kashif Ashfaq said the exhibition will create opportunities for interior designers and furniture manufacturers to work together for the progress of the industry while giving young participants a chance to display their designs and products. He also urged the businessmen based in Sialkot to work extensively to promote the local furniture industry in Pakistan. "Pakistan is blessed with abundant resources and our people are equipped with the best skills that can help develop the country on modern lines," he added. Mian Kashif further what is more, this is also a good platform for new talent to come forward and be recognized. Through these exhibitions the Pakistan Furniture Council has laid the groundwork for furniture related commerce to move forward effectively and expand their market and in turn serve the economy of Pakistan. He further said public and private joint efforts have to be made on modern lines to gain optimum access to international markets for locally manufactured furniture and accessories. He said the potential of the furniture industry here in Pakistan is enormous and that within 2-3 years, it could even be double if the government patronized this industry.

US hits
BitMEX
founders with
charges

DNA

NEW YORK: Prosecutors in the United States have filed criminal charges accusing four founders and executives of BitMEX, one of the world's largest cryptocurrency derivatives exchanges, of evading rules designed to stop money laundering.

'Business community fully
endorse PM economic policies'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Chairman Pakistan Vanaspati Manufacturers Association (PVMA) Atif Ikram Sheikh has said that Prime Minister Imran Khan is very serious about economic revival and the business community fully support his vision and decisions to boost the economy. Country is heading in the right economic direction while

some recent decision have gone down very well with the business community, he said. Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as Vice President FPCI and President ICCI said this after a meeting with the PM in which the latter assured all-out support to the business community. Sheikh said that former Vice President FPCI Karim Aziz Malik and other leading businessmen as well as Minister for Industries Muhammad Hammad Azhar, Ad-

visers Abdul Razak Dawood, Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, Governor State Bank of Pakistan Dr Reza Baqir and other senior officials were also present in the meeting. He said that PM has restated in the meeting that the government was committed to facilitating the industrial sector and providing them all possible incentives and that development of construction and industrial sector would accelerate the economic process. The PM has

assured that he will welcome any proposal regarding the development of the industrial sector to create jobs and boost economy. He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan's claim that an economic recovery is spreading across the country is based on facts as the economy is finally heading in the right direction while masses and businessmen are pinning high hopes on the PM as the economic picture is getting brighter.



KABUL: Muhammad Hanif Atmar Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan having meeting with Ambassadors of various countries to brief them about Afghan peace process. - DNA

Progress towards gender equality under threat: UN chief

The Beijing Conference, as it is known, marked a significant turning point on the global agenda, making it clear that women's rights are at the heart of equality and justice around the world

NEW YORK: Warning that the coronavirus pandemic could erase recent "fragile progress" towards gender equality, UN Secretary-General Antonio Thursday urged governments around the world to act and put women at the center of recovery and response. The UN chief issued the warning in a speech to a UN General Assembly high-level meeting to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the landmark Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China. The Beijing Conference, as it is known, marked a significant turning point on the global agenda, making it clear that women's rights are at the heart of equality and justice around the world.

But as the UN chief told the gathering, the Conference was also a "wake-up call" as these rights are still being denied, hindered and ignored everywhere. "COVID-19 has emphasized and exploited the continued denial of women's rights. Women and girls are bearing the brunt of the massive social and economic impact of the pandemic," he said, speaking from the rostrum in the General Assembly Hall. "Twenty-five years after Beijing, we are facing a women-led recession as women employed in the informal economy are first to lose their jobs," Guterres continued, outlining the aftershocks of the pandemic. These include a "shadow pandemic"

of gender-based violence, and an increase in early marriage and other abusive and repressive practices affecting women and girls.

"Unless we act now, COVID-19 could wipe out a generation of fragile progress towards gender equality," he added.

While the pandemic has demonstrated the need for a strong push to meet what the UN chief called "the unfulfilled promise of Beijing", it is also an opportunity for transformative thinking that puts women at the front and center of response and recovery. "Stimulus funds should put money directly into women's hands through cash transfers and credits. Governments should expand social safety nets to women in the informal economy, and recognize the value of unpaid care work," he advised. The Beijing Conference concluded with a groundbreaking Platform for Action, with commitments covering 12 areas of concern, such as power and decision-making,

poverty, violence against women, education, human rights and discrimination against girls. "In both containing COVID-19 and promoting post-COVID economic and social recovery, it is particularly important that we address the special needs of women and deliver on the Beijing Declaration and Programme for Action", said Chinese President Xi Jinping in a statement recorded for the event. Since Beijing, major advances have been made in the global fight for gender equality, as various UN agencies have documented. In 1995, there were 12 women Heads of State and Government worldwide. Today, there are 22. Maternal mortality has dropped by nearly 40 percent. - APP

Trump
denounces
'all white
supremacists'

DNA

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has condemned all white supremacist groups, including the far-right "Proud Boys," an organisation identified as a hate group, following comments he made at the presidential debate earlier this week. "I condemn all white supremacists, I condemn the Proud Boys. I don't know much about the Proud Boys but I condemn that," Trump said in an interview with American media on Thursday. "If I say it a hundred times it won't be enough because it's fake news," he added. During Tuesday's presidential debate with Democratic nominee Joe Biden, Trump was asked if he was willing to denounce "white supremacists and militia groups" and tell them to stand down amid violence that has marred anti-racism protests in some US cities. Trump requested a specific name, and Biden mentioned the Proud Boys, an organisation that describes itself as a club of "Western chauvinists" but has been categorised as a hate group by the nonprofit Southern Poverty Law Center. "Proud Boys, stand back and stand by," Trump said. The comment drew wide criticism and was viewed by many to be a sign of encouragement for the group. The White House on Thursday insisted that President Donald Trump denounced the far-right Proud Boys at the debate, saying that his comment that the group's members should "stand back and stand by" had been misinterpreted. During a press briefing, White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said the president had been trying to tell Proud Boys members to "stand down," adding that he had explicitly condemned white supremacy in the wake of the debate.

Briefs

COVID-19 claims 5 more lives, infects 316

DNA

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that five more patients of coronavirus died lifting the death toll to 2517 and 316 infected when 12990 samples were tested raising the tally to 137,783. In a statement issued here from CM House on Friday, Shah said that five more patients lost their lives while struggling against COVID-19 lifting the death toll to 2517 that constituted 1.8 percent. The CM said that 12,990 samples were tested against which 316 new cases emerged that came to 2.4 percent current detection rate. He said that so far 1,387,758 tests have been conducted which detected 10 percent or 137,783 cases against which 95 percent patients or 130,730 patients recovered, including 220 overnight. Murad Ali Shah said that currently 4536 patients were under treatment, of them 4250 in home isolation, seven at isolation centers and 270 at different hospitals. He added that the condition of 200 patients was stated to be critical, including 37 shifted to ventilators. According to the CM, out of 361 new cases, 223 have been detected from Karachi. They include 108 from East, 56 South, 32 Central, 23 Malir, seven West and six Korangi. He added that Hyderabad has nine cases, Badin eight, Dadu and Kambar five each, Jamshoro four, Larkana three, Ghotki, Matiari and Tando Mohammad Khan two each, Mirpur, Naushaheroferoze, Sukkur, Tando Allahyar and Thatta one.

Punjab govt mulls street, night tourism in Lahore

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar on Friday decided to take immediate practical steps to revive the traditional, cultural and tourism activities of Lahore. Addressing the meeting, he said that it has been decided to introduce street and night tourism in Lahore for the interest of tourists, adding that citizens will enjoy European-style dining on sidewalk or roadside chairs. He further said that buffer zones will be set up to protect historic buildings and archeological sites, while in-principle approval has also been given for construction of overhead bridge from railway station Lahore to Badshahi Masjid. In addition, open-air food stalls and chairs will be set up on the Mall Road. Buzdar went on to say that food items would be sold on specially designed carts and certificates will be affixed on food carts to maintain food quality. He said that Maryam Zamani Mosque would be restored to its historic condition by renovation and the historic shape will be restored by relocating the rum market.

‘Germany and Pakistan to continue trusted partnership’

In order to share joy about German reunification and as a signal of German-Pakistani friendship, the German Embassy donated food packages to needy families of different communities in and around Islamabad in the course of the week leading up to German national day



A.M. BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Germany is celebrating the 30th anniversary of German reunification, a major event in German history. As a precautionary measure in the pandemic, the German missions in Pakistan must sadly refrain from the usual German national

day festivities this year.

Instead, the German Embassy Islamabad and the German Consulate General in Karachi decided to go online and will host a virtual concert with famous Pakistani singer Zoe Viccaji on Saturday, 3rd October 2020 at 7 pm which will be streamed on the Embassy's Facebook page and YouTube channel. Everyone is cordially invited



to join the virtual celebrations! www.facebook.com/GermanEmbassyIslamabad www.youtube.com/Germany-inPAK

In order to share joy about German reunification and as a signal of German-Pakistani friendship, the German Embassy donated food packages to needy families of different communities in and

around Islamabad in the course of the week leading up to German national day.

On the eve of the German Unity Day Ambassador Bernhard Schlagheck and Consul General Holger Ziegeler underlined: "Celebrating the 30th anniversary of German unity is a very special moment for Germans. Just like German reunification would not



have been possible without the support of Germany's international partners, we will only be able to overcome the consequences of the pandemic by working together effectively as an international community. Germany and Pakistan will continue their long-standing and trustful cooperation."

It may be mentioned here that Pakistan and Germany have

close and multifaceted bilateral relations. Next year, both countries will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties. With a volume of 120 million euros for development cooperation and 6.1 million euros for humanitarian aid, Germany stood by the people of Pakistan in these difficult pandemic times and will continue to do so.

Pak exported \$54.613 million cotton yarn to China in August

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan exported 54.613 million US dollars of cotton yarn in August, registering a year-on-year decline of 51.36%, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday quoting official sources. However, its cotton yarn export to China has surged in the same month. As data from China's General Administration of Customs shows, China imported 41,836 million dollars worth of cotton yarn from Pakistan in August, which is



4.36 times the 9,592 million dollars in the same period last year, with a year-on-year increase of 336 percent. Pakistan mainly produces low-count sirospun yarns, such as those of 8s or 10s, generally below 21s, which

are mostly imported to south China's Guangdong province to be made into denim, said Huang Xifeng, sales executive of import and export department at Litai Xingshi (Taicang) Holding Co. Ltd. "We imported about 1,000

tons of cotton yarns from Pakistan every year. Our denim fabric is made of thick and low-count yarns, which are basically 10s or 8s, no more than 12s." Yang Bin, director of Seazon Textile and Apparel Co., Ltd in Foshan, China, said in an interview with CEN. Yang added that he has cooperated with Pakistan's cotton yarn manufacturers for 10 years. "As for Pakistan's cotton yarn, we only imported it from Explorer, a Pakistani manufacturer, with which we have cooperated for more than ten years."

Rozgar scheme to create 16000 jobs

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Rozgar scheme will bring the provincial economic growth from negative to positive while every sector and everyone across all districts of the province will benefit from it. The government is providing the opportunity to those who were unable to start their business due to lack of resources while loans would be provided on the lowest mark-up rate and Punjab Rozgar Scheme will not be a loan scheme of the past as the banks will play active role in the scheme.

Over 100 restaurants closed in Karachi

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: Authorities in Karachi closed six marriage halls and 103 restaurants in the metropolis for not complying with health guidelines and COVID-19 prevalence, said the National Command and Operation Centre (NCO) on Friday. The country's nerve centre in the fight against coronavirus said that it has also instructed all provinces, including Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Islamabad to ensure health guidelines and abidance of protocols.

The NCO also cautioned the authorities that restaurants and marriage halls were "emerging as the epicentre of the disease". Federal minister Asad Umar also warned that indoor restaurants and marriage halls were emerging as "high contributors to the COVID-19 spread". "NCO today has directed all provinces and federating units to crack down on SOP violations in these places," said the minister. He emphasised that the country must not allow "irresponsible behaviour" of some individuals to put everyone's health at risk.

China's maize-soybean intercropping yielded inspiring results


The technology introduced from the Sichuan Agricultural University showed positive results at multiple demonstration plots across Pakistan. Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi investigated the plot and felt amazed to see its progress in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Maize-soybean strip intercropping technology, a mature advanced agricultural technology introduced from China's Sichuan Agricultural University has yielded inspiring results. This was noted during the visit of Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi, Punjab Agriculture Minister to maize-soybean strip intercropping demonstration plots at the Research Farm of PMAS-Arid Agriculture University in Koonot, Rawalpindi. According to Gwadar Pro on Friday, he admired this technology's local development and showed willingness to support its future

popularization in Pakistan. The technology introduced from the Sichuan Agricultural University showed positive results at multiple demonstration plots across Pakistan. With serious interest in this intercropping technology, Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi investigated the plot and felt amazed to see its progress in Pakistan. The idea of developing maize-soybean intercropping technology in Pakistan is appreciated by the Agriculture Minister. He thinks the maize and soybean under intercropping system are much healthier than those of sole cropping. "China's experience may provide meaningful insights for Pakistan especially in re-


lation to crop production," the Minister said. Under the intercropping system, farmers can harvest soybean without reducing the current cultivation area of maize to stimulate local soybean production and then increase the supply of edible oil and soybean meal for poultry and livestock. This August in rainfed conditions relying on rainfall rather than irrigation, the yields of maize and soybean reached 7065 kg/ha and 1167 kg/ha respectively at the Koonot Research Farm. By using high-yielding soybean varieties, machinery, pesticides and weedicides from China, the yields for next season are expected to be raised to an even higher level.



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No progress in CPEC Balochistan since 2017, says Sherry Rehman

STAFF REPORTER / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Convener of the Special Committee on the project of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Parliamentary Leader of the PPP in the Senate, Senator Sherry Rehman said, "Briefing given by the ministry and its various allied departments is insufficient and lacks details on many aspects. The departments are shifting responsibility on one another and there seems no to be institutional collaboration". The Committee directed Secretary of the ministry to prioritize umbrella projects specified for Balochistan. Members of the Committee were of the view that no tangible progress has been achieved during last few years and despite recommendations, provision of gas and electricity supply in Bostan area of Balochistan and its development as Special Economic Zone (SEZ) seems a farce. Speaking on the Gwadar power plant issue, she said, "Two projects from Bal-

ochistan have been discussed; SEZ and provision of energy to Gwadar. Federal government is misrepresenting the facts on projects on Balochistan, including the SEZs, as well as the power project for Gwadar which has been caught in NEPRA tariff forest since 2017 and has still not cranked up". "SEZ at Bostan has received no PSDP funding and hence no progress could be achieved. Planning Division's unprofessional approach towards CPEC and its various umbrella projects with special reference to development



of Special Economic Zones in Balochistan and other parts of the country is disappointing. We have decided that the Planning Minister will address the agenda on Balochistan himself," Senator Rehman added. Senator Usman Khan Kakar observed that there is nothing on the ground and it is unfortunate that 132 KV grid station at Bostan could not be constructed due to non-availability of required funds. He demanded early completion of the project with an aim to provide relief to the people. "Questions were raised on the lapsed CPEC Authority and how it will proceed further. What coordination has been done since there is no clarity," said Senator Rehman. Earlier Secretary, Board of Investment (BOI) informed that BOI solicited the rational for the plot pricing in Rashakai SEZ from the relevant authority of Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa, however, the reply is awaited. The Committee was also informed about the status of progress report on provision of gas and electricity supply.