



# Islamabad POST

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Japan to open its marketplace for Pakistan's youth

PML-N responsible for country's current situation, says Shibli



Hamid Asghar writes about Morocco's historical city Fez



## Briefs

### PM advises face mask use

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday advised the countrymen to wear face masks in public to avert the feared second wave of COVID-19 pandemic in winter. On Twitter, the prime minister said compared to some other states, Allah had been kind to Pakistan by sparing it from worst effects of the pandemic. "There is a fear, onset of winter could result in 2nd wave. I urge everyone to wear face masks in public to avoid a spike," the prime minister said. He also instructed all offices and educational institutions to ensure every one wore face mask.

### Nawaz uttering India's words

DNA

NANKANA SAHIB: Those who are spewing venom against the country will not be forgiven, said Federal Interior Minister Ijaz Shah on Sunday, criticising former prime minister Nawaz Sharif for his tirade against the military. The interior minister was speaking at an event where he laid into Nawaz, blaming the PML-N supremo for faking his illness to go abroad. "The three-time prime minister went abroad by faking his illness," he said. "Mian sahib is not sick, he is speaking India's language." Shah said that conspiracies were being hatched against Pakistan since day one and it hasn't stopped till now.

### PM Imran providing relief to mafias

DNA

LAHORE: Spokeswoman of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday said that Prime Minister Imran Khan's top priority is to provide relief to mafias. While talking to media persons, she said after a false narrative of accountability, government is now declaring political opponents traitors. Government is making false statements after its failure to produce any evidence against PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif.

# Bulgarian envoy recalled over corruption charges

Ambassador Aleksandar Borisov Parashkevov allegedly accepted graft money of USD 40,000/- for importing the car for a Pakistani guy; This newspaper wrote on September 03, 2020 that foreign diplomats have continuously been misusing their privileges available under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and selling duty-free imported luxury vehicles to local businessmen, official documents have revealed

EXCLUSIVE  
ANSAR M BHATTI

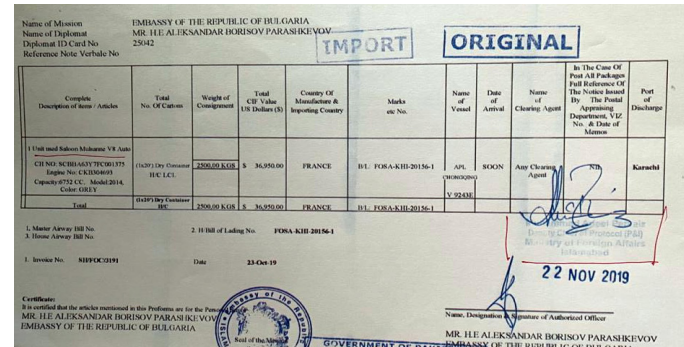
ISLAMABAD: Associate. Prof Aleksandar Borisov Parashkevov, the newly-appointed Ambassador of Bulgaria to Pakistan has been called back soon after his appointment, over corruption charges. The ambassador, according to sources, was yet to present his credentials to the President of Pakistan. So this is quite rare in the diplomatic history that an ambassador is called back without presenting his credentials to the host country. According to reports, the newly-arrived Bulgarian ambassador Borisov allegedly got himself involved in import of cars for Pakistani people and liquor beyond his stipulated quota. He has been called back because of this Bentley car issue. Details reveal the car imported by the Bulgarian ambassador availing his diplomatic position, was in use of a Pakistani. The Customs officials intercepted the car and asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to verify its credentials. When the case arrived at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Verification of the following consignments are still NOT issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad, being overweight consignments than the authorized weight.

S.No.	Mission	Name of Diplomats	EC No & Date	Quantity in Ltrs applied	Authorized Weight	Weight in KGs applied (overweight)	Gate no. clearance
1.	Bulgaria	HE. Mr. Aleksandar Borisov Parashkevov (Ambassador)	7569 4.11.19	751-Ltr	1482-KGs	2600-KGs	

the Ministry official outright said that the car was imported by the Ambassador, despite the fact Ambassador imported the car for his Pakistani friend. Sources say the Ambassador Aleksandar Borisov Parashkevov allegedly accepted graft money of USD 40,000/- for importing the car from that Pakistani guy. In a second instance, the Bulgarian ambassador also tried to make his fortunes by accommodating his Pakistani collaborators by importing liquor beyond his stipulated quota. In November 2019 the ambassador placed an order for liquor. He was authorized to import consignment weighing 1482 KGs while when the container arrived it weighed over 2,600 KGs.

Upon knowing this the Ministry of Foreign Affairs wrote a letter to the Director General of Customs Intelligence, Islamabad asking him to thoroughly inspect the container. "While this Ministry is coordinating with the concerned embassies for inspection of these consignments (For possibility of mis-declaration/smuggling of liquors above approved quantity) you are requested to please ensure that these consignments must not be released/cleared or exported back by the Customs authorities with inspection", the Ministry further wrote to the Customers Intelligence Director General. It may be mentioned there that a total of 15 embassies consignments were seized by the



Customs that month, on same charges and the Bulgaria ambassador's consignment was at the top of the list. List of all those 15 countries is available with Islamabad POST and shall be made public in coming days with complete details. This newspaper had already published a news regarding misuse of diplomatic status by some of the diplomats and diplomatic missions. This newspaper wrote on September 03, 2020 that foreign diplomats have continuously been misusing their privileges available under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and selling duty-free imported luxury vehicles to local businessmen, official documents have revealed. Pakistan Customs seized nine very expensive vehicles that were

imported by foreign diplomats but were in the use of private persons. This has not only caused a Rs250-million revenue loss in nine cases but also put the security of other diplomats at risk due to the use of fake or duplicate diplomatic number plates. The report further stated that in 2019 Pakistan Customs confiscated at least 16 very expensive vehicles, including nine in July alone that were imported in the names of diplomats but had been in the possession of private persons, according to the FBR official record. At the prevailing taxes and duty rates, the estimated tax evasion in the 16 cases is Rs444.6 million, which also indicates how pricey the vehicles were.

## China, Pakistan to boost health corridor



NEWS DESK/DNA

BEIJING: China and Pakistan have agreed to step up the latest eye's technology in Pakistan and make efforts to boost the health corridor. According to Gwadar Pro, under the joint promotion of the Liaoning Provincial Development and Reform Commission and the Pakistan Embassy in China, a signing ceremony of the cooperation was held here. The launch of the comprehensive project of eye health for children and adolescents in Pakistan by the He's Eye Group and Pakistan's DEA Group has added a new chapter for the deepening of China-Pakistan eye health cooperation. Wang Zhuoming, deputy director of the Liaoning Provincial Development and Reform Commission, said that the "Liaoning Silk Road Health Cooperation" is a precise practice of Liaoning's participation in promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. The Provincial Development and Reform Commission targeted Liaoning's development in medical technology, medical equipment, medical products, and training of medical personnel. *Continued on Page 06*

# PML-N misleading the country: Shibli

Federal Minister said the previous govt deliberately ruined country's economy to create hurdles in the way of the next government

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz says Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leadership is misleading the common people by pursuing a narrative, which has nothing to do with reality. Talking to media in Islamabad, he said they have done nothing for the country, except pursuing anti-people policies. The Information Minister said they signed expensive energy agreements with foreign companies, resulting in costly prices of electricity and gas. Shibli Faraz said they deliberately ruined country's economy to create hurdles in the way of the next

## PDM Quetta rally deferred to Oct 18

ISLAMABAD: The first rally of the Opposition's Pakistan Democratic Movement due to take place in Quetta on October 11 has been rescheduled. The rally will now take place on October 18. The new date was announced by Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl leader Abdul Ghafoor Haideri. Haideri added that a separate rally by the JUIF that was to take place in Quetta on October 25 has also been postponed. No alternate date was provided. PDM has been established by 11 Opposition parties seeking to oust the incumbent government over its "failures in all sectors". - DNA

government. He said he inherited current account deficit of 20 billion dollars and a debt of 30 trillion rupees and 2.9 trillion rupees were reserved in the budget to just pay interest of the loans taken by the previous regimes.

The Minister said PML-N government wasted 23 billion dollars to artificially control dollar's value. He said exports were zero, while imports were encouraged, which resulted in de-industrialization in the country. The Minister said

now due to strenuous efforts of Prime Minister Imran Khan, foreign exchange reserves have reached to 19 billion dollars and current account deficit reduced from 20 billion dollars to a positive territory of 80 million dollars. He said exports and remittances are on the upward trajectory and our foreign exchange reserves are now in a comfortable zone. He said we have collected around one trillion rupees tax during this quarter, which is above the target. Regarding negative propaganda of the opposition towards China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the Information Minister said CPEC is a reflection of historic friendship between Islamabad and Beijing.

## President Trump's virus: real of fake?

His physician confirmed the positive test result, and Mark Meadows, the president's chief of staff, said that Mr. Trump had mild symptoms of Covid-19

NEWS DESK / DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Trump's announcement on last Friday that he had tested positive for the coronavirus set off a wave of tweets and Facebook posts with a common refrain, especially on the left: Why should we believe him? There was no evidence that Trump was lying. But overnight, hundreds of tweets were posted casting doubt on whether the president contracted the coronavirus. The White House has given

Trump's October surprise will be the announcement of "this infection." Fake, but quite dramatic. This twist will blow Biden off the screens, the "Trump COVID watch" dominating every minute of every day. Then, 14 days later, Trump will emerge, 100% cured by hydroxychloroquine. *9:51 AM - 16 Sep 20 - Twitter for iPad*

symptoms of Covid-19. However on September 18 this year a Tweet appeared on the scene. The name of the person who Tweeted is not shared here nevertheless contents of the Tweet are as follows: "Trump's October surprise will be the announcement of 'this infection'. Fake, but quite dramatic. This twist will blow Biden off the scenes, The Trump Covid Watch' dominating every minute of the day. Then, 14 days later, Trump will emerge 100% cured by hydroxychloroquine." *(More news on Page 7)*

## Maryam held meeting with an Indian: Gill

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD- Special Assistant to Prime Minister Imran Khan for political communication Shabbaz Gill on Sunday claimed that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice president Maryam Nawaz held a meeting with an Indian at Khokhar Palace in Lahore. He claimed that the PML-N vice president kept waiting at the same place after the press conference and after the sig-



nal, she reached the meeting place. The SAPM said that the narrative of Maryam Nawaz and her father former prime minister and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif is against the

country, therefore no one can bear its burden. Reacting to the statement of PML-N leader Rana Sanaulah, Shabbaz Gill tweeted, "If Rana sahib was asking, I would tell him that according to my information, the meeting with an Indian took place at Khokhar Palace." "Rana sahib, you are with Shehbaz Sharif, she will not tell you," he added. Earlier today, in a post on social-networking website Twitter, Gill said that Lahori people have rejected PML-N narrative against Army.

## Security forces kill two terrorists

NIHAL MIRAJ

RAWALPINDI: Security forces on Sunday gunned down two hardcore terrorists and apprehended another during an operation in North Waziristan's Mir Ali area. According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), security forces carried out an intelligence-based operation at the terrorist hideout in North Waziristan's Mir Ali area. During the operation, two hardcore terrorists were killed, while one terrorist was detained. On Friday, the security forces foiled a major terrorist activity as they killed two terrorists, including an IED specialist during an operation in North Waziristan. According to a statement "Two hardcore terrorists [were] including an IED specialist [were] killed, while one terrorist [was] apprehended."

## Armenian forces suffer heavy loss

Azerbaijan said its forces had "captured new footholds"

DNA

STEPANAKERT: Amid fierce clashes, Armenia leaders said it was facing a 'historic threat' as the country reported heavy losses during the long-sought dispute at Nagorno-Karabakh region. Yerevan's defence ministry claimed separatist forces in Karabakh had repelled a massive attack by Azerbaijan, seven days after fighting erupted again in the decades-old dispute over the ethnic-Armenian breakaway province, but the Azerbaijan forces rejected this claim saying they had taken over key areas. Armenia also announced the deaths of 51 more separatist fighters, taking the number of fatalities on both sides above 240.

Azerbaijan's defence ministry meanwhile said its forces had "captured new footholds" and President Ilham Aliyev claimed that his forces took the village of Madagiz, a strategic hamlet within firing range of an important northern road. The clashes took place after the regional capital Stepanakert came under artillery and rocket fire, with local defence officials reporting further explosions later in the day. The fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh has threatened to draw in powerful players like Russia and Turkey. Armenia is in a military alliance of former Soviet countries led by Moscow, which maintains a military base there, while NATO member Turkey has signaled its full support for Azerbaijan's military operations.

## Pilgrims perform Umrah

DNA

MAKKAH: Pilgrims trickled into Makkah after Saudi Arabian authorities on Sunday partially lifted a coronavirus ban on performing Umrah after a seven-month curb. Saudi Arabia, which held a scaled back Hajj earlier this year limited to domestic worshippers, has allowed citizens and residents to start performing Umrah as of Sunday at 30 per cent capacity, or 6,000 pilgrims a day. It will open for Muslims from abroad starting Nov 1. Last year, the Gulf state drew 19 million Umrah visitors. "All of Makkah is happy today, it's like the end of a jail term. We have missed the spiritual feeling of pilgrims roaming the city," said Yasser al-Zahrani, who became a Uber driver after losing his construction job during a three-month lockdown imposed in March.

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Japan to open its marketplace for talented Pakistan's youth - Page 08

## Briefs

## CM to constitute monitoring committee

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: CM Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has constituted the monitoring and implementation committee at divisional headquarters for monitoring and coordination of issues related to the municipal services and urban infrastructure with special focus on solid waste management, water supply and sanitation, parks and horticulture, traffic management and parking. Divisional Commissioner would be convener of the said committee while Regional Police Officer, Deputy Commissioner, DG Development Authority, DG Parks and horticulture authority, MD WASA, Chief Officer, Metropolitan/Municipal Corporation, member of National Assembly/Provincial Assembly to be nominated by Chief Ministers office, any notable/ other member co-opted by the committee and representative of Chief Minister office. The first meeting of the committee was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner/Convener Ishrat Ali in his office. RPO Raja Riffat Mukhtar, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali, DG FDA Sohail Khawaja, DG PHA Asma Ejaz Cheema and other concerned were present. Divisional Commissioner said that coordinate efforts would be made to resolve the issues and weekly reviewed meeting would also be conducted.

## ‘Virus infected 3,409 policemen in Sindh’

DNA

KARACHI: As many as 3,409 police officials and personnel have contracted coronavirus in the Sindh province while performing their duties. The police spokesman said that 19 personnel embraced martyrdom while discharging their duties due to coronavirus. Currently, 24 cops are undergoing treatment while 3,366 of the infected personnel, have recovered from the infection. Sindh Chief Minister has said on Saturday that 267 new cases of coronavirus and three more deaths were reported during the last 24 hours. The total count of coronavirus deaths reached 2,520 and 81 more patients recovered from the virus, had said Sindh Chief Minister, adding that 1,397,676 samples were tested in Sindh. In Sindh, 138,050 confirmed cases were reported so far and 130,811 patients recovered from the coronavirus. Earlier on September 30, the Sindh government had imposed “micro smart lockdown” in several neighborhoods of Karachi to prevent the spread of deadly coronavirus.

## GB: Scrutiny process of nomination papers by ROs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gilgit-Baltistan Raja Shahbaz Khan has imposed ban on use of names and pictures of Army Chief, Army Officers, Judges and heads of Government departments for publicity purposes during election campaigns. In a statement, he asked political parties and all contestants to avoid use of such pictures and names in publicity material including banners, posters and Panaflex hoardings. He said action as per rules will be taken against violators. In Gilgit-Baltistan, scrutiny process of the nomination papers by the Returning Officers is in progress and will be completed on Wednesday. Voting for 24 seats of GB Assembly will be held on 15th November.

## Gov't to fully support export oriented furniture sector, says Usman Dar

Workers of this industry had great skills and potential and if used properly, Pakistan could become the best exporter of furniture. He added that with the development of the furniture industry, it would be easy to meet local and international needs

DNA

SIALKOT: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs and Chairman PM Youth Program Usman Dar Sunday assured Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) that the government would fully support the export oriented local furniture sector to boost country's exports and in this regard all possible cooperation would be provided from the government.

While speaking at a prize distribution ceremony at the concluding day of three-day 12th “Interiors Pakistan” exhibition at Dustoor Event Complex Sialkot organized by PFC, he thanked the Council for a successful exhibition and said with development of the

furniture industry, it would be easy to meet local and international needs. The furniture industry in the country was moving forward in a positive direction and the efforts were being made to improve the duty structure for the furniture industry.

Usman Dar said that workers of this industry had great skills and potential and if used properly, Pakistan could become the best exporter of furniture. He added that with the development of the furniture industry, it would be easy to meet local and international needs.

He said it is healthy sign that a lot of young interior designers participated in this exhibition to show their talents and PTI government would provide the maximum opportunities



to the youth to shine by utilizing their talent, skills and capabilities, which could be helpful to take the youth forward by contributing their pivotal role in national development and prosperity as well. The advisor to the prime minister later visited various stalls of the exhibition and praised the

workmanship, quality and design of the various items on display.

On this occasion, PFC Chief Executive Mian Kashif Ashfaq expressed his gratitude for visiting the exhibition as chief guest at the concluding ceremony. He also assured the advisor that the business community of the country would provide complete support to the government towards implementing its reforms agenda and overcome the current economic challenges. He further said that PFC is playing its due role efficiently for promoting furniture brands not only inside the country but also abroad by displaying world-class innovative designs, suiting the aesthetic sense of the buyers. He added that Pakistan has a great potential to enhance

furniture exports to the USA and Europe by developing good brands and the business community should focus on the branding of products to promote business activities and improve exports. The Pakistan Furniture Council chief said that furniture made in Chiniot meets more than 80 per cent of the local demand. This, combined with the handicraft industry, is employing around 50,000 people, he said and added that if the local industry expands, new opportunities of employment will emerge.

Mian Kashif said the government should also take measures to provide interest-free loans to youth for business startups, especially those who are interested in opening business in the furniture sector.

## KP plans establishing six industrial zones

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government has prepared a plan for establishing six industrial zones on 3,788 acres land in different parts of the province including southern districts. The provincial government took initiative to establish six industrial zones in Chitral, Daraban, Karak, Buner for the first time. It emerged that the first industrial of Chitral will be established on 40 acres land, whereas, another will be established in Daraban for the industrial development of southern districts. Moreover, the government will establish an industrial zone on 126 acres land in Buner district. The provincial government is also making efforts for the establishment of special economic zones (SEZs) across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Earlier in September, Prime Minister Imran Khan had attended the agreement-signing ceremony of Rashakai SEZ development between

Pakistan and Chinese companies. He had expressed hopes that Rashakai special economic zone (SEZ) project will play an important role in the progress and development of the province. PM Imran Khan had maintained that the development of Rashakai SEZ will help boost industrialization and create job opportunities in the country. Highlighting the strategic significance of the economic zone, the prime minister had said, “The development of this zone and peace in Afghanistan will help develop connectivity to Central Asia that can change the destiny of the region.” In March last year, KP Chief Minister Mahmood Khan had inaugurated Dargai industrial economic zone during his visit to Malakand district. CM Khan had said that the government sets focus on the promotion of petroleum and industrial sectors. Mahmood Khan had announced that local residents would be given employment in different industrial zones set up in different parts of the province.

## Faisalabad: DC visits to tehsil head quarter hospital to review matters



ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali suddenly reached to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Chak Jhumra to review the medical and administrative matters and check the medical facilities provided to the patients coming in different sections, seating arrangements for their families and availability of drinking water. He urged the hospital administration to ensure implementation on anti-corona SOPs in all cases and said that

the staff at the entrance should make people wear face masks while checking the temperature of each one with a thermal gun. He also checked the record of referral of patients and told the on-duty doctors and staff that patients should be satisfied with the performance of the hospital. He said that quality treatment of patients should not be reduced. He also checked the situation of cleanliness in the washrooms and directed to dispose of the garbage in the bins in a proper manner and said that the high-

est standard of cleanliness should be maintained at all times. He also checked the availability of medicines. The Deputy Commissioner also checked the progress of some construction works in the hospital and urged to use the available resources in a transparent manner. He also reviewed the condition of the ambulance and directed to keep it fully functional. Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner administered the polio drops to the children under five age available at hospital and inaugurated the next special polio campaign started

today 5th October. He also appealed to the parents to ensure that every child up to the age of five years is vaccinated for the complete eradication of polio virus and to cooperate with the polio teams. He directed the health department to get 100% results by using all out resources. The Medical Superintendent apprised the DC about the overall performance of the hospital and the state of medical treatment. Additional Deputy Commissioner General Mudassar Nawaz and other officers were also present on the occasion.

## Chiniot youths invent smart white cane

CHINIOT: Three students have prepared a smart cane to assist visually impaired, blind people to walk more independently and safely. The smart white cane has been prepared by three students of the University of Lahore's Sardar Campus namely Naveed Ahmed, Zaafar and Ghulam Ahmed. A visually impaired or blind person can easily detect obstacles on ground, surface textures, pot holes etc while traveling with a standard white cane. Designed to replace the traditional white cane used by the visually impaired around the world, this smart cane offers users hazard detection including a hurdle or water on surface. — DNA

## ‘Sacrifices of armed forces bring peace in the country’

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Speaker KP Assembly Mush-taq Ahmed Ghani Sunday said that a gang of corrupt politicians is defaming the army and other law enforcement agencies, the arrest of the opposition leader was a result of the court's verdict. He expressed these views while addressing the Abbottabad Electronic Media Association (AEIMA) ceremony. The speaker further said that the masses are well aware of the conspiracies against the judiciary and army. Mushtaq Ahmed Ghani stated that elements involved in corruption have gathered and defamed the army rather than facing accountability court, they praise favorable verdicts of

court and if the decisions are against them then they malign the judiciary and others, adding he said. “Peace in our country is the outcome of the sacrifices of the armed forces where young officers and jawans have lost their lives in the line of duty”, the speaker said. While talking about the development of Abbottabad city Mushtaq Ahmed Ghani said that we have started many mega projects in the city as compare to the previous four decades, we are proud of initiating health, roads, schools, water supply projects and would continue serving the masses with religious zeal. Speaker KP assembly while highlighting the projects said

that Abbottabad University of Science and Technology, beautification of the city worth more than one billion rupees where Shimla Hill Park and three other parks have been developed and constructed, the road network in the surrounding vicinities of Abbottabad city, four open gymnasias have made the difference of present and previous governments. Gravity water flow scheme Abbottabad was a project which has facilitated the masses of the city and we would include more water reservoirs to provide uninterrupted water supply to the increasing number of citizens of the city, adding he said. — APP

## Khattak urges to support Kashmiris

DNA

NOWSHEHRA: Defence Minister, Pervez Khattak has said it is need of the hour that all political and religious entities should join hands to establish peace in the region and support Kashmiris in getting their right of self-determination. Addressing different ceremonies in Nowshera, he said the government is ready for talks on matters except those related to corruption. He advised the opposition to stop politicking for personal interests saying that the government would consider their positive suggestions. Pervez Khattak said the opposition would not be barred from launching protests, but any attempt to break the law would be dealt accordingly. He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan is tirelessly working to steer country out of crises and now making efforts to augment economy of country by defeating challenges emerged in backdrop of Coronavirus pandemic. The Minister said tirade of the opposition against public institutions would serve nothing, but provide enemies of the country an opportunity to fulfill their nefarious designs.

## AJK to impose lockdown after spike in cases: PM

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Kashmir government has in principle decided to impose lockdown in the region again after a spike in novel coronavirus cases in the region. A meeting chaired by Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Raja Farooq Haider, expressed concern over the soaring number of COVID-19 infections in the region. The ratio of coronavirus cases has reached to 8.3 percent, Prime Minister AJK said. “The government has in principle decided to impose lockdown in the region,” the prime minister said. “We have to take strict measures before the situation goes out of the control,” AJK PM said. The meeting also decided strict enforcement of the condition of wearing masks outside homes and in offices. The session also decided to impose fine on those who will violate the condition of wearing masks. The prime minister directed the officials to decide details of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) about markets, offices and educational institutions.

## Punjab COVID-19 cases about to hit one lac

DNA

LAHORE: The number of coronavirus cases in Punjab has reached to 99,959 with addition of 147 new infections in the last 24 hours and about to hit one lac mark. According to the spokesperson of the Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department, 147 more coronavirus cases have been reported in the province in last 24 hours. The health department also reported two deaths by COVID-19 in Punjab during the period, increasing the death toll to 2,240. Pakistan reported six more coronavirus-related deaths during the past 24 hours, pushing the death toll from the deadly disease to 6,513. As many as 33,725 samples were tested during this period, out of which 632 turned out to be positive, according to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). The number of Covid-19 cases across the country has reached 314,616 with the addition of the new cases. There are 9,135 active Covid-19 cases as 298,968 patients have recuperated from the infection. More than 3.6 million tests have been conducted in the country and 513 of the patients under treatment at various hospitals across the country are said to be in critical condition. According to earlier figures by the NCOC, Sindh has reported 138,050 cases of the coronavirus, Punjab 99,812, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 37,973, Balochistan 15,371, Islamabad 16,766, Gilgit Baltistan 3,828, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir 2,816 infections.

## Pakistan famous hub of Buddhist heritage

There are numerous religious sites of Buddhist heritage and artifacts scattered across Pakistan. The restoration and conservation of heritage sites along with religious tolerance is key to rebuild the confidence of pilgrims and religious tourists especially minorities

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is among the ancient regions of Asian continent that served as the nurturing cradle for Buddhism where the great Siddhartha Gautama—the Buddha laid the foundation of the religion that preached the path of spiritual awakening for insight to reveal the reality of nature. Pakistan is also one of the famous hubs of Buddhist heritage and artifacts in the world. A Buddhist art and craft though during insurgency in Afghanistan and Pakistan faced destruction yet many of the key historical sites are intact. There are numerous religious sites of Buddhist heritage and artifacts scattered across Pakistan. The restoration and conserva-

tion of heritage sites along with religious tolerance is key to rebuild the confidence of pilgrims and religious tourists especially minorities. However, the incumbent government is making all out efforts to preserve and maintain the religious places of minorities with interfaith harmony that would help to ensure fundamental rights of minorities in the country. An official of DOAM (Department of archeology and Museum) told APP that Taxila valley, Peshawar valley, ancient Gandhara and Swat valley were the main centers of inspiration of Buddhist art and craft. Buddhist heritage in Taxila valley is expanded up to ten square kilometres. Dozens of Bu-

dhist Stupa, monastic complexes dating from 3 cent. BC to 6th cent. AC are fully adorned with a variety of Buddha and Bodhisattvas sculptures, relics caskets etc. These sculptures are made of schist stone, stucco, terracotta, bronze, silver and gold. Rare mural paintings of Jinan Wahid dheri, the largest statue of dying Buddha from Bhamala Stupa, red sandstone sculpture from Badal pir are rare collections in the Buddhist world. Buddhist finds specially stucco sculptures are world famous collections recovered from Taxila by Sir John Marshall DG archaeological survey of India during his large scale excavations in 1903 to

1928. He wrote a detailed volume of books about Taxila and Gandhara. Artifacts discovered from Taxila are significant for their Hellenistic features. Scythian, Parthian, Kushan dominance is quite visible and distinguishable make them novel in the world. Thatk e Bhai, sari balol world heritage sites are the Other center of Buddhist collection in Peshawar valley, during the last about four years, Bamala in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has emerged as a major Buddhist heritage site after the remains of a 1700 years old sleeping Buddha statue were discovered there. Swat valley is another major hub of Buddhist art that

remained active till the tenth century. From here Buddhist art penetrated to China, Korea and Japan. Buddhist art of stone sculpting spread from Swat to the other parts of Buddhist centers in Pakistan. Features of Buddhist art in Swat are different, indigenous and Indian. Silk route was one of the main line lines of Buddhist activities which was disconnected after the fifth century and caused the disintegration of Buddhist centers in this region when white Huns with the help of brahmin cast devastated Buddhist centers and changed them in Gupta art and Hindu crafts.

Briefs

Lok Virsa to hold "Annual Lok Mela"

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa) has planned to hold Annual Folk Festival "Lok Mela" from November 6 to 15.

Ground water Management Plan' reports launched

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in partnership with Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), and in collaboration with The Asia Foundation, United States Agency for International Development and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) launched two reports.

Around 70,000 returned expats registered

ISLAMABAD: The Overseas Employment Corporation's (OEC) portal has registered around 70,000 Pakistani workers, who have lost their overseas jobs or on leave due to coronavirus pandemic, to facilitate them in getting local and foreign jobs, training in modern skills and financial assistance.

Sector G-12 a safe haven for drug pushers, robbers

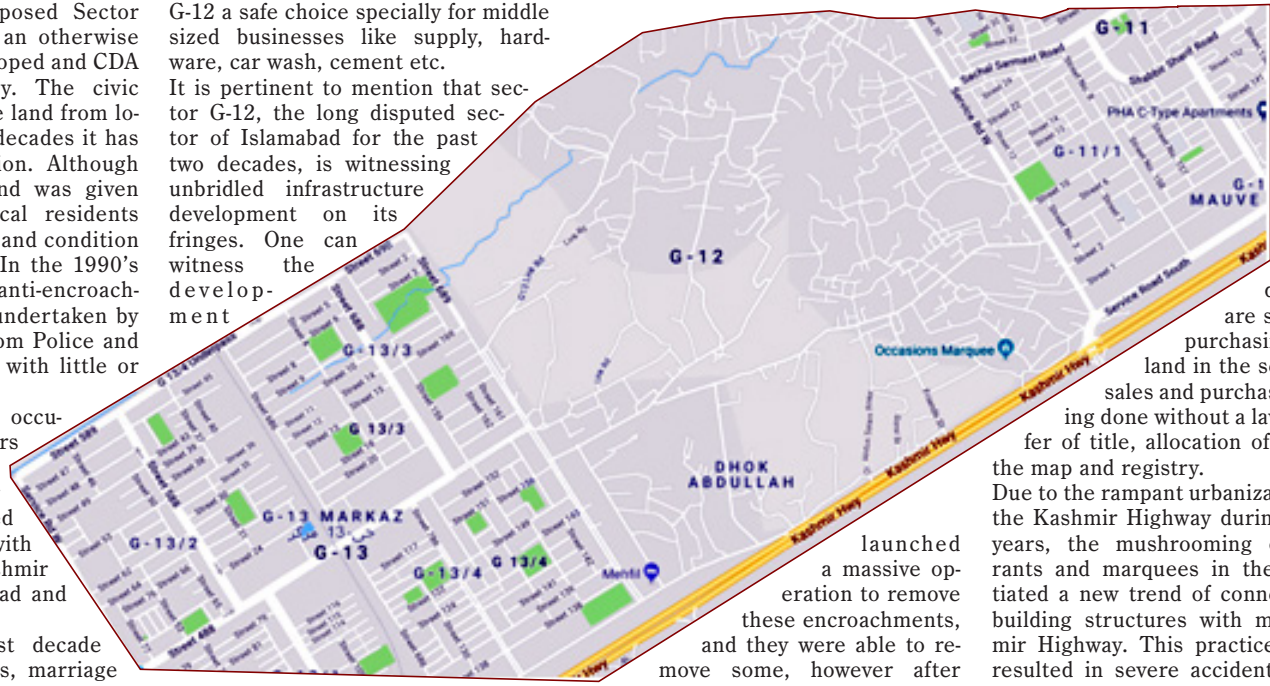
The Sector has become a No-Go area, people hiding in G-12 commit robberies and disappear in this sector. The nearby residents also allege, police unfortunately either has not access to this sector or do not want to purge the Aegean stables

DNA/STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Amidst the fully developed sectors of Islamabad lies Sector G-12, known locally as Mehra Abadi. The thousands of acres of land occupied by the locals has become a 'No Go Area' for many since the illegal encroachment, construction of commercial and private property and other criminal activities continue unabated.

in operation. The proposed Sector G-12 is an anomaly in an otherwise well-planned, well-developed and CDA maintained capital city. The civic agency had acquired the land from locals but for past three decades it has failed to take possession.

G-12 a safe choice specially for middle sized businesses like supply, hardware, car wash, cement etc. It is pertinent to mention that sector G-12, the long disputed sector of Islamabad for the past two decades, is witnessing unbridled infrastructure development on its fringes.



launched a massive operation to remove these encroachments, and they were able to remove some, however after strong resistance from the local the operation was left in half way.

in the sector has been barred since then. At present, many businessmen and property dealers are selling and purchasing the land in the sector. The sales and purchases are being done without a lawful transfer of title, allocation of a plot on the map and registry.

Pakistan needs to maintain relations with both US-China

These views were shared in a webinar on 'The US & Pakistan: Politics, Diplomacy and Economics under the Next Administration' arranged by Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies

FAIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: A webinar on 'The US & Pakistan: Politics, Diplomacy and Economics under the Next Administration' was organised by the Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), in collaboration with the Association of Pakistani Americans.

While providing a brief overview, Mr Nadeem Zaman, President, Association of Pakistani Americans pointed out that since the US Presidential Elections are around the corner, it is important to discuss the diplomatic, economic, and political aspects of the US-Pakistan bilateral relationship and its future under the next administration.



Ambassador (R) Jilil Abbas Jilani, CASS Director on Foreign Policy, said that Pakistan needs to maintain cordial relations with both Washington and Beijing.

support to Pakistan, the US is equally important for the latter's economic well-being since it is a major trading partner and export destination for Pakistani goods.

be an invaluable partner in the intra-Afghan dialogue, it is also in a position to act as a bridge between the US and China; and between Iran and the US.

the virus' onslaught, and reflected the sobriety with which the government mobilised, despite its resource constraints", he shared.

Stage play Barzakh at PNCA open theatre



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pattan development organization in collaboration with Pakistan National Council of the Arts, Islamabad organized a stage play titled "Barzakh" at PNCA open air theatre on 3rd and 4th October 2020.

a specific group of people who use religion for their personal benefits. The story moves around a character who was dead a long ago and his body was narrating the story of his death at graveyard. The producer also used Sufi Kafies, and music for enhancing the effects.

Three gamblers held

RAWALPINDI: The police on Saturday apprehended three alleged gamblers and seized stake money amounting to Rs 25,800, three mobile phones and other valuable items from their possession.

ITP resumes driving license services

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) have resumed driving license services after a hiatus of over six months with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) standard operating procedures (SOPs) to keep virus at the bay.

Pak to help halt biodiversity loss: Amin Aslam

The speaking slots at this week's Summit are oversubscribed, with more than 116 heads of states and governments seeking to address the unprecedented global event

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam said that Pakistan would support the global leaders' pledge at the UN's maiden Summit for Biodiversity 2020 for action to stem biodiversity loss as part of "meaningful action" to halt the destruction of nature on earth.

opened virtually from New York today to counteract the damage to ecosystems systems that underpin human health and wellbeing, said a press release.

sustainable development." Prime Minister Imran Khan and German Chancellor Angela Merkel will co-chair 'TODAY LATE NIGHT' a high-level joint session 'Leaders' Dialogue' today through a video link at

the Summit and call for a heightened global action to halt biodiversity loss for the sustainability of the planet earth and its inhabitants.



willingness to act on environmental destruction, the pledge includes a renewed effort to reduce deforestation, halt unsustainable fishing practices, eliminate environmentally harmful subsidies and begin the transition to sustainable food production systems and a circular economy over the next decade.

the catastrophic consequences for us all." The prime minister's special assistant Malik Amin Aslam said that while the United Nations first ever Summit for Biodiversity has begun today in New York, Prime Minister Imran Khan, Emmanuel Macron, Angela Merkel, Justin Trudeau, Jacinda Ardern and Boris Johnson are among 64 leaders from five continents, would warn during their keynote speeches that humanity is in a state of planetary emergency due to the climate crisis and the rampant destruction of life-sustaining ecosystems.

ICT Police arrest seven alleged drug dealers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Seven important drug dealers, who peddled drugs within the country and abroad, were arrested on Sunday with more than 21kg heroin recovered from them, said Islamabad Police.

Police search 258 houses, 127 tenants

RAWALPINDI: The City police carried out search operation in the jurisdiction of RA bazaar, City Police station and its adjoining areas on Saturday, informed Police spokesman.

Cleanliness drive underway

RAWALPINDI: A grand cleanliness operation launched by District government id in full swing to educate people about the importance of cleanliness and the measures that can help contain dengue virus.

## Briefs

## Rawal dam spot to be reopened for tourists soon

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Capital Development Authority (CDA) Affairs Ali Nawaz Awan Sunday said the Rawal Dam spot would be reopened soon for the capital's dwellers and tourists after completing mandatory work. In a tweet, he said the site had remained closed for over a decade due to law and order and management issues. "Rawal Dam spot will be opened for Tourist and local population of Islamabad soon after mandatory works. It remained closed for over a decade due to law & Order and management issues," he said. He also shared a clipping of national daily, showing instruction of the National Assembly Committee on Water Resources regarding opening of the site for tourism promotion. The citizens of the Federal Capital also expressed joy over the announcement and asked the departments concerned to promote 'Islamabad-the Beautiful' as a customized brand locally and internationally to attract more tourists. Umar Nasar said Islamabad had huge potential for tourism for having a large number of tourist attraction in the city. He urged the departments concerned to pay proper attention to the up-gradation of such sites. - APP

## Islamabad reports another 53 cases of COVID

DBA

ISLAMABAD: Federal capital city reported another 53 cases of COVID-19 in the last 24 hours as a spike in cases of disease being witnessed. As many as 4,746 samples were tested during the last 24 hours, out of which 53 turned out to be positive, federal health authorities said. So far, Islamabad has reported 16,766 cases of the coronavirus, however the tally of active cases in the city have dropped to 549. Over 183 patients have died of COVID-19 in the capital city. In past 24 hours 51 patients in the city were recovered to health. Prime Minister Imran Khan in a social media statement said, "There is a fear onset of winter could result in 2nd wave. I urge everyone to wear face masks in public to avoid a spike. All offices & institutions must ensure masks are worn." Pakistan reported six more coronavirus-related deaths during the past 24 hours, pushing the death toll from the deadly disease to 6,513.

## 4 outlaws held; stolen motorbikes recovered

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have arrested four outlaws including a member of a bike lifter gang and recovered two stolen motorbikes, narcotic and weapon from their possession, a police spokesman said. According to details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan has ordered crackdown against criminal elements and following his orders, DIG (Operations) Waqar-Ud-Din Syed has directed all zonal officers to accelerate their efforts to curb the crime in the city. SP (Saddar Zone) Sarfraz Ahmed Virk constituted special team under the supervision of DSP Khalid Mehmood Awan including SHO Golra police station Inspector Sham-Ul-Akber, ASI Noor Kula along with other officials who successfully nabbed a member of a well organised bike lifter gang, identified as Attiq s/o Muhammad Shafiq resident of Chongi No 26 Islamabad, while Police also recovered two stolen motorbikes from him. During the preliminary investigation, he confessed his involvement in several incidents of motorbike lifting in various areas of twin cities Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Case has been registered against the suspect and further investigation was underway.



ISLAMABAD: Former ICCI President Zafar Bakhtawari greets newly elected President of ICCI Sardar Yasir Ilyas. - DNA

## Robberies in I-8 expose Islamabad Safe City farce

The misplacement of cameras in also an issue. Why don't the authorities install cameras at the escape routes usually used by the criminals to enter Rawalpindi or the rural areas?" said Suleman, working in a private company at I-8 Markaz

ISLAMABAD: The robbers continue to expose the farce of so-called Islamabad Safe City having hit twice just in sector I-8 depriving two individuals of Rs 2.3 million at gun point in broad daylight. Be it the police check posts, safe city cameras or police patrolling, nothing could stop the criminals who continue to make mockery of the ICT police's performance. As the police was yet to arrest the robbers who

looted Rs 800,000 from Ishtiaq Ahmed, senior reporter of Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) in sector I-8/1 on September 23, they robbed another man Athar Ejaz a week later on September 30 in I-8 Markaz depriving him of Rs 1.5 million. The criminals manage to escape easily even using main avenues or through the populated sectors having 'confidence' over the working of the cameras. The criminals usually re-

move the front registration plate to dodge the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras installed at 208 points across the federal capital. "This is the police's duty to ensure the bikers have front number plates. How the people wearing helmet or pillion rider with face masks in COVID days can be recognized by cameras. The only reliable identification sources remains the standard number plate,"

said Mahmood, a resident of I-8. The box or dome cameras installed at different points are also unable to give a recognizable picture of the people even at a small distance. The robbers who chased the APP reporter from I-8 markaz, were seen awaiting him at I-8 Markaz parking lot, just few dozen feet away from the Safe City camera. But their faces are unrecognizable. The picture can

be zoomed in enough due to quality issue. "The misplacement of cameras in also an issue. Why don't the authorities install cameras at the escape routes usually used by the criminals to enter Rawalpindi or the rural areas?" said Suleman, working in a private company at I-8 Markaz. Akbar Abbasi, another I-8 resident pointed demanded the police to permanently close down the "shortcut ways" used

by the bikers by breaking road medians or removing concrete blocks which also keeps them from cameras. "The police placed concrete blocks to close the service road along Metro track at Faizabad. But the bikers managed their way by skidding barricade. They violate the closure throughout the day but police deployed at check post shows blithe lack of concern, he criticized.

## Pak expresses commitment to forceful diplomacy on IIOJK

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's highest-level participation in the 75th session of the UN General Assembly has expressed commitment to multilateralism, forceful diplomacy on Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and contribution to addressing contemporary world challenges. In a statement on Saturday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said that Prime Minister Imran Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism; exposed egregious violations of human rights and international law in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He said the Prime Minister also called for realization of the Kashmiris' right to self-determination; and articulated Pakistan's perspective on a host of contemporary global and regional challenges. The Spokesperson said that Prime Minister also participated as one of the key speakers in four other high-level events organized on the side-lines, pertaining to Poverty Alleviation;

Illicit Financial Flows; Financing for Development; and Bio-diversity Summit. He said Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi also took part in numerous activities including the high-level Plenary meeting of the General Assembly. Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said in order to address the most pressing challenges currently faced by the international community, the Prime Minister offered concrete proposals including giving fiscal space to developing countries to deal with socio-economic challenges posed by COVID-19.

## 'World Habitat Day' on October 5

ISLAMABAD: 'World Habitat Day' will be marked on Oct 5 across the globe including Pakistan to reflect on the state of human settlements and people's right to sufficient shelter. It also aims to remind people that they are responsible for the habitat of future next generations. 'World Habitat Day' celebrated in many countries around the world, including Angola, China, India, Mexico, Poland, Uganda and the United States. Various activities around the world are organized to examine the problems of rapid urbanization and its impact on the environment and human poverty. - DNA

## PTA blocks thousands of anti-Islam, anti-Pakistan internet URLs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority has blocked thousands of anti-Islam and anti-Pakistan URLs on internet in the country, according to a report issued by the internet regulator. In its report to parliament, the PTA said it had identified at least 59,712 anti-Islam URLs on the websites. Of them, 46, 431 have been blocked. According to the

report, Pakistan's internet regulator has also blocked 16,703 URLs over sectarian "hate speech". The PTA said it had identified 20,041 URLs which had the content against "defence of Pakistan" and of them, it has blocked 13,620 URLs. At least 5,607 URLs were blocked for posting anti-judiciary content, the report said. The PTA said it has provided details to the FIA to initiate legal action against people involved in posting unlawful content.

## Theater Wally to start Acting Classes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Theater Wally, an art school will start Acting Classes titled "Explore Your Talent" to provide the students with practical experience about acting from 10th October. In collaboration with Rung School of Music and Arts, the classes are being aimed to get good understanding of acting as an art, a medium and a career. 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. According to the an official, students would receive specialist training in voice, movement emotive skills adding that this course would equip the students with the skills they would need to become a professional actor. It will include studying various

schools of acting and discuss the challenges of understanding a character and portraying it in more than one way. Difference between stage, TV and screen acting will also be underlined with theoretical and practical assignments, he said. He added that it will be a 3-months course that will cover all aspects of a theater performance. The participants will also be asked to go out and choose characters which they will then portray before the class. In addition, this course will help the students in gaining confidence in performing in front of a live audience, he said. He said that anyone and everyone should attend these basic level acting classes even if they are not planning to adopt acting as career. The Acting Classes will help you gain confidence to speak before a bunch of people, and help you get rid of self consciousness and body stiffness, he stated.



ISLAMABAD: Col Anatoly A. Fedotov, Military Air and Naval Attaché of the Embassy of Russian Federation to Pakistan visited CGSS office and met with Lt Col Khalid Taimur Akram (Retd), Executive Director, CGSS. Academic cooperation and joint projects of mutual interests were discussed. - DNA

## World's Teachers Day bieng marked Today

On October 5, 1994, the first World Teachers' Day was held. This event has been organized on the same date each year since then. However, local events may be on some other date close to October 5

ISLAMABAD: Like other parts of the globe, World Teachers Day bieng marked today on Oct 5 across the globe including Pakistan the day celebrates the role teachers play in providing quality education at all levels. This enables children and adults of all ages to learn to take part in and contribute to their local community and global society. Teachers are recognized for their contributions to society on World Teachers' Day. Various events would be arranged in many countries around the world on or around October 5. These include celebrations to honor teachers in general or those who have made a special contribution to a particular community. The day may also be marked by conferences emphasizing the

importance of teachers and learning, extra training sessions for teachers, recruitment drives for the teaching profession among university students or other suitably qualified professionals and events to increase the profile of teachers and the role they play in the media. Trade unions or other professional organizations that represent teachers play an important role in organizing World Teachers' Day events in many countries. These include: The Australian Education Union, The Canadian Teachers' Federation, The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (Canada), The All India Secondary Teachers' Federation, The Japan Teachers' Union, The Teachers Council (New Zealand), The National Union of Teachers (United Kingdom), The Na-

tional Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (United Kingdom). The National Education Association (United States). Moreover, international organizations such as TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) and Education International organize international, national and local events. In some areas posters are displayed and pupils and ex-pupils are encouraged to send e-cards or letters of appreciation to teachers who made a special or memorable contribution to their education. On October 5, 1966, the Special Intergovernmental Conference on the Status of Teachers in Paris, France, was closed and the "Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers"

was signed by representatives of UNESCO and International Labour Organization. On October 12, 1997, the 29th session of UNESCO's General Conference was opened. During this conference, on November 11, 1997, the "Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel" was adopted. On October 5, 1994, the first World Teachers' Day was held. This event has been organized on the same date each year since then. However, local events may be on some other date close to October 5, so that they do not fall during fall (northern hemisphere) or spring (southern hemisphere) school vacations. In 2002, Canada Post issued a postage stamp to commemorate World Teachers' Day.

## Online registration for CSS exams to begin

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) will start online registration of the candidates desirous to appear in Central Superior Services (CSS) examinations 2021 from Monday (October 5). According to official sources, the last date for submission of applications on FPSC web portal was November 3. Applicants are required to submit hard copy of the application form along with required documents to FPSC headquarters well before November 13, 2020. Late submitted and incomplete documents will be rejected. The CSS examinations will commence from February 18, 2021 in 19 cities including Abbottabad, Bahawalpur, DG Khan, DI Khan, Faisalabad, Gilgit, Gujranwala, Hyderabad, Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Larkana, Multan, Muzaffarabad, Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi, Sargodha and Sukkur simultaneously. The holding of examination in a city mentioned above is subject to availability of sufficient number of candidates wishing to appear in exam from that particular city. All male and female including special persons holding at least second Division Bachelor's degree and aged between 21 to 30 years are eligible. (2 years age relaxation in special cases). Cut-off date for determining eligibility of the candidate in terms of age, qualification, domicile etc, is December 31, 2020. Each candidate is required to deposit examination fee of Rs. 2,200/- on or before November 3, 2020, in the nearest Govt Treasury State Bank of Pakistan National Bank of Pakistan under the account head "C02101-Organ of State Exam Fee (FPSC Receipt).

## Drug traffickers arrested from Arabian Sea

ISLAMABAD: The international forces with the help of Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Intelligence Wing seized a huge cache of drugs worth billions of rupees during a sea operation. According to details, the international forces conducted a raid in the Arabian sea of Maldives and arrested international drug traffickers. The forces also recovered a huge cache of drugs during the operation. The arrests of drug traffickers and operation became successful due to timely intelligence sharing by Pakistan's ANF Intelligence Wing (Special Investigation Cell). Earlier in September, the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Intelligence Wing recovered contraband items worth millions of rupees in Karachi and arrested an accused. Sources privy to the development said that raid was carried out at a water geyser and tandoor warehouse in Karachi's area of Clifton. The contraband items were to be exported to Qatar after concealing them into a water geyser, when the ANF team raided at the warehouse and arrested an accused named Mushtaq. The recovered contraband items are said to be worth millions of rupees in the international market. - APP

## IRSA releases 168,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 168,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 90,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1541.29 feet, which was 155.29 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 50,000 cusecs and outflow as 100,000 cusecs. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1227.60 feet, which was 187.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 12,100 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively. - APP

## LOST

The original import papers of my car No Honda Vessel Model 2015, Pearl White, Engine NO LEB 5072332 and Chassis No RU3 -1122316, 1500CC, have been lost. If found may please be informed at the following cell number. Hafiz Abdur Rauf, 0337 6237786

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## Polio vaccination

**A**LMOST 39 million kids have been vaccinated against poliovirus during a nationwide immunisation campaign from September 21 to 25. The entire team of Pakistan Polio Eradication deserves appreciation as the drive concluded successfully despite all kinds of challenges that COVID further exacerbated. But the government needs to understand that the virus is still very much active in the country. It must work hard to eradicate the crippling disease and make Pakistan free from polio.

Only this year, 74 Wild Type Poliovirus (WPV) and 64 circulating vaccines derived poliovirus (cVDPV2) polio cases have been recorded so far. The numbers will go up. The government must devise a strategy to bring down the figure to single digits next year. Last year too, Pakistan registered 140 plus polio cases. This is not acceptable. Bringing the cases down to a single digit is not an impossible task at all. Previous governments had succeeded in reducing the number of affected kids. The current strategy of aggressive vaccinating is what we need. This is one crucial way of keeping our children safe from poliovirus. However, just a one-time campaign on this scale is not enough to defeat the crippling disease. The government should keep at it. The authorities must keep a thorough track of the situation and monitor the ongoing progress against poliovirus through data just like we have been doing on coronavirus.

Likewise, the health officials must identify areas according to the risk they present, especially the ones that make core reservoir districts. They must devise risk-appropriate eradication strategies for containing the spread in these areas. One easy way to contain the virus is to improve the poor hygiene and sewage system in these areas. Most of these regions are the already marginalised ones where awareness about the deadly effects of the disease is almost always poor. Therefore, the government must ensure that these cities are not left under-immunised in future vaccination drives.



## Reforms in the healthcare sector

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

**T**HE healthcare sector of Pakistan is marred by several problems. These include structural fragmentation and resource scarcity. Gender insensitivity along with the inaccessibility of medical processes and doctors is also a major challenge. Pakistan needs a viable, practical healthcare reform to uplift this sector and to benefit the stakeholders associated with it. It is imperative to develop a public-private partnership to handle the looming problems affecting the efficiency of doctors and healthcare professionals.

There is a need to provide basic healthcare and medical services to the entire population. A villager not having enough financial resources should also be treated in a private hospital. Moreover, clinics in rural and remote areas must be established with dedicated doctors and staff present throughout the day and during the night in shifts. To ascertain the security of the doctors, a medical complex must be established in each town or district to accommodate the residents of the villages present nearby.

In the metropolitan cities, the private and public hospitals must raise their standards and accommodate people from all population strata. The most important need for all citizens is the availability of medicine at affordable prices. The government should provide a subsidy to ensure medicines are available across cities and within the reach of the common man. Senior citizens must receive a discount on healthcare services and medical treatment. The problem that the common man faces when treating their loved ones must be addressed.

One must wonder why doesn't the interior parts of Sindh and Punjab have hospitals and why do residents of these areas have to travel to Lahore, Karachi or Islamabad, and other metropolitan areas to avail medical treatment. Apart from allotting healthcare funds, the need of the hour is to create and implement a practical strategy ensuring healthcare services are within the reach of all those who require them.

## Fabulous Fez!

Hamid Asghar Khan



The University of Al Quaraiyyine in Fez was founded way back in 859as a splendid Mosque that can accommodate 20,000 people. Remarkably it was founded by Fatima Al-Fihri-a lady of means of Tunisian provenance-and is considered to be the oldest functioning institute of higher education in the world, being the first to award degrees in medicine and veterinary science. The historic Al Quarraoiyyine Library is home to ancient manuscripts including 9th century copies of the Holy Quran written on camel skin in Kufic script- the oldest form of Arab calligraphy

**O**NE of the essential elements of diplomacy in the info-technology enabled era of instant and constant communication, is the rise in importance of Soft Power Projection. The image and perception of a country now form an important part of its national power matrix. The enchanting city of Fez, just over 2 hours north of Rabat via excellent motorway, is the second largest city in Morocco with a population of 1.2 million. It is globally known for its magnificent architectural heritage, its culture, for the arts and as an ancient seat of learning. Fez receives over a million foreign tourists a year. It was in the 8th&9th centuries that Arab immigrants from Tunisia and Al-Andalus (Spain/Portugal) brought with them the tradition of scholarship and commerce, turning Fez into the first imperial political capital of Morocco. It in fact remained the capital till 1925. Numerous schools of learning, including those specializing in theology and many mosques were constructed in the early era by the settlers. Most of these are still operational, being counted among the jewels of Moorish-Moroccan architecture. The impressive royal palace is one of the largest in the Kingdom and a portion of the extensive gardens were later graciously converted into an excellent public park on royal command. A significant Jewish population used to live in the city, but has entirely migrated, retaining but renting out their properties in the Jewish quarter to Muslims. Moroccans of the Jewish faith settled abroad and the owners of the properties are among the many tourists that Morocco receives from Israel annually. Remarkably, two Synagogues, dating back to the 17th century have been renovated by the German Foreign Office and UNESCO as per the vision of tolerance and moderation and respect for all religions of His Majesty the King. They contain unique ancient copies of the Torah inscribed on Gazelle skin. I was able to benefit from a specially arranged visit to the two restored synagogues-that otherwise remain locked due to absence of practitioners-courtesy the Honorable Deputy Mayor Mme. Dahmani Id-rissi who graciously escorted me on my tour of the city. The fascinating Medina of Fez is the oldest and longest surviving such market, it is virtually a living, evolving organism and a World Heritage Site that is also the world's largest urban pedestrian zone. A remarkable ongoing royal restoration project remains underway, acquiring and restoring ancient heritage buildings to their past splendor. The Medina also houses the famous Chouara Tannery from the 11th century, one of the oldest tanneries in the world.



**RABAT:** Pakistan's Ambassador to Morocco H.E. Hamid Asghar Khan presenting a painting depicting Mughal era Lahore to Honorable Mayor of Fez M. Driss El Idrissi

The University of Al Quaraiyyine in Fez was founded way back in 859as a splendid Mosque that can accommodate 20,000 people. Remarkably it was founded by Fatima Al-Fihri-a lady of means of Tunisian provenance-and is considered to be the oldest functioning institute of higher education in the world, being the first to award degrees in medicine and veterinary science. The historic Al Quarraoiyyine Library is home to ancient manuscripts including 9th century copies of the Holy Quran written on camel skin in Kufic script- the oldest form of Arab calligraphy. These are kept in special temperature and humidity controlled rooms. It was a fascinating privilege to be shown these treasures. The Fez Medina has over 10,000 streets and alleys, spread over 300 hectares bisected by a river. In the alleyways, all

type of traditional crafts including manual textile dyeing and brocade production on hand operated looms producing rich colorful fabrics can be seen. Place Seffarine is an enchanting triangular square where traditional brass and copper beaters and smelters remain at work under the shadow of a towering old leafy tree, producing handmade high quality cooking utensils since centuries.

The famous Fez Sacred music festival had its first edition in 1994 and maintains a strong link with Pakistan due to our strong Sufi music tradition. The Late Maestro Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan participated in the vibrant festival a number of times and is well known here. This year's on-line festival also happily has participants from Lahore which has a sister city agreement with Fez. My father's cousin Brigadier @ Zamir Ahmed Khan served as Pakistan's Envoy to Morocco from 1986-1990. He remained Commandant of Pakistan Military Academy from 1974-1976 and later Chief of Protocol at the Foreign Office under President Zia from 1980-1986. It was Ambassador Zamir who took the commendable initiative of twinning Fez with Lahore way back in 1988 with then Mayor of Fez the Hon'able, Filali Baba.

Now, 32 years later, we are poised to build on this solid foundation thanks to the vision and support of our worthy Foreign Secretary Sohail Mehmood and the Honorable Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi who have specifically desired enhanced projection of our history and culture around the globe. During my delightful visit to Fez, I was received and hosted with remarkable cordiality and courtesy by the Honorable Mayor M. Driss El Idrissi. We had excellent discussions and it will be my privilege to contribute towards developing the existing warmth between our two fraternal countries, bound by history, mutual respect and cultural ties.

— Hamid Asghar Khan is Pakistan's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Morocco



## Pros and cons of opposition's APC

Muhammad Asghar



To the oppositions criticism it can quite rightly be said that they are divided and their roadmap has been unclear. Further they have not aligned their objectives and there seems to be disagreement on many fronts

**O**VER the course of two years, a number of APC's have been held by the opposition. However these have not had a substantial impact on the political frame apart from the fact that, these conferences only created headlines in the media. The recent APC was held on 20th September and the real question arises is whether this time it will have an impact or no?

Before discussing the impact of this APC, let's take into account of what results came from the previous APC'S. The first of its kind was held right after the general elections of 2018, the claim back then was that the general elections were massively rigged and the joint opposition demanded a probe into the matter. To the joint oppositions credit they all seemed united and determined for reaching a conclusion, which will lead to electoral reforms to avoid rigging in the next elections.

This joint opposition's determination and unity started to fade away as soon as the individual parties were faced with their own issues arising such as the NAB investigations. The second time the APC took place, it resulted in the a long march led by the JUI-F Leader Fazal Ur Rehman, yet again the it did not leave an impact as the opposition got divided, PMLN had completely avoided being part of the long March, whereas PPP was a part of it but did not actively participate, hence leaving the impression the JUI-F chief was all alone. Lastly the opposition last seemed united and active when they got together in order to change the Chairman Senate, however that resulted in humiliation for the joint opposition as motion failed and Mr Sanjrani was able to save his post.

To the oppositions criticism it can quite rightly be said that they are divided and their roadmap has been unclear. Further they have not aligned their objectives and there seems to be disagreement on many fronts. This is mainly due to the difference on approaches and ideology; such as PML-N

demands a midterm elections, whereas PPP seems to support the idea of in house change and at the same time JUI-F has certain demands based on their which are not acceptable by the other two major parties.

Another important factor that is to be considered is that NAB investigations that the lead leaderships of PML-N and PPP are facing. Since the start of PTI's tenure major leaders such as the ex President Asif Zardari current opposition leader Shehbaz Sharif, ex PM Abbasi, ex Opposition Leader Khursheed Shah, Saad Rafique and many others have been arrested on various allegations, a number of them have been released on bail while some such Khurshheed Shah and Hamza Shehbaz are still in custody. This has hindered the process of progression as the political parties have been facing internal crisis due to it.

As none of them have been convicted as per now, nor it seems that trails will be reaching to a conclusion any time soon; these arrest can be dubbed as a pressurizing tool used by the federal government to keep the opposition divided and keep them indulged in NAB investigation. The claim of the opposition that NAB is being used to target opposition leaders, further acting as a tool to keep the opposition leaders pressurized and not move as a joint front is supported by the decision by the honorable judges in the case of Saad Rafique.

Despite these setbacks it now looks as if opposition has finally found a strong footing, further this time opposition parties seem united. The reasons which constitute to this analysis is that, the APC held this time was from a major political party the PPP, plus the fact that the Chairman of the PPP Bilawal Bhutto was able to bring all major faces of opposition on one table. The significance of this APC is perhaps more than those before as it saw the ex President Zardari joining and to Mr Bhutto's credit he made the ex pm Nawaz Sherif make his political comeback after one

year and join the APC through the video link. Another important factor of this APC is the timing. The PTI regime has been in power for two years, it came into power by promising change and progress in Pakistan and the masses had high hopes in PM Khan. However the PTI government has failed miserably on all fronts, the economy is at an all-time low, inflation rate is high, the currency has further devalued, unemployment rate is higher than ever, according to reports the corruption levels have increased and all necessities of life health, education, and medicines are all out of common persons reach. Hence the public pulse of the moment suggests that people have lost faith in PTI regime and want things to improve, which has resulted in masses looking at the opposition to raise their voice and improve the current conditions.

It should also be noted that the opposition finally has a clear roadmap. In the press conference held by the joint opposition after the APC has announced Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) to expel the 'selected' government? The PDA has demanded PM Khan's resignation and in case that does not happen a series of protests has been announced in all provinces starting from October which will ultimately lead to a Long March in January.

Further PMLN focused on electoral reforms, and discussed ways to stop rigging, Mr Bhutto focused all the aspects as well as raised his voice for free and fair election in GB and general election, further raised an important point to lift the censorship the media is facing and urged the masses to support the PDM and to hold those accountable who back away. In conclusion it can be said that the opposition is finally in the right direction and if it proceeds as planned it might cause problems for the federal government, plus this APC has left an impact already, thus it can be said that this APC hosted by Bilawal Bhutto was successful one.

— The writer is a student.

## Briefs

## Gaps remain in Brexit: EU

DNA

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen held an anticipated phone call Saturday as the two sides race to secure a post-Brexit trade deal.

Von der Leyen tweeted: "Good phone call with Boris Johnson about the state of play in the [EU-UK] negotiations. "While progress had been made, significant gaps remain. We agreed that it's important to find an agreement as strong basis for a strategic relationship."

Johnson had previously called for an agreement by Oct. 15 - less than two weeks away. According to a joint statement released after the call, Johnson and von der Leyen "agreed on the importance of finding an agreement, if at all possible, as a strong basis for a strategic EU-UK relationship in future. "They endorsed the assessment of both Chief Negotiators that progress had been made in recent weeks but that significant gaps remained, notably but not only in the areas of fisheries, the level playing field, and governance."

The statement added that the two had "instructed their Chief Negotiators to work intensively in order to try to bridge those gaps." "They agreed to speak on a regular basis on this issue."

## China, Pakistan to boost health corridor

From Page 01

"The Liaoning Health Silk Road Action Adolescents Eye Health Comprehensive Project in Pakistan have launched this time and it is an important public health cooperation project serving Pakistan's society and people's livelihood" he mentioned. Ahmed Farooq, Deputy Chief of Mission at Pakistan's Embassy in Beijing, said that the project plans to conduct eye health screening through smart medical methods and establish electronic eye health files for students, which will benefit 2 million children and adolescents.

The project will also train a local "eyes team" in Pakistan, and improve the eye health management level of Pakistani children and adolescents through basic equipment upgrades, medical technology introduction, and ophthalmology personnel training programs.

He further said that Eye Health Project for Children and Adolescents in Pakistan will boost our cooperation with China in the field of eye health, and help the Liaoning Health Silk Road Action to move forward to a high level of open cooperation. He further said Pakistan fully supports the Belt and Road initiatives.

Participants emphasize that BRI is a road of cooperation that unites and meets challenges, a healthy corridor to safeguard people's health and safety. The joint progress of cooperation and public health undertakings will benefit more people's livelihoods in countries along the route.

## Nadal, Thiem tackle outsiders

PARIS: Rafael Nadal and Dominic Thiem take great leaps into the unknown on Sunday when they tackle opponents ranked outside the top 200 for place in the Roland Garros quarter-finals. Second seed Nadal, the 12-time champion, faces world number 213 Sebastian Korda whose father Petr was runner-up in 1992.

World number three and US Open champion Thiem, runner-up to Nadal for the last two years, meets Hugo Gaston, ranked at 239. Korda, 14 years younger than 19-time Slam winner Nadal, admits that he was in awe of the great Spaniard growing up. "I named my cat Rafa after him. That says a lot about how much I love the guy," said 20-year-old Korda who came through qualifying and prior to this week had never won a match on the main tour. Petr Korda won the Australian Open in 1998. His mother Regina Rajchrtova is a former top 30 WTA player while sisters Nelly and Jessica are respectively the world number two and 22 on the LPGA golf rankings.



MULTAN: October 04 - A view of the cricket match between Southern Punjab and Balochistan teams during National T20 Cup played at Multan Cricket Stadium. Balochistan team won the match by 16 runs. - DNA

## Ethnic Armenians being deployed in occupied territories of Azerbaijan

On Sunday Armenian forces launched attack on second biggest city of Azerbaijan Ganga. As a result of the attack many civilians were injured and buildings damaged

DNA

BAKU (DNA) -Armenia in an attempt to compensate serious losses it has been inflicted in the course of the counter-offensive operations of the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan to repel the armed aggression of the armed forces of Armenia and to protect Azerbaijani civilians takes steps to involve foreign nationals, mainly of Armenian origin into its armed units illegally deployed in the temporarily occupied territories of Azerbaijan. According to information available to the Azerbaijani side, including that from open media resources, thousands of ethnic Armenians from Syria, Lebanon, Russia, Georgia, Greece, United Arab Emirates and other countries have already been either deployed or are in the process of deployment to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. In most cases, the Government of Armenia and Diaspora organizations in third countries make calls on Diaspora members to expeditiously join armed units of Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Ticket sales campaigns are being organized

## Armenia continues to exploit local and foreign journalists

DNA

BAKU: There is an increasing number of reports indicating Armenia's irresponsible attempts to exploit journalists, both its own nationals and citizens of third countries in the course of its ongoing military operations against the Republic of Azerbaijan. It is of particular concern that in some cases while bringing journalists and other media professionals into the theatre of active military operations Armenia, apparently on purpose, does not take necessary measures with a view to clearly distinguishing them from combatants. This irresponsible behavior of Armenia in itself is a serious violation of its obligation under international humanitarian law, to take all feasible precautions to protect the civilian population and civilian objects under its control against the effects of attacks. In so doing, Armenia put the safety and security of journalists operating in the conflict zone at risk, for the purposes of its anti-Azerbaijani propaganda.

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terrorist activities are being organized or financed, also bear responsibility under international law, as well as in accordance with their own national legislation. According to the relevant operative paragraphs of the above-mentioned resolution and the UN Security Council Resolution 2396 (2017), which are legally binding under the Charter of the United Nations, the UN Member States shall prevent the movement of terrorists and terrorist groups by effective border controls and undertake

necessary punitive measures under their penal legislation.

In addition to their obligations deriving from international law and national legislation, the states of origin should also bear in mind that these "Armenian terrorist fighters", once being able to return to their countries of origin, would represent a serious threat to their societies as persons involved in terrorist training.

In view of the above-mentioned, Azerbaijan strongly urges all states, origin or transit, to exercise due diligence in light of the increased intensity of travel by their nationals to Armenia and put in place necessary preventive border control measures, as well as take all steps required for not allowing their territories to be used for supporting or financing terrorist activities against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan and its civilian population. The Azerbaijani side is determined to take all measures stemming from its rights under relevant bilateral and multilateral mechanisms with a view to curbing terrorist activities within its internationally recognized territories and against its civilian population and bring the perpetrators to justice.

## Floods and landslides hit France and Italy

DNA

PARIS: At least two people have died and up to 20 are still missing after a powerful storm hit south-eastern France and north-western Italy. Named Alex, the storm brought fierce winds and torrential rain. A number of villages north of Nice in France suffered serious damage from floods and landslides, with roads, bridges and homes destroyed. In north-western Italy, flooding was described as "historic". A section of a bridge over the Sesia river collapsed. French Prime Minister Jean Castex has deployed the army and released emergency funds to tackle the worst floods for decades in south-eastern France. Up to 20 people are either missing or have not checked in with relatives. "There are very many people of whom

we have no news," Mr Castex said. Bernard Gonzalez, prefect of the Alpes-Maritimes region, said: "Just because their loved ones haven't been able to get in touch doesn't mean that they have been taken by the storm." He said the prospect of more rain was "a worry". Meteorological agency Météo-France said 450mm (17.7in) of rain fell in some areas over 24 hours - the equivalent of nearly four months at this time of year. The southern Alps region appeared the worst hit, with serious damage in the Roya, Tinée, Esteron and Vesubie valleys. The villages of Saint-Martin-Vésubie and Rimplas were cut off, with roads inaccessible. One 29-year-old resident of Roquebillière told Agence France-Presse: "I lost everything but we are alive. There must be one room left in my house."



ISLAMABAD: Winner of First Amir Khan promotion boxing show, Polish boxer Artur Gorski with British Pakistani Boxer Amir Khan. - DNA

## Belarus protests: Police fire water cannons, detain Minsk demonstrators

Opposition protests on Sunday have become a regular occurrence since Belarus's strongman president, Alexander Lukashenko, was reelected on August 9 in what the European Union has called a rigged election

DNA

MINSK: Thousands of protesters took to the streets of Minsk on Sunday, demanding that all political prisoners be released. Several people were arrested shortly after the march began and police used water cannons mounted on armored vehicles to disperse groups of demonstrators from the city center. The Belarusian journalists' association said at least three media representatives were taken into custody by police. Belarus withdrew accreditation of all foreign reporters on Friday. Observers in Minsk reported to Germany's DPA news agency that mobile internet had been turned

off to prevent protesters from organizing routes through the city, and subway stations were closed to prevent access to the city center. Currently detained in Belarus, prisoners" According to the Belarusian rights group, Viasna, there are 77 "political" Notable opposition figures behind bars include blogger Sergei Tikhanovskiy, who was not allowed to run for president, and opposition leader Maria Kolesnikova, who destroyed her passport during an attempted forced deportation to Ukraine. Rivals, activists, bloggers and ordinary Belarusians, according to the top opposition Telegram channel, Nexta Live, would-be Belarusian authorities have opened more than 250 criminal cases against Lukashenko's

## Belarus opposition leader Tikhanovskaya to meet Merkel

DNA

MINSK: The Belarusian opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya will meet Angela Merkel in Berlin on Tuesday, as the standoff in Belarus increasingly takes on a geopolitical dimension, becoming one more bone of contention between Russia and the west. Tikhanovskaya said

Opposition protests on Sunday have become a regular occurrence since Belarus's strongman president, Alexander Lukashenko, was reelected on

she will ask the German chancellor about "her potential participation as a mediator" in talks between protest leaders and the government of the embattled autocrat Alexander Lukashenko, who has been backed by the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, and has flatly refused to participate in negotiations. "We will discuss ways to put pressure on Belarus, because Belarusians think

that only with pressure can we force the authorities into dialogue with the people," said Tikhanovskaya in a Skype interview from her office in Vilnius. She has been based in the Lithuanian capital since she was forced to flee Belarus after being threatened in a conversation with officials the night after the disputed 9 August election which saw Lukashenko win a sixth term.

August 9 in what the European Union has called a rigged election. Protesters in Minsk demanding the release of political prisoners were met by police

firing water cannons. Tens of thousands of people have taken to the streets of Belarus to oppose long-time leader Alexander Lukashenko.

## National T20 Cup 2nd XI match: Sindh beat KPK

LAHORE: Sindh defeated Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by four wickets in national T20 cup 2nd XI match here on Sunday at the Gadaffi stadium.

Summarised scores, Sindh won the toss and bowling Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 125-8 in 20 overs, Mohammad Sarwar 43, 3x4, 2x6, 34 balls, Sajid Khan 25 not out, 1x4, 1x6, 22 balls, Tabish Khan 4-25, Fawad Alam 3-16

## Azerbaijan will continue until victory: Hajiyev

DNA

BAKU: Armenians make a show by gathering foreign journalists and trying to misinform the world community, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev, Trend reports. He stressed that by shelling the civilian population, the Armenian Armenian side won't achieve anything. "The Azerbaijani people have a high spirit, and all of them are closely rallied around the Supreme Commander. Azerbaijan will continue to fight for its occupied territories until their liberation," he said. The presidential assistant added that the world community will be informed about the crimes of Armenians against the civilian population of Azerbaijan.

## Protest against Mexican President

DNA

MEXICO CITY: Thousands of protesters marched through central Mexico City on Saturday in one of the biggest demonstrations against President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador since he took office nearly two years ago. Many of the demonstrators who flocked to the massive main square of the capital's historic center waved Mexican flags while some chanted "Lopez out," according to video footage on news sites and social media. Though polls show the leftist president remains popular, his management of the economy and record on security have upset many Mexicans, as has his tendency to polarize political debate between his supporters and critics. Before becoming president in December 2018, Lopez Obrador was renowned for leading massive protests against the government and he said this week such displays of discontent by "conservative" critics showed he was shaking up the country. Estimates of the number of demonstrators at Saturday's peaceful protest varied. Authorities in Mexico City, which Lopez Obrador's party governs, said 8,000 took part, while one of the opposition groups behind it, which has called for Lopez Obrador to resign, said more than 150,000 participated.

## 'PKK terrorists must leave Karabakh'

DNA

ANKARA: Turkey on Sunday said members of the PKK/YPG terror group collaborating with Armenian terrorists in Upper Karabakh should leave the region immediately. "PKK/YPG terrorists collaborating with Armenian terrorists who target innocent civilians must leave the region immediately, otherwise, as always, they will be once again disappointed," ministry spokeswoman Nadide Sebem Aktop told reporters in the capital Ankara. Dismissing Armenian claims that Turkish aircraft and drones had been deployed in the region, Aktop said nobody except Yerevan's supporters took those assertions seriously. She stressed that Turkey would continue to always stand with brotherly country Azerbaijan. Fighting began on Sept. 27 when Armenian forces targeted Azerbaijani civilian settlements and military positions, leading to casualties

## Briefs

**US, UK passengers need virus tests to travel to Pakistan**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority has issued new SOPs for inbound flights, including mandatory coronavirus tests for passengers from some countries.

The requirement of a COVID-19 PCR test for incoming passengers comes into effect from October 5. The CAA has made divided countries into Category A and Category B countries. Category A countries are Australia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cuba, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Rwanda, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda and Uruguay and are exempt from the requirement.

All other countries, including the US, UK and UAE, are required to provide negative PCR tests before boarding. The tests can be a maximum of 96 hours old. All passengers travelling to Pakistan also have to download and install the Pass Track app from the Google Play or App Store and enter their personal details. Boarding passes will only be issued if the passengers have uploaded their information on the app or have a printed copy of the information uploaded on the app. Passengers without Android or Apple phones can use the web portal to enter their data.

**US China trade war provide opportunity for Pakistani businesses**

ISLAMABAD: Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Secretary General Federal Ahmad Jawad including businessmen Panel Sunday said Pakistan must increase the barely production for export purpose especially for China, as they have a large consumption scale of barley, even the domestic supply was only around one million tons per year, which leads to high import dependence.

In 2019, barley production for Pakistan was only 63 thousand tonnes. Though Pakistan barley production fluctuated substantially in recent years, it tended to decrease through 1970-2019 period ending at 63 thousand tonnes in 2019, said a press release issued here.

Jawad said recently China had halted its import of barley from Australia's largest barley exporter in the midst of the US-China trade war, as the latter has shown its inclination towards the USA by sending its ships to the South China Sea for joint naval exercises with the USA and India.

The suspension was brought into action on the basis of pest contamination in the imported stuff. It has not only put the credibility of Australia's barley exports at risk but also has shrunk the graph of barley export as China had been importing barley on a large scale, which was not less than \$500 million per annum. — APP

**HC for Pakistan in London starts a daily Consular Services**

LONDON: Pakistan High Commission in London on Saturday announced that in order to facilitate Pakistani Community for Consular Services, the High Commission has started a daily appointment system for Consular Services.

According to a statement of the High Commission issued here said that the appointments for Consular Services (Passport, NADRA and attestation) could now be requested online from Monday October, 5, 2020 1200 hrs - 2400 hrs on a daily basis. The Passport and NADRA renewal facility for online applicants through the websites would remain available, the statement said. "All applicants are encouraged to follow the UK Government's guidelines about COVID-19 i.e. maintaining social distancing and wearing of face mask", the High Commission statement said. — APP

# Karakalpakstan's development priorities defined: President

DNA

TASHKENT: At the out-of-schedule session of the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, special attention was paid to issues of socio-economic development of the region. Over the past four years, Karakalpakstan has doubled the production due to construction and commissioning of dozens of large textile, pharmaceutical, electrical and other modern industrial enterprises. The level of centralized drinking water supply increased from 40 to 67 percent as a result of laying water supply networks. 241 educational, healthcare, cultural and sports facilities were built and overhauled. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev congratulated Murad Kamalov on his election as Chairman of Jokargy Kenes and wished him success in his responsible position. "Listening to the concerns of people and solving problems should be the most important activity of a new leader. To do this, you need to be in constant search, work, consult-



ing with people. There are many educated and self-less young people in Karakalpakstan who love the country. They need to unite and show results", said the Head of the state. It was noted that measures have been

developed for the next 3 years to accelerate the development of all spheres of life in Karakalpakstan. Growth points for each district defined - two specific types of activities that will be intensively developed. The President noted that

in order to further develop all 16 districts, business entities engaged in these types of activities will be exempt from paying land tax, property and turnover taxes for small businesses, and profit tax for individual entrepreneurs for a period of

3 years. In addition, new industrial enterprises in Takhtakupir, Bozatau and Nanay districts that have a low level of development will be granted tax and customs benefits for a period of 3 years. Ministers and banks were assigned to each district and city to give an impetus to development and accelerated problem solving. Ten priorities for the next 3 years were identified at the meeting. These are accelerated development of districts and mahallas, employment and poverty reduction. Third, implementation of investment projects, and fourth, mitigation of negative impact of the Aral Sea disaster. Full use of the service sector potential has been identified as the fifth priority, while support for agriculture has been identified as the sixth. Housing construction, social infrastructure development, supporting youth and women, and crime prevention have been given corresponding priorities. Detailed instructions were given in all these areas. The President proposed to hold here a Youth Festival next year to familiarize the country's youth with the life in Karakalpakstan.

## Protests against Netanyahu to resign

DNA

JARUSALEM: Thousands of Israelis have protested across the country for the 15th week in a row, flowing a new law meant to curb anti-government demonstrations during a coronavirus lockdown. The street protests on Saturday and into Sunday, just three days after parliament approved an edict to limit the scope of such demonstrations, kept pressure on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to resign for his handling of the coronavirus crisis, as well as allegations of corruption, which he denies. Israeli law does not force a prime minister to step down after being indicted, sparking outrage and protests at a time when the country also grappled with the pandemic. The new law bans Israelis from holding demonstrations more than one kilometre

(about half a mile) from their homes and forces stricter social distancing, a measure the government said was aimed at curbing COVID-19 infections. According to protest organisers, an estimated 100,000 people rallied in squares and at junctions throughout the country from sunset on Saturday. A small number of protesters scuffled with police and tried to block city streets.

According to news reports, more than 30 people were arrested in Tel Aviv by police. Israel has shut down much of its economy and instructed people to stay within a kilometre of their homes whenever possible in an effort to contain a second-wave surge in coronavirus infections. As of Sunday, Israel has recorded more than 264,000 infections, out of which more than 191,000 have recovered, while the death toll has hit almost 1,700 out of a population of nine million.

## First Black woman to lead national party in Canada

OTTAWA: Toronto lawyer Annamie Paul was Saturday named head of the Green Party, becoming the first Black woman to lead a national political party in Canada.

The 47-year-old mother of two, the daughter of immigrants from the Caribbean, described herself as a "descendant of slaves." Paul hailed her victory as a "historic moment" during her speech after the announcement of the results of the internal ballot in Ottawa.

"We have done something that has never been done before in Canadian politics," said the Jewish lawyer, who has reported being the victim of anti-Semitic attacks on social media. "Colonialism has robbed me of my original identity," Paul added in her speech, saying she was ready to support indigenous peoples in particular in their fight against systemic racism within the police.

She succeeds Elizabeth May, who led the Greens for 13 years before stepping down at the end of 2019, following a federal legislative election where her party won only three seats in the House of Commons. Paul said that under her leadership the party would have two priorities: building a social security net for all Canadians and tackling "the existential crisis of our time, which is the climate emergency." "This is the chance of a lifetime for us to move towards a more just, a more resilient society," she said. "We believe it can be done." — APP

## Governor greets Iftikhar Malik for landslide victory in LCCI election

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Sarwar Ch Saturday greeted Veteran trade leader and chairman Founder Group Iftikhar Ali Malik for landslide victory in annual election of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Talking to Iftikhar Malik by telephone, Governor said here today that PIAF Founder alliance candidates had a clean sweep on all seats which reflects its popularity in the business community. He said that Lahore after Karachi is second hub of economic activities and traders always played key role in national development and progress of the country. He said that Lahore chamber is the largest and the oldest in the country established in

1923 which produced eminent figures in Pakistan. He said that PTI government especially Prime Minister Imran always attached great importance to business community and had already issued directives to all federal and provincial departments to address the genuine grievances of the business community on top priority. Muhammad Sarwar Ch said that "he is all the time available to them and always not only extend cooperation but also take up their legitimate issues to concerned quarters for their redressal" he added. Iftikhar Malik thanked Governor for his support and acknowledgment of democratically conducted fair free and transparent elections in chamber. He said it is indeed important to increase our exports and for that purpose we need to reduce our cost of doing business so that our products can remain competitive in the world markets. He further said trade facilitation is the key to promote industries and we need to remove all the obstacles and create the culture of trade facilitation. "Our Country has tremendous potential as we have enormous talent. What we need is the consistency in the government policies and a clear roadmap to move forward," he added. Iftikhar Malik said Lahore Chamber always acts as a bridge between the government and the business community. It has always tried to ensure a business-friendly environment through sharing views with the government and by taking all the stakeholders onboard on all the economy related issues.

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## FPCCI seeks long-term strategy to cope with debt servicing

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: As the country's debt repayment capacity has been waning due to sole dependence on foreign loans the country's apex chamber has sought a long-term strategy to cope with the challenge of debt servicing amidst huge domestic and foreign loans, which have increased to Rs36.3 trillion or 87 percent of the Gross Domestic Production. FPCCI President Mian Anjum Nisar, in a written

statement, opposed the excessive borrowing policy of previous governments, as the present government has also added an additional Rs11.35 trillion in the total public debt during the first two years in power, which is more than the total debt the previous government has taken in its five-year term. Quoting the figures, he observed that over 40 percent of the additional debt in the past two years is only because of debt servicing expenditures while about 30 percent due to rupee

devaluation, which was depreciated almost 47 percent during this period. He flayed the economic managers for keeping the interest rate artificially high at 13.25 percent during this period, besides devaluing the rupee more than the requirements, contributing most to lift the public debt. Amidst consistently rising markup rate, Pakistan's total debt and liabilities skyrocketed to around Rs36.3 trillion, which were rising at a high speed in the wake of a soaring budget deficit,

he added. There was no rationalization for making changes in the policy rate because it would further increase the debt servicing cost, as the policy rate had gone up by 600 basis points during this period. Mian Anjum Nisar added that Pakistan's fiscal policy continued to focus primarily on macro-economic stabilization, in response to the financial crisis, instead of putting more emphasis on reforms to foster long-term growth through industrialization by adopting advanced technology.

## Trump 'much better' but says next days 'the real test'



DNA

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump posted a video Saturday from the hospital where he is battling Covid-19, saying he was improving and would be "back soon" - but acknowledging the crucial coming days would be "the real test." "I came here, wasn't feeling so well. I feel much better now," Trump said from his business suite at Walter Reed military medical center near Washington. "We're working hard to get me all the way back... I think I'll be back soon and I look forward to finishing up the campaign the way it was started." Appearing relaxed in an open-collared blue suit and jacket, Trump acknowledged that there was uncertainty about the course of the disease, which can hit recovering patients hard with no warning. "I'm starting to feel good. You don't know over the next period of a few days, I guess that's the real test, so we'll be seeing what happens over those next couple of days." The largely

upbeat report from Trump came after a source familiar with the president's health - later named in US media as White House chief of staff Mark Meadows - gave a much more worrying assessment. "The president's vitals over the last 24 hours were very concerning and the next 48 hours will be critical in terms of his care," he said. "We're still not on a clear path to a full recovery." The White House has not commented officially and Meadows had asked to speak off-the-record before his name appeared as the source in The New York Times and other US outlets. Earlier Saturday, in the first update from Trump's doctors since he was admitted to the hospital, physician Sean Conley said the president was mobile and had been fever free for 24 hours, while his cough, nasal congestion and fatigue were improving. Trump, 74, is not receiving extra oxygen, he added, and is "doing very well." A second doctor, Sean Dooley, said the president's cardiac, kidney and liver function were "normal." Conley was evasive when asked whether the president had received supplementary oxygen at any point since falling ill, only confirming that he hadn't received any at the hospital or on Thursday - the day of his positive test. Several US media outlets said Trump was on oxygen at the White House on Friday before being admitted to Walter Reed.



ISLAMABAD: The Defence Attache of Azerbaijan Col Mehman arranged a briefing for the Military Attaches and Foreign Liaison Officers accredited in Pakistan. Ambassador of Azerbaijan Ali Alizada is also present. — DNA

## Turkey's stance shows Azerbaijan not alone: Aliyev

Aliyev recalled that the Armenian army launched another military provocation Sept. 27 against Azerbaijan and opened fire on settlements and military positions with various weapons, including heavy artillery

DNA

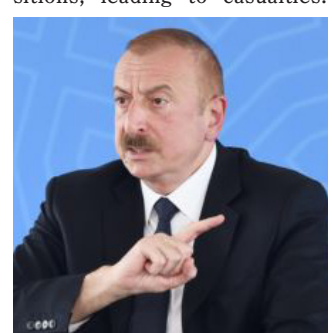
BAKU: Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev said Saturday that Turkey's attitude and comments on attacks by Armenia showed that his country is not alone in its just cause. Aliyev recalled that the Armenian army launched another military provocation Sept. 27 against Azerbaijan and opened fire on settlements and military positions with various weapons, including heavy artillery. "Your clear remarks on the issue [of Upper Karabakh dispute]

once again showed that Azerbaijan is not alone in its just cause," Aliyev said in an open letter to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. He also reiterated Turkey's position toward Armenian attacks that have been strongly condemned and seen as a treacherous act since the first minutes at every level. Mentioning that he receives many letters of support every day from Turks, Aliyev stressed that these are clear examples of Turkey-Azerbaijan brotherhood that are appreciated by the Azerbaijan people. "On behalf of myself and the

Azerbaijani people, I thank you and the brotherly Turkish people for this support," he added. Border clashes broke out last



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 occupied Upper Karabakh, also known as Nagorno-Karabakh. On Monday, Azerbaijan declared partial military mobilization amid the clashes. Relations between the two former Soviet nations have been tense since 1991, when the Armenian military occupied Upper Karabakh, an internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan.

Four UN Security Council and two UN General Assembly resolutions, as well as many international organizations, demand the withdrawal of the occupying forces. The OSCE Minsk Group - co-chaired by France, Russia and the US - was formed in 1992 to find a peaceful solution to the conflict, but to no avail. A cease-fire, however, was agreed to in 1994. France, Russia and NATO, among others, have urged an immediate halt to clashes in the occupied region.

**Briefs**

**President to visit Kuwait to offer condolences**

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi will be undertaking a visit to the State of Kuwait on 5 October 2020 to offer condolences over the sad demise of the Amir, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The President will meet with the new Amir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and convey the profound sympathies and condolences of the leadership, Government and people of Pakistan. Pakistan and Kuwait are bound by a close fraternal relationship. Under the leadership of the late Amir, bilateral cooperation acquired a new level. Late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was a sincere and trusted friend of Pakistan. He made an invaluable contribution to bringing the two countries and peoples closer.

**Corona kills 6 Pakistanis, infects 632**

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan has reported 6 deaths in last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has surged to 314,616. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 6,513. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCO) 632 persons have been tested positive for COVID-19 in 24 hours. Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. Till now 138,050 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 99,812 in Punjab, 37,973 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 16,766 in Islamabad, 15,371 in Balochistan, 2,816 in Azad Kashmir and 3,828 in Gilgit-Baltistan. Furthermore 2,520 individuals have lost their lives to the epidemic in Sindh, 2,240 in Punjab, 1,260 in KP, 146 in Balochistan, 183 in Islamabad, 88 in GB and 76 in Azad Kashmir. Pakistan has so far conducted 3,644,762 coronavirus tests and 33,725 in last 24 hours.

**Safdar booked in treason case**

DNA

GUJRANWALA: A case has been registered against Captain (ret'd) Safdar in Gujranwala for making anti-state remarks. Safdar is son-in-law of PML-N founder Nawaz Sharif. PML-N MPA Imran Khalid Butt is also named in the case. The case has been registered at the Satellite Town police station. It accuses Safdar of threatening the government and spreading hatred against State institutions after he was not granted permission to hold a rally on October 16. The case was registered under sections 505 (Statements conducting to public mischief), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 124A (Sedition) of the Pakistan Penal Code. Safdar held a press conference at Butt's residence on Friday ahead of rally where he allegedly made the remarks.

**Japan to open its marketplace for talented Pakistan's youth**

Japan wants to give chance to the talented youth of Pakistan to get themselves connected with the modern and innovating Japanese industrial sector for enhancing their skills to promote the concept of shared development and prosperity

ISLAMABAD: The government of Japan has offered Pakistani youth to exhibit their talent in the modern hi-tech Japanese industrial sector and benefit from the employment opportunities offered by different sectors of the Japanese economy. "Japan wants to give chance to the talented youth of Pakistan to get themselves connected with the modern and innovating Japanese industrial sector for enhancing their skills to promote the concept of shared development and prosperity," the Charge d' Affairs, Embassy of Japan in Pakistan, Yusuke Shindo told media here. He said that Pakistan was the country having majority youth population and "we want to see an emerging vibrant Pakistan by connecting it with the global value

chain for achieving the economic and trade competitiveness of the international market. He said that in Japanese Market, Pakistan could get a huge share as it intends to import 3, 45 000 skilled manpower from 10 countries of the world. The Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) already signed between both sides, would open new avenues for Pakistanis to work in 14 Japanese sectors, including nursing care, building clinic, agriculture, fisheries, hotel management, food and beverages, aircraft maintenance and airports ground handling staff, shipbuilding, material processing, industrial machinery, constructions, car mechanic, electronics and electronic machinery in cards to import skilled



labor force, he said. The senior diplomat made it clear that there was no particular quota for any of these 10 countries around the world and hoped that Pakistani would get maximum

benefits from this huge opportunity in the Japanese market. Replying to a question on cooperation and facilities given by manpower importing countries to Japan, he said the government of Pakistan had nominated only two recruitment organizations including National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) and National University of Technology (NUTEC) for carrying out necessary service including recruitment of candidates in collaboration with Japanese counterparts. While other competitors countries, alike Vietnam nominated 392, Philippines 274 and Myanmar has nominated 248 organizations for the rapid recruitment process and even some countries have already exported

their manpower to Japan. He expressed his reservation on some delays in manpower import from Pakistan and said that labor recruitment agencies were working hard by their need to expand the number of organizations for this process and hope that soon Pakistan would start its manpower export to Japan. He urged the need for increasing the recruitment organization to manage the fast-track process of manpower export from Pakistan to Japan and help maximum employment opportunities to the local youth. The senior diplomat said that during COVID-19 pandemic situation a lot of time was wasted and now there was a need to speed up the process of manpower import from Pakistan to Japan. - APP

**Pakistan to appoint permanent envoy at IMO**

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Haider Zaidi on Sunday said that for the first time, the government would appoint a permanent representative at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to safeguard the shipping interests. In a statement on social media networking site, he said "Once again Ministry of Maritime Affairs is setting a tradition." He said that Pakistan would also be contesting to secure a seat in category "C" in the upcoming IMO elections of 2021. The minister said the ministry has invited applications from the interested candidates for the post to represent Ministry of Maritime who will be based at London, UK.

**3,409 cops infected in Sindh: Spokesman**

DNA

KARACHI: As many as 3,409 police officials and personnel have contracted coronavirus in the Sindh province while performing their duties. The police spokesman said that 19 personnel embraced martyrdom while discharging their duties due to coronavirus. Currently, 24 cops are undergoing treatment while 3,366 of the infected personnel, have recovered from the infection. Sindh Chief Minister has said on Saturday that 267 new cases of coronavirus and three more deaths were reported during the last 24 hours. The total count of coronavirus deaths reached 2,520 and 81 more patients recovered from the virus, had said Sindh CM, adding that 1,397,676 samples were tested in Sindh.

**Khusro Bakhtyar lauds WB for \$200m package**

The minister also appreciated the support of World Bank for locust emergency control project worth of 200 million US dollars to mitigate the adverse impact of parasite attack on food basket of the country

NIHAL MIRAZ

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Economic Affairs Division Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtyar has thanked and appreciated the World Bank for extending 200 million US dollars package to help Pakistan take effective and timely action to respond to the coronavirus Pandemic. He was talking to County Director of World Bank (WB) in Pakistan Najy Benhasnine, who called on him in Islamabad today (Saturday). The minister also appreciated the support of World Bank for locust emergency control project worth of 200 million US dollars to mitigate the adverse impact of parasite attack on food basket of the country. Khusro Bakhtyar apprised



the visiting dignitary of approval of economic reforms proposed by the WB and Asian Development Bank to simplify the execution of development projects. He also shared the Prime Minister's direction to expedite the economic reforms in coordination with global donors. He urged the WB Country Director to expand the priority areas of cooperation with Pakistan in field of energy, tourism, low-cost housing scheme and availability of COVID Vaccine. The WB Country Director thanked the Minister for WB portfolio review exercise. He also appreciated government's resolve to expedite the implementation of WB-funded projects. He assured that WB would consider the recommendations of the Minister to strengthen portfolio in Pakistan.

**Online registration for CSS exams from Monday**

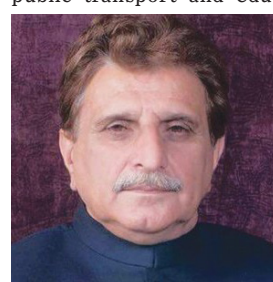
The CSS examinations will commence from February 18, 2021 in 19 cities including Faisalabad, Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan, Peshawar and Rawalpindi simultaneously

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) will start online registration of the candidates desirous to appear in Central Superior Services (CSS) examinations 2021 from Monday (October 5). According to official sources, the last date for submission of applications on FPSC web portal was November 3. Applicants are required to submit hard copy of the application form along with required documents to FPSC headquarters well before November 13, 2020. Late submitted and incomplete documents will be rejected. The CSS examinations will commence from February 18, 2021 in 19 cities including Abbottabad, Bahawalpur, DG Khan, DI Khan, Faisalabad, Gilgit, Gujranwala, Hyderabad, Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Larkana, Multan, Muzaffarabad, Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi, Sargodha and Sukkur simultaneously. The holding of examination in a city mentioned above is subject to availability of sufficient number of candidates wishing to appear in exam from that particular city. All male and female including special persons holding at least second Division Bachelor's degree and aged between 21 to 30 years are eligible. - APP

**AJK to reimpose lockdown**

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday decided "in principle" to re-impose a region-wide lockdown following a surge in coronavirus cases, according to the valley's prime minister, Raja Farooq Haider. PM Haider, providing the basis for the lockdown, said that the territory's coronavirus positivity rate had surged to 8.3% - higher than any area in Pakistan. Following the decision taken during a high-level meeting with PM Haider in the



chair, it has been decided that religious and social gatherings will be curtailed. The AJK premier directed authorities to begin checking at entry points. He also said that government-issued safety protocols should be implemented in public transport and educational institutions. The AJK government has ordered citizens to wear masks when they step out of their homes and at offices. The region last went into a wide lockdown on March 23, following which "smart" lockdowns were intermittently imposed. AJK has registered 23, 22, and 40 coronavirus cases on October 1, 2, and 3, respectively, up from 3, 1, and 7 on September 2, 3, and 4. The territory has recorded a total of 2,816 coronavirus infections, more than 70 deaths, and over 2,408 recoveries, according to official statistics.

**PM thoroughly pointed out Indian atrocities: Qureshi**


The Foreign Minister said PM Imran Khan in his address also expressed concerns over rising trend of Islamophobia in the world

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi says Prime Minister Imran Khan has clearly pointed out the atrocities and human rights violations committed by India in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir during his UN General Assembly address. Speaking in a program of News and Current Affairs Channel of Radio Pakistan, he said the international observers and journalists have been denied

to visit Indian side of LoC. He said India has imposed a complete communication blackout in IIOJ&K for the last over one year, so that the world could not get to know what exactly is happening in the area. The Foreign Minister said Prime Minister Imran Khan in his address also expressed concerns over rising trend of Islamophobia in the world. The Muslims are being specifically targeted in India. The Minister said PM also highlighted the feelings of Muslims over competition of caricatures of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Such


activities only add anger among the people in Pakistan and also the entire Muslim Ummah. He said the way the historic Babri Mosque was dismantled and the Indian court has acquitted all the accused is also condemnable. Speaking in the same programme, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Security Dr Moeed Yusuf said main reason for this silence is economic interests of major powers with India. IR Expert Dr A. Z. Hilali said world is appreciating the role of Pakistan as a regional stakeholder for peaceful and stable Afghanistan.



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