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Aziz Boolani: A symbol of positivity and optimism

UAE interested in Pak development projects: Envoy



EU envoy lauds master Ayub's teaching services



Briefs

Army, people eliminated terrorism

ISLAMABAD: Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Saleem Bajwa Monday called on Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan in Peshawar and discussed progress of projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the province. During the meeting, they also discussed future projects that would be presented in the upcoming meeting of Pak-China Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) of CPEC for approval for inclusion in the mega project. Meanwhile, Asim Bajwa, termed the meeting with the CM and his team very productive, saying the way the KP team was working with keenness, was highly commendable.

PM resolving decades long problems

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz says that Prime Minister Imran Khan has laid a solid foundation for solution of the decades old problems of the country. Felicitating the Prime Minister on his birthday on Monday in a tweet, the Minister said standing firm in the face of challenges is the hallmark of Imran Khan's personality. He said we will succeed under the bold leadership of the Prime Minister. Shibli Faraz said Imran Khan became face of Pakistan.

Asif Zardari indicted in two references

SHAAHEEN HANIF
ISLAMABAD: Former president Asif Ali Zardari was indicted today by an accountability court in the Thatta Water Supply and Park Lane references. The PPP leader and others nominated in the references presented themselves before the court on Monday in a hearing presided over by Justice Azam Khan. During the hearing, the former president was presented with a charge sheet for the Thatta Water Supply and Park Lane references, while the other suspects were provided a copy of their indictments.

New SOPs for wedding halls, restaurants

SOPs related to marriage halls would be issued on Wednesday, number of citizens and working hours would be fixed in marriage halls

NIHAL MIRAJ

165 restaurants, 9 halls sealed

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to issue new SOPs related to wedding halls and restaurants in the wake of Coronavirus. Talking to media, Federal Minister Asad Umar said that in the first phase, SOPs related to marriage halls would be issued on Wednesday, number of citizens and working hours would be fixed in marriage halls. He added that in the second phase, SOPs related to restaurants would be issued, seating capacity in restaurants, necessary use of masks and restriction on working hours would be mandatory. On the other hand the National Command and Operation Center (NCO) on Monday was apprised that non compliance of mask wearing and social distancing may give rise to disease spread. Meanwhile, the minister urged the public on Monday to comply with the coronavirus standard operating procedures (SOPs) to ensure cases of the infection do not spike during the winter season. The minister made the observation during the daily situational briefing held at the NCO in Islamabad.

KARACHI: Local administration of Karachi has sealed nine wedding halls and 165 restaurants for violating Coronavirus SOPs in Karachi. According to the details, cases of coronavirus have been increasing in Karachi in the last few days, after which smart lockdown has been carried out in some areas by the provincial government, while instructions were given by the government to strictly follow coronavirus SOPs. The district administration has taken action after violation of the coronavirus SOPs. So far, 9 marriage halls and 165 restaurants have been sealed for violating the SOPs, more than a dozen private and 6 government schools were closed. Closed schools were reopened after warning. A private Bank was also sealed after receiving 5 cases in South District, 174 different vehicles were issued challans and fined. On the other hand, the federal government has decided to issue new SOPs related to wedding halls and restaurants in the wake of the coronavirus. - DNA

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Kazakh envoy, PIA chief discuss direct flights



A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Akan Rakhmetullin met with Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan International Airlines, Air Marshal Arshad Malik. During the meeting, issues of strengthening cooperation

between Kazakhstan and Pakistan were discussed. In particular, the opening of direct flights between the capitals of the two countries, as well as the use of Kazakhstan's transit opportunities. The Pakistani side expressed interest in increasing cooperation with Kazakhstan airlines, primarily on the basis of the "code-sharing" principle.

A.Rakhmetullin drew attention to the fact that the high popularity of Kazakhstan's medical educational institutions among the Pakistani ones represents a serious potential for increasing passenger traffic between our countries. In addition, the opening of direct or transit flights between our countries will help strengthen cooperation in all areas.

UAE interested in Pakistan's development projects: Envoy

ISLAMABAD: United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador to Pakistan Hamad Obaid al Zaidi Monday said the UAE was taking keen interest in infrastructure development projects of Pakistan and in that regard agreements amounting to 200 million dollars had been made to achieve the objectives.



In an interview with a private television channel, he said special focus had been given to areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. He said about 120 projects including roads, bridges, highways, educational institutions and hospitals would be completed in Pakistan. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Imran Khan. - DNA

PM lauds services of Naval Chief

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Imran Khan today at Islamabad. The Prime Minister appreciated the services of Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi for Pakistan Navy and wished him well. Earlier this month, President Arif Alvi approved the appointment of Vice Admiral Muhammad Amdad Khan Niazi as the new chief of naval staff. The change of command ceremony would be held at PNS ZAFAR in Islamabad.

PDM announces new schedule

The PPP had earlier objected to an October 18 rally in Quetta, saying that it commemorated the date for the Karsaz bombing incident in 2007

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The alliance of opposition parties has decided to hold its first public rally in Gujranwala on October 16, senior PML-N leader Ahsan Iqbal announced on Monday after a meeting of the Pakistan Democratic Movement's (PDM) steering committee. The PDM leaders also announced a new schedule for anti-govt rallies across the country after differences emerged among the main political parties on the dates announced earlier. The PPP had earlier objected to an October 18 rally in Quetta, saying that it commemorated the date for the Karsaz bombing incident in 2007 that had targeted slain party leader Benazir Bhutto.

Schedule of PDM rallies:
Gujranwala - October 16
Karachi - October 18
Quetta - October 25
Peshawar - November 22
Multan - November 30

Laure - December 13
Responding to the objection, the PDM decided to join the PPP for its Karachi rally and postpone the Quetta rally to October 25. Iqbal also said that the opposition parties will hold "massive gatherings" subsequently in Peshawar and Multan on November 22 and 30, respectively. "Finally, a massive gathering will be held in Lahore on December 13, after which this fake setup will not be able

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WHO believes 10% of world has had virus

GENEVA: The WHO estimated Monday that 10 percent of the world has been infected by the new coronavirus - way more than has been recorded - as it mulled speeding up internal reforms. To date, more than 35 million cases of Covid-19 have been registered worldwide, including some 1.04 million who have died, according to an AFP tally based on official sources. But the World Health Organization now estimates that around a tenth of the planet's 7.8 billion or so people have already been infected since the virus first surfaced in China late last year - more than 20 times the official count. "Our current best estimate tells us that about 10 percent of the global population may have been infected by this virus," WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan told a special meeting of the agency's executive board. He stressed that infection levels varied "from urban to rural, it varies between different groups."

President offers condolences with Kuwait Emir



DNA

KUWAIT CITY: President Dr. Arif Alvi Monday visited Kuwait to offer condolences over the sad demise of the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who breathed his last on September 29, 2020. During his meeting with the new Amir of Kuwait,

Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the president offered profound sympathies and heartfelt condolences on behalf of the leadership, Government and people of Pakistan. He conveyed that the Pakistani nation fully shared the sorrow and grief of their Kuwaiti brethren and stood by them in this difficult time.

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Global virus tally crosses 35 million

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: A week after surpassing 1 million coronavirus deaths, the world has amassed more than 35 million COVID-19 cases, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. Several European nations hit their own pandemic milestones with Germany reporting Monday its total confirmed cases exceed 300,000 and Britain recording its 500,000th case. The United States has the highest number of cases in the world with more than 7.4m infections, followed by India with 6.6m and Brazil with 4.9m infections. According to JHU, more than 1.03m people have died due to the coronavirus so far. Meanwhile, the number of worldwide Covid-19 recoveries has risen to 26.6m, according to media reports.

China donates 54000 masks to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Central Communist Party of China has donated 54,000 face masks to Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) as prevention against the coronavirus. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Adviser for CPC Cooperation Bayazeed Kanshi handed over the masks to Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here on Monday. Foreign Minister Qureshi expressed gratitude to the Communist Party of China for the humanitarian gesture, saying the way China helped the world in overcoming the challenge of COVID-19 was commendable. He said China's support to Pakistan during the pandemic was reflective of the longstanding strong friendship between the two countries. - APP

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Increasing exports of Pakistani products our goal: Khurshid Barlas - Page 04

Demolition of the Babri Mosque revisited - Page 05

We are writing a new history: President Ilham - Page 06

Armenia's artillery attacks kill 24 Azerbaijani civilians, injure 121 - Page 07

EU envoy lauds master Ayub's services on Teachers day - Page 08

Aziz Boolani: a symbol of positivity and optimism

A.B KHAN

A Glass-half full person can be defined as an individual who looks at the world from a prism engraved with positivity, an optimistic being who drains the negativities from life's strainer and lives with an sanguine approach. Come year 2020, the world all over, Covid-19 pandemic painted the sky Red and global panic button went on an uninterrupted buzzer. Depression, pessimism, cynicism, glumness became order of the day and the prosperous business houses, entrepreneurs with start-up business models, striving companies and smiling faces transformed into chaos, perplexity, confusion with sadness and hopelessness calling the shots. Those who saw

life as glass-half full started accepting it glass-half empty. Meet Mr. Aziz Boolani, Chief Executive Officer, Serena Hotels South & Central Asia, a man who stood tall in this melancholic period, weathered the most exigent and difficult times of his illustrious career spanning over two decades and came out as a winner. "To start with, we did not skedaddle or pressed the panic button although I had all the valid reasons to do so. Serena hotels all over Pakistan were running an occupancy level of more than 80% at the time the pandemic hit Pakistan and we came wobbling down like house of cards. Without exaggeration, within an span of two weeks, the occupancy hit the bottom rock and we were at 10% that too including our long term guests occupancy" informs Aziz as we settle down to

talk about post covid-19 business struggle case study. As the health care system, aviation industry, business hubs were caught in a whirlwind situation, hospitality industry too was no exception. Flight cancellations, visa rejections, border closures and evacuations of hotels and retreats sent the economy on a rollercoast



er ride on a downward gear. "Serena hotels biggest challenge after the announcement of the lockdown was how to cater to our long stay guests as we could not simply leave them in a limbo. So we shutdown one wing but kept the operations going although it was costing us legs and arms, explains Mr. Boolani who looked at the matter from a corporate angle rather than financial. The business hubs all over the world were in a scriptural state or if you can call in a SOS situation especially the tourism industry was the hardest hit along with the businesses directly attached to the industry. "We spent the first two months post lockdown in a very stressful position as we did not want to layoff any of our staff. It is very easy to hire and fire, but our staff is our treasure trove.

There is investment of years and years. Our employees have been with us through thick and thin. Plus we are well aware of the fact that many livelihoods are attached with these families so we took the bitter pill. Instead of layoffs we went for salary cuts to keep the boat floating "informs Boolani. The biggest challenge for the management at Serena hotels was how to control the two main incurring costs which are responsible for the operations and survival of the fittest. The Human Resource expenditure in shape of salaries and logistics and running cost of electricity, fuel, gas and other utilities bills. "I firmly believe and this is a tried and tested fact in my case that if one things positive, the vibes and ideas to overcome the challenges come quickly and I was right again.

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Briefs

Peshawar:
Five mortar
shells
recovered

DNA

PESHAWAR: Local Police on Monday recovered five mortar shells from the bank of a river in Daudzai area. According to Daudzai police, local people spotted the mortar shells and informed the police. The mortar shells were found on bank of River Khyali, police said. The Bomb Disposal Squad was soon called in to defuse the mortar shells however the squad said that the shells were having no fuses. The squad removed the shells from the area and took them along for further examination.

‘Flour to be
available on
fixed price’

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Industries & Trade Mian Aslam Iqbal said on Monday that availability of flour should be ensured on fixed price at shops instead of trucking points. He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting of task force for price control here at Chief Minister's Office on Monday. The meeting reviewed the prices of essential items, Punjab Qeemat App and the performance of price control magistrates. Secretary Industries Capt (R) Zafar Iqbal briefed the meeting regarding the performance of price control magistrates and monitoring process. Mian Aslam Iqbal directed to complete the registration process of 'atta chakees' at the earliest, district administrations fixed the prices of pulses with the consultation of retailers and apprised the industry department regarding fixation of prices.

The minister also directed special branch to verify the prices in field instead of sitting in offices. He directed to keep an eye on the prices of vegetables and agriculture department should play its proactive role for the availability of vegetables. Secretary Food, DIG Operations, CCPO Lahore, Chairman PITB and concerned officers attended the meeting while commissioners, deputy commissioners and police officers participated in the meeting through video link.

Meezan Bank
bags multiple
awards

DNA

KARACHI: Meezan Bank, Pakistan's first and largest Islamic bank, has been declared as the 'Best Bank of the Year' and 'Best Islamic Bank of the Year' - 2019 by the CFA Society of Pakistan, a member society of the CFA Institute, USA at its 17th Annual Excellence Awards ceremony.

The Bank has also been recognized as the 'Corporate Finance House of the Year - Debt' in recognition of its investment banking performance, providing ground-breaking tailored solutions and advisory services to blue chip corporate clients. Irfan Siddiqui - President and CEO, Meezan Bank and Arif Islam - Deputy CEO, Meezan Bank received the awards from Dr. Reza Baqir - Governor, State Bank of Pakistan who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. This is the first time that CFA Society of Pakistan has recognized Meezan Bank on an overall industry basis as the 'Best Bank of the Year', competing with some of the largest local and conventional players. The Bank has previously been recognized multiple times by the organization for its excellence in providing Islamic financial services to meet the needs of its diverse set of clients.

As a pioneer of Islamic banking in Pakistan, Meezan Bank leads the Islamic finance industry, reaching a broad customer base with competitive, Shariah-compliant products and services. Commenting on the win, Irfan Siddiqui - President & CEO, Meezan Bank said, "We are honored to receive these awards from the CFA Society of Pakistan.

Around 39 million children
vaccinated in five-day polio drive

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

ISLAMABAD: An estimated 39 million children have been immunized against poliomyelitis during five-day nationwide vaccination campaign concluded on September 25. According to an official of Pakistan Polio Eradication, the nationwide campaign was implemented by a workforce of almost 270,000 frontline workers who carried out door-to-door vaccination of children under the age of five. He said that this was the first nationwide campaign since February due to a four-month suspension on supplementary immunization activities during the COVID-19 outbreak in Pakistan. He said that the campaign was

inaugurated by provincial and district leadership across the country, while the Pakistan armed forces, members of medical associations, prominent religious leaders, celebrities, activists and leadership from across the political spectrum came forward to support the campaign. Commenting on the results of September campaign, Dr Faisal Sultan, the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services said that it was very encouraging to see all Pakistanis, from all walks of life, showing such great support for this national cause.

"With such level of commitment, I am confident that we are going in the right direction. We have to ensure that no child is missed during these nationwide vaccination cam-

paigns in order to protect them against the crippling polio disease." As with smaller campaigns held in July and August, frontline workers were trained on COVID-19 preventive measures, such as hand washing, the proper use of face masks and maintaining a safe distance from others especially children during door-to-door visits. Moreover, the programme implemented strict measures for its field staff as per the Government of Pakistan's set guidelines on COVID-19 prevention, he added. Data from campaigns conducted between July to September show that vaccination teams have improved their outreach in each subsequent campaign. This means more children across the country were being ad-

ministered the polio vaccine and building the necessary immunity against the polio virus.

"With each campaign we have launched since July, our frontline workers have done an exceptional job at reaching vulnerable children with the polio vaccine. This would not have been possible, however, without the cooperation of concerned parents and caregivers across the country," said Dr. Rana Muhammad Safdar, Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre of the Pakistan Polio Eradication program.

"Essential immunization also needs to be strengthened to facilitate the interruption of all poliovirus transmission, and hence, the program is focused on prioritizing essential

immunization as part of the national agenda alongside upcoming door-to-door vaccination campaigns," Dr. Safdar further highlighted.

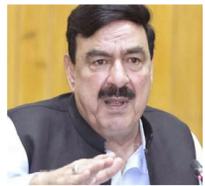
To do this, the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) has simultaneously been conducting targeted outreach activities to ensure that children are receiving essential immunization. About 8,150 vaccination teams have been deployed across the country in order to conduct these outreach activities with communities. From January to August, around 13.6 million vaccine doses had been administered to children. Meanwhile, approximately 699,762 zero dose children, or children who had never received routine immunization, had also been identified and vaccinated.

250 new ambulances
to be purchased, says
Ch Parvez

DNA

LAHORE: Meeting of the Punjab Assembly Special Committee No 13 was held under chairmanship of Speaker Punjab Assembly Ch Parvez Elahi here on Monday which was attended by Law Minister Muhammad Basharat Raja, MPAs Mian Shafi Mohammad, Nawabzada Waseem Khan, Syed Usman Mahmood, Malik Ahmad Ali Aulakh, Miss Sonia, Sajid Ahmad Khan Bhatti, Malik Nadeem Kamran, Mian Manazir Ali Ranza, Khadeeja Umar, Parlia-

mentary Secretary Home, Additional Chief Secretary Home Momin Agha, Secretary Punjab Assembly Mohammad Khan Bhatti and DG Parliamentary Affairs Inayatullah Lak. Speaker Punjab Assembly Ch Parvez Elahi said that in order to make 70 new stations of Rescue 1122 operational 250 new ambulances be purchased at the earliest and given to the department. He said that during 10 years of Shehbaz Sharif no legislation was done for betterment of Rescue institution because of this the institution is in bad shape.

‘Nawaz Sharif
secretly met Modi
in Kathmandu’

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Railways Minister Sheikh Rasheed claimed on Monday that former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif held a secret meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kathmandu. "The meeting that you held with Narendra Modi in Kathmandu, did you share its details with the foreign office," Rasheed asked during a press talk in Islamabad. "Did you tell any of Pakistan's responsible institutions about it?"

The minister didn't disclose the source of his information. But Indian journalist Barkha Dutta had written in her book This Unquiet Land

— Stories from India's Fault lines about a secret meeting between Sharif and Modi in Kathmandu during the 2014 SAARC summit.

The meeting, according to Dutta, was arranged by Indian steel magnate Sajjan Jindal. "Jindal was asked to discreetly reach out to his 'friend' across the border," Dutta claimed in her book. She claimed that the two leaders met quietly in Jindal's hotel room. The governments in Pakistan and India had denied reports of the meeting soon after they were aired on media. The then Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government had described the reports as "baseless", saying that no such meeting was held between the two leaders in Kathmandu. A similar denial had been issued by the Indian government. "The report is completely baseless. No such meeting took place in Kathmandu during the SAARC summit," the Indian ministry of external affairs had said.



ISLAMABAD: Bayazeed Kasi, PTI advisor on cooperation with CPC (Chinese Communist Party) presenting the medical AID send by CPC to Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi. — DNA

CAA to
deploy bird
shooters
near airports

LAHORE: In a bid to control birds' activity around airports of Pakistan, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has decided to hire the services of bird shooters. According to CAA, initially, around 12 bird shooters would be deployed at Allama Iqbal International Airport Lahore to kill the birds which collide with planes and causes accident. The authorities have said that garbage around the airports has been increased due to an increase in population. The CAA warn people not to throw garbage in open near airports, which attracts scavenger birds and these, in turn, run into aircraft causing serious damage to engine turbines and even the body. In August, it emerged that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has decided to install a modern electronic system on major airports for ensuring flight safety from the bird-plane collision incidents, making an end to the traditional procedures. — DNA

Shehryar, Ijaz discuss crackdown
on law violators with Buzdar

They condemned nefarious attempts to malign the state institutions and expressed the commitment to counter every conspiracy against the state institutions

DNA

LAHORE: Chairman Kashmir Committee Shehryar Khan Afridi and Federal Interior Minister Brig (ret) Ijaz Shah called on Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar at his office on Monday. They condemned nefarious attempts to malign the state institutions and expressed the commitment to counter every conspiracy against the state institutions, said a handout issued here. The meeting decided an indiscriminate crackdown on violators of the law and the CM reiterated that the government would go to every extent to ensure the rule of law. Every possible step would be taken to protect the life

and property of people, he added. Some elements were targeting institutions under a specific agenda and propaganda against the institutions was deplorable as well as condemnable as the country was facing numerous challenges, he emphasized. No one would be allowed to take the law into his hands and the government would continue to stand firmly with the state institutions, he added. The interior minister said that there was no justification for criticism of the institutions by some elements, adding that the specific agenda of the opposition, aimed at making the institutions controversial, had been exposed. The opposition was bent upon defaming the country

through its anti-Pakistan narrative, he deplored. Legal action would be initiated against those levelling accusations against the institutions, he added. Chairman Kashmir Committee Shehryar Afridi said that those accusing institutions were not well-wishers of the country and the opposition was trying to finagle its wicked designs by making the institutions debatable. Making of institutions controversial by those engaged in negative politics was equivalent to enmity with the country, he added. Punjab Law Minister Raja Basharat, Chief Secretary, IG Police, Additional Chief Secretary (Home), and others attended the meeting.

FAO installs Chilgoza Processing Unit at
Diamer, GB and Zhob, Balochistan

The project has involved the local community within the conservation and protection of forests while adding value chain development. Since the key issue faced by the local community is the lack of access to Chilgoza processing unit

DNA

DIAMER/ZHOB: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations under the project "Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation in High Conservation Value Chilgoza Pine Forests in Pakistan" inaugurated Chilgoza processing units in Diamer district of Gilgit Baltistan and in Zhob, Balochistan. The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility and implemented under the oversight of the Ministry of Climate Change. Furthermore, the project is additionally contributing 23 million trees to the Ten Billion Trees Programme of MoCC. The project has involved the local community within the conservation and protection of forests while adding value chain development. Since the key issue faced by the local community is the lack of access to Chilgoza processing unit, FAO through the project, installed a processing unit at Chilas, Diamer and Zhob, Balochistan, covering Chilgoza cleaning, grading, roasting, packing and labelling. This initiative will allow the local community to sell a finished product at a higher price and also will increase the shelf life of roasted pine nuts up to six months. From the conservation perspective, the specialized tools and the training

to the communities, has improved forest regeneration. Moreover, training for women on packing and labelling, kitchen gardening, and literacy are paradigms of the initiatives that have been identified by the communities. FAO and the Forest Department representatives of both districts jointly inaugurated the processing units. On this occasion, the community members, local traders, forest department officials attended the event. For this first year, representatives from the communities, Forest Department staff will be trained for independent running of the processing unit starting from next season in 2021. Speaking on the occasion, Country Representative of FAO, Mina Dowlatchahi highlighted the significance of such unit to ensure more benefits arising from natural resources management. She stated that for the first time in Diamer and Zhob districts, the local people will be able to process their harvest in one place from grading to packaging and labelling, and hence obtain a higher price on the market compared to selling cones or unroasted nuts. It is hoped that these economic benefits would increase the efforts and engagement of the communities in Chilgoza forest conservation, she said. Deputy Commissioner Sherani, Balochistan, Muhammad Ramzan

Palal said that forests are the integral part of nature. Efforts are underway not only to prevent deforestation in Sherani district, but also environment-friendly trees are being planted alternatively. He called for the promotion of agro forestry to protect pine-nuts and olive forests in the district. District Forest Officer Diamer, Gilgit Baltistan, Zakir Hussain stated that the processing unit will

help the local communities to get a better price at the market. He also added that it is another step towards our natural resource management goal. He also stressed on collective efforts of communities, government and development partners to raise awareness about the conservation of natural resources. The project contributes to the

restoration, protection and sustainable management of Chilgoza pine forests to provide global environmental benefits as well as enhanced resilience and livelihoods to local stakeholders. The project focuses on the improved and sustainable management of Chilgoza forests while strengthening the National and Provincial Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) Policies and Legal Framework.

Dr Yasmin
directs plan
for Nursing
School

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid on Monday directed to evolve a master plan for making Nursing School Cooper Road more effective and result-oriented. She issued the direction while presiding over a meeting at Fatima Jinnah Medical University (FJMU). During the meeting, the minister reviewed the construction of Mother and Child Hospital Ganga Ram and progress on new nursing hostel and college Mozang.

FJMU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Amir Zaman and Project Director Sheikh Ejaz briefed the Health Minister about the development on Mother and Child Hospital.

Dr Yasmin Rashid said the construction of Mother and Child Hospital would be completed timely besides setting up state of the art nursing college.

She further said that BSC would be offered in Post Graduate Institute of Midwifery, besides, establishing a 100-bed hospital for students in the institution. She said that PC-1 for Post Graduate Institute of Midwifery should be prepared, adding that proposal should also be made for solarization of Fatima Jinnah Medical University and Ganga Ram hospital.

LHC grants
protective
bail to Safdar

DNA

LAHORE: Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday granted protective bail to son in law of Nawaz Sharif, Captain (ret) Safdar in treason case.

According to details, LHC, while barring police from arresting PML-N leader, granted him bail till October 10. Earlier, a treason case was registered against Captain (ret) Safdar in Gujranwala. Captain Safdar is accused of using threatening words against state institutions. The case has been registered in Satellite Town Police Station on complaint of the SHO. PML-N MPA Imran Khalid Butt has also been nominated the case.

Poor gravel
seller transferred
\$45,450 to
Salman Shehbaz

DNA

LAHORE: An ongoing investigation into money-laundering charges against PML-N president Shehbaz Sharif and members of his family has brought to light yet another fake account used to transfer \$45,450 to his son Salman Shehbaz.

According to the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) documents, the hefty amount was transferred to Salman Shehbaz from a fake account in the name of Pervez Phulpoto, a resident of Gujjo Goth in Sindh's Thatta district. Salman got this transaction on May 6, 2010.

Surprised, Phulpoto, who sells gravel, said he had never seen such a hefty sum in his entire life as he earns a meager monthly income of 25,000 to 30,000. He said he only had one chance to perform Umrah, adding he doesn't have resources enough to transfer such a huge sum to anyone. He also denied having any personal or business ties with the Shehbaz Sharif family. Earlier, the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) banking crime circle had discovered billions of rupees stashed in bank accounts of employees of PML-N president Shehbaz Sharif's son Salman Shehbaz.

Sources had relayed the FIA found a staggering Rs9.5 billion in bank accounts of Salman's employees who have been working at the Ramazan and Al-Arabia Sugar Mills. Providing a breakdown of the amount, they said, Rs2.3 billion was found in a bank account of Salman Shehbaz's peon, named Maqsood, who also purchased a luxury car worth more than Rs15 million.

Briefs

Music, award show held at PAC

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A special music awards show held at Punjab Council of the Arts with the collaboration of SR International, Farah Azeem Shah, and Director Punjab Arts Council Waqar Ahmed were the guests of honor. More than 20 artists received awards for their exceptional performance in the field of drama, film, music and fine arts.

Special musical show was also presented by the new singers. While addressing at the ceremony Abdullah Gul said that the awards were the source of inspiration for the artist, which helped them to improve their work.

Director Waqar Ahmad said that the council always strived to promote art. Artist is our precious assets, who bear the midnight oil to present entertainment in our lives. Waqar Ahmad was also presented with special award for his efforts to promote art and culture. A number of actors, musician, journalist and people from different walks of life showed up for the music award show.

CTP net 1453 beggars from city roads

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi have geared up their ongoing operation against professional beggars and rounded up 1453 from different city roads. According to Incharge CTP Anti-begging squad Adeel Abbas, 26 FIRs were lodged against professional beggars during September while 32 beggar children arrested

from the city roads were handed over to Child Protection Welfare Bureau (CPWB). He said that special anti beggars squads had been constituted to nab the professional beggars. He informed that CTP on the directive of City Traffic Officer, were trying to eliminate the begging from the city roads. To a question he said that CTP along with Rawalpindi district police were conducting raids at different roads and intersections and action in accordance with the law was taken against beggars. Directives had also been issued to the squad to register cases against the beggars and the report in this regard should be sent to CTO office on daily basis, he said. - APP

SC refuses relief to triple murder convict

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday disposed of a review petition filed by triple murder convict Muhammad Siddique against his death sentence.

A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Justice Mushir Alam and comprising Justice Munib Akhtar and Justice Qazi Muhammad Amin Ahmed heard the case and directed the counsel to again appeal to the President for mercy. During the course of proceedings, Advocate Zulfiqar Bhatta counsel for the accused said that the parties had reached on reconciliation and according to the law, reconciliation could be reached at any time before execution.

Justice Qazi Amin said that all the courts including the Supreme Court had rejected his client's appeals as well as the President of Pakistan had also rejected his mercy petition. The counsel said that his client wanted the death penalty to be commuted to life imprisonment on the basis of reconciliation.

Justice Qazi Amin said that life imprisonment did not mean 25 years imprisonment but imprisonment for whole life.

He said that if the killer of three persons was not punished then what would be the impact on the society. The court disposed of the case by directing the lawyer to appeal to the President of Pakistan. - APP

Pakistan among top countries in social protection response

Social protection.org is the key initiative of IPC-IG which is supported by Govts of Australia and Germany and is an influential forum of social protection

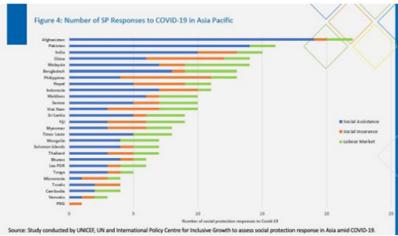
KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: A global conference hosted by the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) on Monday, labeled Pakistan as one of the top ranked countries in Asia having the highest response to social protection amid COVID-19 crises.

This new study was conducted by UNICEF, UN and IPC-IG to assess social protection response in Asia focusing on an extensive mapping and overview of how social protection measures were deployed by the countries in Asia and the Pacific region in the response to the COVID-19 crisis. The study reveals that Pakistan covers highest number of responses to social

protection in Asia through Ehsaas Emergency Cash. "Afghanistan included many humanitarian interventions; hence Pakistan tops the list", says Marina Andrade, researcher from IPC-IG team. Further, according to Andrade, "South Asian countries had a larger number of social protection responses to COVID19 when compared with other Asian nations. Regarding coverage, Pakistan, Timor Leste, Tuvalu and Sri Lanka implemented important changes to increase the number of beneficiaries."

Social protection.org is the key initiative of IPC-IG which is supported by Governments of Australia and Germany and is an influential forum of social protection. With the moderation from



the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the opening panel discussion had a regional focus particularly on Asia and the Pacific, Africa and the Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The country panel on Asia Pacific brought together SAPM Dr.Sania Nishtar, Bapak Maliki, Director of Poverty Alleviation and Social Welfare Indonesia and

H.E. Theng Pagnathun, Delegate of Royal Government of Cambodia in charge of Director General of Planning who discussed social protection responses to COVID-19 in their respective countries.

Sharing the scale and ambition of Ehsaas Emergency Cash, Dr. Nishtar said, "Within 10 days of COVID-19 lockdown, the government of Pakistan had

launched the Ehsaas Emergency Cash programme, providing urgent cash payments to over 15 million households.

The \$1.25 billion safety-net programme was rolled out at unprecedented speed, designed in the short-term to offer immediate relief in the form of \$75 to the poorest and hardest hit families." Further adding, she said, "The programme's end-to-end digital approach, with transparency hardwired into its design, offers lessons about how to use personal identification systems. By combining phones, internet connectivity and national IDs, we were able to create a digital, demand-based social-protection system, enabling those in distress to seek emergency cash support."

Concluding the insights on Ehsaas Emergency Cash, she said, "Overall, the Ehsaas Emergency Cash programme not only helped our country respond to the immediate crisis, providing relief for the poorest households in Pakistan, but also put in place critical building blocks for a stronger and more inclusive financial sector in Pakistan."

The global e-conference provided an opportunity for taking stock, exchanging information and facilitating learning on social protection responses to COVID-19.

It also offered a moment to deliberate on the future of social protection in the context of the global pandemic, in addition to celebrating socialprotection.org's 5th anniversary.

Religious seminaries registration begins

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has initiated registration of religious seminaries, first time in the country, from Monday. The federal government has set up registration offices in all four provinces, Islamabad, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan but the seminaries not yet applied for registration forms, sources said.

"Eight to 10 officials of seminaries have contacted the liaison office at the Ministry of Education but none of Madaris officials in person visited for the registration forms," sources said. The religious seminaries will be registered under the agreement between the federal government and Ittehad-e-Tanzeemate-Madaris, a coalition of religious seminaries.

After completion of registration process, the seminaries will be affiliated with the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, according to sources.

The government has set up registration centres in 133 districts across the country and also in the federal capital city. The provincial officers will perform as contact officers in major cities, including Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Quetta, Peshawar, Muzaffarabad and Gilgit. The authorities also deputed district-level officers in all provinces including AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan regions.

Police arrest drug peddler

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested a drug peddler and recovered 1.5 kg of drugs from his possession, informed police spokesman. Murree police arrested a drug peddler namely Hamad Abbasi and recovered 1.5 kg drugs from him. Police have registered a case against him and started investigation. City Police Officer (CPO) Muhammad Ahsan Younas has appreciated the performance of police team adding that drugs business must be discouraged. CPO made it clear that strict action would be taken against those who were found in this illegal activity and playing with the lives of innocent people. - APP

ICT police chalk out security plan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have chalked out an elaborate security plan for chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussan (RA) and strict procession and religious gatherings in the city.

The meeting presided over by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan reviewed and finalized the security plan which was also attended among others by DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed, DG (Saf City) Sarfaraz Ahmed Falki, all AIGs, SSPs, Additional SP and Zonal SPs.

According to police plan, heavy contingents of Islamabad police including Rangers and personnel of other law enforcement agencies will perform patrolling and security duties on this occasion and the main procession to be taken out from Imambargah Asna-e-Ashri sector G-6/2 will be completely cordoned off through heavy deployment. Following the directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Waqaruddin Syed, all zonal SPs, SDPOs, SHO and other police officials will visit the routes of procession and ensure effective coordination among the security personnel performing duties.

Blood donation camp to be set up

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Thalassemia Welfare Society (PTWS) will set up a Blood Donation Camp for thalassemia patients at District Courts on October 6. The PTWS spokesman Muhammad Asad has appealed to the people to come forward and be a part of its campaign to donate blood for thalassemia patients. - APP

Gold prices increase Rs700 to Rs112,500

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs700 on Monday and was traded at Rs112,500 against its price at Rs111,800. Likewise, the price of 10 grams gold also increased by Rs600 and was traded at Rs96,450 against its sale at Rs95,850 Karachi Sarafa Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained stagnant at Rs1200 and Rs1028.80 respectively. The gold prices in the international market increased by \$6 and was traded at \$1906 against \$1900, the association reported. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Mayor Sheikh Ansar Aziz inaugurating a filtration plant constructed in collaboration with Sailani welfare organization in IT-One. He was accompanied by Chairman Sailani Bashir Farooq Qadri, Director General Water Management Sardar Khan Zmarai and Spokesperson M.C.I Syed Mohsin Shirazi. - DNA

Govt releases Rs117.67 bn for development projects

Under the development programme, the Govt has released an amount of Rs78.15 billion for federal ministries, Rs29.5 billion for corporations

ISLAMABAD: The federal Government has so far authorized release of Rs117.67 billion for various ongoing and new social sector uplift projects under its Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2020-21 as against the total allocation of Rs650 billion.

Under the development programme, the Government has released an amount of Rs78.15 billion for federal ministries, Rs29.5 billion for corporations and Rs9.72 billion for special areas, according to a latest data released by

Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform.

Out of these allocations, the Government released Rs300 million for Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) for which the Government had allocated Rs1.5 billion during the year 2020-21.

For National Highway Authority, the government released Rs21.7 billion against its allocations of Rs118.67 billion, whereas for National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC), an amount of Rs7.8 billion was released

out of total allocation of Rs158.3 billion.

The Government also released Rs17.37 billion for water resources division out of total allocation of Rs81.2 billion.

An amount of Rs5.6 billion has been authorized to release for Higher Education Commission for which an amount of Rs29.4 billion has been allocated. Similarly, Rs70 million were released for Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority for which the Government had allocated Rs350 million in the development budget. - APP

RPO directs strict action against land mafia

RAWALPINDI: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Rawalpindi, Imran Ahmar has directed the police officers to take strict action against land mafia and zero tolerance policy should be adopted against the land grabbers. Talking to media he said, there should be no room for the land mafia in Rawalpindi region. He said, delay in registration of FIR would not be tolerated and the corrupt police personnel and those supporting the criminals would be sent behind the bars. He said, "We will make efforts to launch new projects for welfare of police personnel. We are making efforts to change 'Thana culture and attitude of police personnel.'" - APP

IIU invites applications for Arabic courses

ISLAMABAD: The International Islamic University (IIU) has invited applications from students for getting admission in short courses for understanding Arabic language.

According to a university official, a 12 week long Short Arabic course would begin from October 20.

Candidates having matric or equivalent religious certificate were eligible to apply for the courses till October 16. The fee of the Arabic course is Rs 10,000, the official said.

The three days a week class timings of Courses would be 5:15 pm to 8:15 pm for male students and 02:30 pm to 5:30 pm for female students

on each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Male students could obtain their admission forms from Imam Abu Hanifa campus and female aspirants could obtain admission forms from Fatima Block, new Campus, Sector H-10. Forms could be downloaded from www.iiu.edu.pk. 25 percent concession in fee is available for five or more applicants of same institution or the two or more aspirants having blood relations.

The students were being enrolled in three categories including certificate in Arabic Language, Diploma in Arabic Language and Advance Diploma in Arabic Language Courses. - APP

Aziz Boolani: A symbol of positivity and optimism

From Page 01

I sat down with different team groups and after many brain storming sessions we came up with a novel idea of launching Weekdays and weekend family packages. We thought what the need of the hour is and the answer was to lower down the stress level of the people. So we launched a family package at Serena hotels on very subsidized rates. These packages basically included all inclusive, stay at the Serena hotel, yoga classes, aerobic session, morning walks, Hi-Tea Spa facilities and big breakfast buffet every day. The concept of this package was to invite families who have been confined to their houses for months within limited place, many don't have big lawns or green areas to enjoy nature and live in a different environment other than their homes.

Secondly, the wizards at the hotel came up with the idea of providing working environment with a touch of home to those individuals and couples who need have been working from home. We did some math and by adding 1+1 we thought that lets split our café Rakaposhi into two sections, one to remain the regular coffee shop and the other

reset for a work from home decor. Tables for single, and couple seating was re-arranged on hourly bases and packaged accordingly. For one hour booking, unlimited Wifi, Coffee with cookies for two hours the offering adds up soup and bread basket longer the hours, higher the temptation. If you breakdown the cost incurred at home with air-conditioning running for hours, two persons using two different rooms to hold zoom meetings, skype calls , this was a much better deal ", informs Mr Bollani.

As the world is getting back to business so is the hospitality industry, trying to pick pieces from where they were left. Serena hotels as a principal opened up their main restaurant and one specialty restaurant to start off. For example in Serena Islamabad has only opened one main restaurant, i.e. Zamana restaurant and one specialty restaurant called Wild Rice. "In the new normal what we have done is that we extended our restaurants to outer gardens. Guest prefers to sit in the open. We have beautifully manicured lawns and now both the restaurants that we have opened have substantial amount of seating capacity outside. In coming days

it will be an ideal weather for an open air seating too he informs with confidence.

The Management is gearing up fast as reservations for conferences, Wedding bookings; meeting halls have started coming in too. Room reservations though are slowly picking up in Serena hotels as travelling by air still needs second thoughts. The management plans to make Food and Beverage department fully operational in two to three weeks period.

The management has gone one step ahead in adopting SOPs during the pandemic and all Serena hotels are following the guidelines laid down by Government of Pakistan as well as AKDN, (Aga Khan Development Network). "We discourage guests not to roam



around without mask. We provide masks to every guest who enters Serena hotels, and all our staff makes it mandatory to wear mask during in the vicinity.

Kitchen too has been prepared as per accordance with the Standard Operations Procedures and so is the seating capacity at the restaurants and meeting rooms. The guests at the buffet tables are now being served by a waiter rather than self serving. We do not want the utensils, like serving spoons at the buffet to exchange hands, so a server will dish out the portion for the guests so that it's not touched by different hands" he explains

Serena hotels GB and KP have also been given permission to open for public and the response has been beyond our expectation. "We are doing even better then what we were doing last year. Surprisingly due to Covid and also opening up of new Motorway arteries, people have started to travel by road especially from Karachi. The health factor, fear of air travel has also contributed to this new trend. But the industry is still very much in grey area. Unless and until international airlines start to operate in full throttle and foreign travelers, visitors, business man do

not start visiting Pakistan; it will be very difficult for the industry to be standing on its feet. I think resort occupancy will now see a surge in business than hotels in the coming days. The Covid has changed the mind frame of the travelers and holiday maker's worldwide as well. The stress level of the people has so high that they are desperate to have a break from their confinement progressive trend.

Covid-19 in simple terms has been a Health check for many corporate entities including Serena hotels. To me these five months have been a great learning experience. In routine one does not realize how much fat is in their in your organization.

We started to cut down the cost but without compromising our brand image and without creating inconvenience for the guests.

This we could have done it without COVID-19 epic but like I said, this became a health check as we did not cut corners but only extra fat. Secondly Covid-19 forced us to think of our own survival, sustainability and then growth.

For survival we looked at cost cutting for sustainability we explored new vistas of growth as well as cost saving pockets and for growth we are working on various novel ideas.

Briefs

NITB
launches an
app titled
"Harassment"

ISLAMABAD: National Information Technology Board (NITB) here on Monday launched an app named "Harassment" to eliminate harassment against women in society. Under E-Police feature the app would create awareness for physical harassment against women. With the current need of digital awareness and to induce a sense of urgency among women NITB has started this app, an official said on Monday. She said that the app would offer a platform to report of harassment cases including ICT cases. She said that people should visit and download IOS: <http://apple.co/31d-fqs0> Android: <http://buff.ly/2PLNK6P>. She said that the app is designed to ensure that women should stay safe always. The app comes equipped with a button, which will send alerts with location in a situation of distress.

IRSA releases
149,500
cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 149,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 87,800 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1540.09 feet, which was 154.09 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 48,200 cusecs and outflow as 82,000 cusecs. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1226.85 feet, which was 186.85 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. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 100,400, 84,100 and 16,300 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 10,400 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 5,000 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala.

Chairman
PTA visits
Jazz Digital
Headquarters

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) Major General (R) Amir Azeem Bajwa; Muhammad Naveed (Member Finance); Dr. Khawar Siddique Khokhar (Member Compliance & Enforcement) and other senior members of PTA visited Jazz Digital Headquarters on Monday. Jazz's executive leadership team presented a detailed corporate overview, its commitment to 4G acceleration, especially in underserved areas. The overview also highlighted the work being done in the areas of e-tech, e-commerce, digital payments, affordable mobile technologies, Agri-tech, and the proliferation of high-speed internet under the Universal Service Fund (USF) project. Additionally, the Chairman was also apprised of Jazz's PKR 1.2 billion COVID-19 relief package and how it was rolled out for benefit of the public. Chairman PTA appreciated Jazz's role in providing internet access to rural and underserved areas of the country. "Internet penetration has improved from 31 percent to over 40 percent with the cooperation of all operators like Jazz," said Chairman PTA. He was also briefed about Jazz's efforts in improving start-up infrastructure in partnership with the National Incubation Centre. "We are exploring areas to ensure that the masses have safe and easy access to the benefits of an increasingly digital world," He further said. "By far the greatest power that connectivity holds is the ability to instantly empower millions of Pakistanis to break the socio-economic barriers in an increasingly interconnected world."

Increasing exports of Pakistani products our goal: Khurshid Barlas

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Khurshid Barlas, President, UK Pakistan Business Council (Pakistan Chapter), along with Secretary General Ata-ul-Haq and Abdul Karim Adia, called on Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Azam Khan Swati and briefed him on the performance of the council. He said Imran Khan is working for economic stability in the country. He said that the Ministry of Anti-Narcotics is playing its full role in this regard. Their mission is to increase exports of Pakistani products and for this purpose every possible effort is being made from the platform of UK Pakistan Business Forum. Ata-ul-Haq appreciated the sincere efforts of the Federal Minister Azam Khan Swati during the meeting. And the purpose of his visit to Pakistan is to meet with traders, industrialists and investors and to pave the way for the promotion of bilateral trade so as to increase the trade volume between Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

Senate Committee
on Kashmir Affairs,
GB holds meeting

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan in its meeting on Monday was briefed regarding the administration of Jammu and Kashmir State Property in Pakistan; its utilization; annual income and expenditure. The meeting was held at Parliament House. Chaired by Senator Professor Sajid Mir, the meeting was attended by Senator Nighat Mirza, Senator Najma Hameed, Senator Abdul Rehman Malik, Senator Lt. Gen (R) Salahuddin Tirmizi, Senator Mir Kabeer Ahmed Muhammad Shahi, Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai and senior officers of the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan. The Committee was informed that the Government of Pakistan took over the management of properties in 1955 on the request of Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Government of Pakistan assumed control and ownership of the said properties by promulgating Jammu

and Kashmir (Administration of Property) Ordinance-III of the 1961 amendment, as amended in 1977 and 1979. Properties are divided into urban property and agricultural land. Agricultural lands have been let out to local populace; whereas urban property has been mostly rented to Kashmiri decent. A management Committee has been set-up for maintenance of the said properties, which according to estimates will generate income worth PKR 484999 million during one Financial Year 2020-21. Records of these properties have been managed manually until now. However, the Committee was informed that the Ministry will request National Information and Technology Board (NITB) to develop software for digitization of record for easy access and safety. Challenges faced by the Ministry regarding the maintenance of properties include illegal occupation and encroachment; low rental income; security and issues with Military Estate Office.

Masood pays tribute to courageous Kashmiris against Indian oppression

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Masood Khan, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has said that 73 years of Indian aggression has not deterred the passion and commitment of the Kashmiri people for ascertaining their right to self-determination. "Kashmiris are the most courageous people on the face of this earth; and it is, therefore, our core responsibility to save our Kashmiri brothers and sisters from Indian aggression. We here in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir are free and we cannot leave Kashmiris at the mercy of the barbaric Indian occupation forces", he said. The AJK President praised the efforts of the Friends of Kashmir and especially Ghazala Habib for raising the Kashmir issue in the US, especially in the State of Texas. He said that she has established inroads into the US civil society, engaged US Congressional

leaders and has provided Kashmiris with an opportunity to tell their tragic story of repression and torture. He said that our diaspora community has proven to be a strong force in the advocacy of the Kashmir issue. He also expressed his gratitude to the National Press Club for always proactively raising the Kashmir dispute and opening its doors to the Kashmiri people. Masood Khan said that since 1947 the people of Kashmir have been striving for freedom from occupation and this passion has not dwindled. For 73 years, India has tried every trick in the book to woo the Kashmiris by economic blandishments, political manoeuvring and even brute force; but to no avail. Even today, he said, the Kashmiris still chant to slogan "Pakistan Zindabad". President Masood Khan said that apart from diplomatic and political efforts we have to make this movement a people's movement, a global civil rights move-

ment that would shake the conscience of the whole world. Masood Khan while speaking about plans to transform Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) into a province, said that Pakistan will never take any step which will, in any way, weaken the existing status of Jammu and Kashmir or the case of Kashmiris' right to self-determination. The government of Pakistan, he said, respects the UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir and it would not compromise on the stance they have adopted on the Jammu and Kashmir issue. He urged the members of the National Press Club to visit GB and meet their counterparts at the press clubs, leading political figures and the general public to help understand the situation. He reiterated that the people of GB wholeheartedly support the Kashmir cause and strive for their freedom from Indian occupation. "This is a national challenge that we will resolve through con-

versations, deliberations and mutual consensus. No force can upset the love and unity between the people of Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan", he said. India, said the President, issued fake maps last year and they had challenged the territorial integrity of Pakistan. "The issue of Kashmir is a matter of national security and Pakistan is incomplete without Kashmir. No compromise has or will be made on the Kashmir issue. Rise up and save your Kashmiri brothers and sisters, who in the face of unprecedented Indian aggression still chant the slogans of freedom and yearn to be a part of Pakistan", said Masood Khan. The President later visited the newly established Kashmir Centre at the National Press Club. He said that this initiative will help further the cause of Kashmir as media representatives would be provided with a credible platform to advocate the Kashmir dispute.

Nine of same family injured due to roof collapse

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Nine members of the same family were injured when chunks of a hotel roof fell on them in Sanghar. According to a private news channel on Monday, the injured persons were from the Rind community of Sanghar's Sinjhor town and were returning their homes from the shrine of Lal Shabbaz Qalandar in Sehwan. The devotees were eating at a hotel at the Khan Petrol Pump on Nawabshah-Sanghar Road when the plaster fell on them. The B-Section police reached the spot and shifted them to a hospital. According to the police, all the four persons were in stable condition and would be discharged soon.

'Animals could be susceptible to COVID19'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dozens of animals may be vulnerable to Sars-CoV-2 - the virus that causes Covid-19, a new study suggests. Researchers suggest 26 animals, including horses and rabbits - regularly in contact with people, may be susceptible to infection. They investigated how the spike protein from Sars-CoV-2 could interact with the ACE2 protein it attaches to when it infects people. The University College London (UCL) scientists looked whether mutations in the ACE2 protein in 215 different animals, that make it different from the human version, would reduce the stability of the binding complex between the virus protein and host protein, Herald Scotland reported. Binding to the protein enables the virus to gain entry to host cells. Researchers said that while it is possible the virus might be able to infect animals via another pathway, based on the current evidence it is unlikely it could infect an animal if it cannot form a stable binding complex with ACE2. According to the study published in Scientific Reports, for some animals, such as sheep and great apes (chimpanzee, gorilla, orangutan, and bonobo - many of which are endangered in the wild), the proteins would be able to bind together just as strongly as they do when the virus infects people. However, some of the animals, such as sheep, have not yet been studied with infection tests, so this does not confirm that the animal can be infected. Lead author Professor Christine Orengo, of UCL Structural and Molecular Biology, said: "We wanted to look beyond just the animals that had been studied experimentally, to see which animals might be at risk of infection, and would warrant further investigation and possible monitoring." "The animals we identified may be at risk of outbreaks that could threaten endangered species or harm the livelihoods of farmers."

Dr Waqar
appointed SAPM
on Revenue

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday appointed eminent economist and former finance secretary Dr Waqar Masood as his Special Assistant on Revenue. SAPM Dr Waqar Masood has been given the status of Minister of State, the PM Office said. Having done Ph.D in Economics and Masters in Political Economy from Boston University Massachusetts, USA, and Masters in Economics and LLB from Karachi University, Dr. Waqar Masood Khan has a wide-ranging experience of working with both public and private sectors.

FIA urged to take action against person attempting to trigger hatred

DNA

KARACHI: President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) Shariq Vohra has expressed deep concerns over an audio clip circulating in the social media in which an attempt has been made by a particular individual with an only intention to sabotage the reputation of business & industrial community Karachi and trigger rift between institutions and politicians. While totally rejecting the claims, Shariq Vohra dissociated the Karachi Chamber from all the fabricated claims in the audio clip by an individual and termed it a 'conspiracy' against our beloved country as not a single member of the entire business & industrial community has

never ever attended any such brunch on first Sundays of every month which has been falsely claimed. "It is also a matter of grave concern that some unscrupulous elements are trying to link the said audio clip with Chairman Businessmen Group (BMG) & Former President KCCI Siraj Kassam Teli and Karachi Chamber which is not factual at all as the individual can clearly be heard introducing himself as a Chartered Accountant and neither his accent nor his voice resembles", he said. Shariq Vohra questioned that how is it possible that Karachi Chamber, being the largest Chamber of country, and all the leading industrialists of the city, who are closely associated with KCCI, remain totally una-

ware of such a huge gathering of around 350 big industrialists at Sunday's brunch. "The individual behind the audio clip never disclosed his name but only introduced himself as a Chartered Accountant and falsely claimed that the many big industrialists have unanimously agreed at the brunch that if situation goes on like this, they will have no other option but to shut down their businesses in Pakistan and move somewhere else which is a totally deceitful statement. "Upon investigation, we succeeded in obtaining the individual's mobile number and also his name i.e. Shahid. We are also trying to find out what his intention are and why he circulated such an irresponsible statement and under whose dictates", he said.

'Clearing country from Narcotics is top priority'

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Azam Khan Swati while giving lecture to the under training Officers of Anti-Narcotics Force at ANF Academy said that drug free country is our top priority and we are bringing strict laws against drugs smugglers and sellers, which will bring prosecution more stricter. "ANF has a huge responsibility on its shoulders because the network of drug smugglers is spread all over the world. We have to break and dismantle their network in Pakistan and make the country drug free," he said. During lecture on law, Azam Khan Swati said that the job of investigating officers are very sensitive and difficult as they have to fight against drug smugglers and drug dealers in the field and in court. Your slightest negligence can get the enemy of humanity out of your hands. The federal minister said that strict laws

have been made against drug dealers and smugglers and the new laws will be passed by the parliament soon. The punishment in the new laws is very strict and clear. Azam Khan Swati said that ANF Academy will be equipped with modern equipment and will make it the best academy in Pakistan. Addressing the course participants, he highlighted the correct use of the law and compared the laws of Pakistan and other countries. He said that despite the presence of law, sometimes some accused get relief due to not being able to use it properly. Participants of the special course included teachers from different schools in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. In his address, the Federal Minister said that their role is more important to save the newborns of the nation from the disasters of drugs. In this effort, the Ministry of Anti-Narcotics is also enacting necessary legislation to rid the society of the scourge of drugs.

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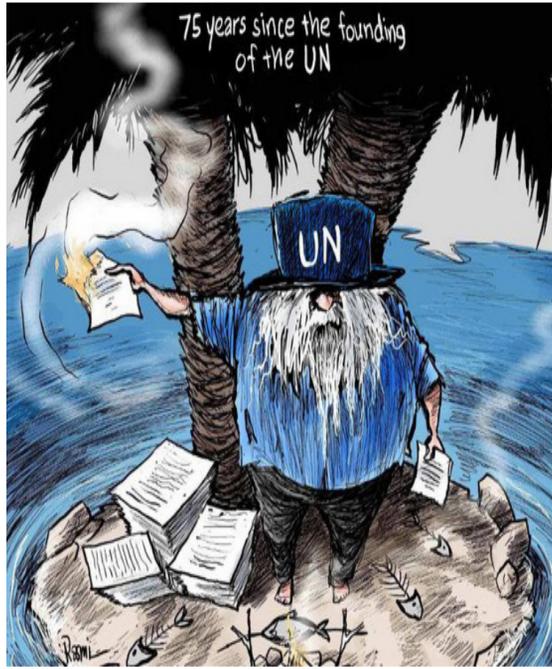
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Local body polls

THE Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), through a letter from the Chief Election Commissioner to the Prime Minister, has been forced to ask for the publication of the final 2017 census, so that it can go about its task of carrying out fresh delimitations, and then holding fresh elections for all the local bodies in the country, all of which have been dissolved after the completion of their tenures. The main reason for the delay has been the MQM's refusal to accept the results, claiming that the population was undercounted in its strongholds, with the consequent result for Assembly representation and funds distribution, among other things. A constitutional amendment had let the ECP conduct delimitations and hold General Elections on the basis of preliminary results. The MQM only agreed to it on the condition that a forensic audit of 10 percent of census blocks was conducted. As the ECP has pointed out, the amendment only provided a one-time waiver, for the 2018 elections, and did not apply to the local body elections. The publication of a final result is the responsibility of the government. It has not done so. More significantly, it has neither conducted the forensic audit demanded by the MQM, nor persuaded it to withdraw its objections. The PPP is also objecting to the results. It has not been approached either.

Another letter from the ECP Secretary to the Parliamentary Affairs Secretary shows a way out, but that is rather cumbersome: that a constitutional amendment is passed to waive the condition. Even then, the government would have to win support from the opposition, something it has been loath to do so far, accusing it of being corrupt. If instead of focusing on finding new ways of persecuting the opposition, if it was to concentrate on finding ways of carrying out the routine but essential tasks of government, like publishing the census results, it might find itself rewarded in the long run.



PDM Moves Forward

THINGS are moving forward for the opposition alliance—at the first meeting of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), held virtually through video link on Saturday, heads of all the constituent parties nominated Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Chief of his own faction of Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI-Fazl), as the first president of the PDM. The nomination itself, and the fact that it was unanimous, strengthens the opposition alliance and shows that this time, the opposition parties might just be serious. Previous efforts to unite have often failed precisely when it was time to nominate a leader—the opposition parties could never seem to come to a consensus on a person who could unite all factions. Indeed, the opposition missed its chance for the election of the president of Pakistan, when it could not agree on a sole candidate, and ended up nominating two candidates to lose the election to Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI). This has been the case with other important positions, like those of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker as well. Thus the fact that parties with diverse enough ideologies such as the PPP and the JUI-F could set aside their differences and nominate a leader makes the opposition alliance stronger. However, this is just the start and it should be noted that the office will be given on a rotational basis to leaders of the constituent parties—which could pave the way for some tricky transitions to power. So far the PDM seems to be making strategic steps, based on bringing out the strengths of all its parties. The rationale behind nominating Fazlur Rehman is that his party has the ability to bring out street power, particularly in KP, which is the government's stronghold. Yet, while clever on the books, how successful this strategy will be depends on how united the parties are in their joint plans—whether this unity amongst the leaders will translate well with their followers.

Demolition of the Babri Mosque revisited

Sajjad Shaukat



In fact, Indian extremist Prime Minister Narendra Modi—the leader of the ruling party BJP has continued anti-Muslim Chauvinism in India by leading Hindu terrorism against the religious minorities especially Muslims. In this regard, on August 5, 2019, Indian extremist government revoked articles 35A and 370 of the Constitution, which gave a special status to the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK)

IN the pretext of lack of evidence and ignoring the facts, an Indian court on September 30, this year acquitted all the Hindu nationalist leaders, including former deputy prime minister Lal Krishna Advani, in the Babri Masjid [Mosque] demolition case.

In its biased verdict, the court even neglected the authenticity of audio and video evidence submitted in the case. During the trial, Central Bureau (CBI) produced 351 witnesses and 600 documents as evidence. Initially, the court had framed charges against 49 accused, however, 17 accused have since died.

Advani, who was then BJP chief, was among 32 people accused of criminal conspiracy and inciting a mob to tear down the mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya in 1992. In the faulty verdict, the court pinned the blame on miscreants mingled among the crowd instead, adding that leaders such as Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi, another former cabinet minister, had tried to keep the mob from turning violent.

Jai Bhagwan Goyal, a defendant who was acquitted, said: "We had done nothing wrong. The whole of India is happy. Lord Ram's temple is coming up in Ayodhya city." Zafaryab Jilani, a counsel for the All India Muslim Personal Law Board stated that the court had ignored all the evidence, adding that it planned to appeal to the high court against the decision.

On the same day, the judgement was announced, Pakistan's Foreign Office (FO) Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez, in a statement, strongly condemned shameful acquittal of those responsible for demolishing the historic Babri Masjid in Ayodhya.

The Spokesperson elaborated: "the Hindutva-inspired [Hindu nationalism] Indian judiciary miserably failed to deliver the justice again...if there was a semblance of justice in the so-called largest democracy, the individuals, who had boasted of the criminal act publicly, could not have been set free...this is yet another manifestation of the pliant judiciary under the extremist BJP-RSS regime in which extremist Hindutva ideology takes precedence over all principles of justice and international norms.

Indicating various anti-Muslim moves, he further stated: "these reprehensible developments with state complicity, coupled with RSS-BJP's deep-rooted hatred against minorities, particularly Muslims, point to India's fast descent into a Hindu Rashtra, where minorities have been relegated as second-class citizens...wilful targeting of Muslims is rampant in today's India...the BJP-RSS anti-Muslim agenda is most visible in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) which remains under continued military siege and the BJP continues to implement its sinister policies to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory...the RSS-BJP regime and

the Sangh Parivar are responsible for the continued desecration and demolition of mosques in India in an organised manner as they did during the Gujarat massacre of 2002 and Delhi programme in 2020...the attacks by Hindu zealots on places of worship of Muslims have continued even during the Covid-19 pandemic".

However, 28 years ago, Indian Constitution which claims India to be a secular state was torn into pieces when on December 6, 1992, a large crowd of Hindu Karsevaks (Volunteers) entirely demolished the 16th-century Babri Masjid in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh in a preplanned attempt to reclaim the land known as RAM Janmabhoomi—birthplace of the god.

The demolition of the Babri Masjid sparked Muslim outrage around the country, provoking several months of inter-communal rioting between Hindu and Muslim communities, causing the death of at least 2,000 people, majority of whom were Muslims. The governments of several neighboring countries, including those of the Islamic World condemned the Indian government for failing to stop the destruction of the historical mosque.

In a 2005 book, India's former Intelligence Bureau (IB) Joint Director Malay Krishna Dhar wrote that "Babri mosque demolition was planned 10 months in advance by top leaders of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), BJP BJP/Sangh Parivar, VHP, Shiv Sena, the Bajrang Dal and the then Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Raow. Dhar explained, "He had drawn up the blueprint of the Hindutva assault at Ayodhya in December 1992." A 2009 report of the inquiry commission, authored by retired of High Court Justice Manmohan Singh Liberhan, found 68 people to be responsible for the destruction of the Babri Masjid, mostly leaders from the BJP. But no action was taken against them.

By showing prejudice in favour of Hindus, on September 30, 2010, the Allahabad High Court ruled that the 2,400 square feet (220 m2) disputed plot of land, on which the Babri Masjid had stood would be divided into three parts. The site at which the idol of Rama had been placed was granted to Hindus in general, the Sunni Wakf Board got one third of the plot, and the Hindu sect Nirmohi Akhara got the remaining third. The excavations by the Archaeological Survey of India were heavily used as evidence by the court to support its so-called finding that the original structure at the site was a massive Hindu religious building.

It is mentionable that anti-Muslim prejudiced approach could be judged from the last year's verdict of the Supreme Court of India. While announcing its judgment on the disputed land regarding the Babri mosque, the court ruled in favour of the Hindus and said that a temple-Ram Mandir will be constructed on the Ayodhya land. The court noted that the demolition of 460-year-

old Babri mosque in 1992 was a violation of law and ordered that five-acre alternative land in a suitable, prominent place be provided to Muslims for a mosque. The land for the mosque will be acquired by the government.

Notably, fanatic Hindus had been continuously propagated that their god, Ram, was born there and claimed Emperor Zaheerud Din Babur built a mosque on top of a temple at the site.

Nevertheless, encouraged by the flawed Ayodhya decision of the court, Hindu zealots supported by their RSS-patrons in power, are now seeking removal of the Shahi Idgah Masjid located next to Krishna Temple in Mathura as well as to give ownership of the entire 13.37 acres of land to the Krishna Temple complex.

In fact, Indian extremist Prime Minister Narendra Modi—the leader of the ruling party BJP has continued anti-Muslim Chauvinism in India by leading Hindu terrorism against the religious minorities especially Muslims. In this regard, on August 5, 2019, Indian extremist government revoked articles 35A and 370 of the Constitution, which gave a special status to the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK). Thus, New Delhi unilaterally annexed the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) with the Indian Federation to turn Muslim majority into minority.

In this respect, 5th of August was the first anniversary of India's revocation of the special status of the IIOJK. On this very day, Kashmiris living on both sides of the LoC and their brethren in Pakistan, including rest of the world celebrated this day as the Black Day for several days, while, Pakistan also observed August 5 as 'Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir' (Day of Exploitation in occupied Kashmir).

Modi's anti-Muslim chauvinism took a dangerous turn on August 5, this year when he laid the foundation stone for the Hindu Ram temple at bhoomi puja ceremony at the site of the demolished Babri mosque in Ayodhya.

Nonetheless, apart from other frenzy events, the demolition of the Babri mosque will remain a major scar on Indian so-called secularism, as on that very day (6th December); Indian fundamentalist leaders broke all the records of Hindutva terror by deliberately hurting the feelings of the Muslims. The atrocities and tyranny let loose on that day in Ayodhya continues unabated against the Muslims in one form or the other, under the Modi regime.

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Poor decisions are not appreciated!

Attiya Munawer



A closer look at the plight of the Pakistani people reveals that in every era of power, the people have never been the priority of the rulers; the people have been used to gain power in the past and may still be used today. Both the opposition and the government are throwing rubble at each other and demanding sacrifices from the people

THE Opposition and the government are pursuing a policy of blaming, while the people are being pushed into the mill of inflation and unemployment. According to the figures presented in the National Assembly, 55 million people in the country are barely earning a living. Pakistan has become the fifth largest country in the world with a population of over 220 million. The agenda of eradicating poverty and backwardness from the country has been part of the manifesto of every party that has come to power in different eras and some have taken practical steps but due to poor planning, disorder and corruption, their fruits could not reach the common man which is why backward classes are still frustrated.

The steady rise in prices of essential commodities like flour, sugar, electricity, gas, water, petrol, diesel, kerosene has made life difficult for the people, while wages are not being raised in proportion to inflation. There are reports of an increase rather than a decrease in unemployment. The government aimed to provide cheap food items to people at the utility stores, but there are also many other items being sold rare or expensive, including ghee, cooking oil, red pepper, soap, pulses, sugar. In such a situation, the government will have to tighten monitoring arrangements in every sector by activating the administration, so that the condition of the common man will improve according to the vision of the Prime Minister and new Pakistan will come into existence, which is the dream of Imran Khan. There is no doubt that the scourge of rampant inflation bent the backs of the poor due to the poor strategy of the previous governments, but what good has the present government done for the welfare of the poor? The fingers are being pointed at the government because all the records of inflation have been broken in the government of the big claimants to reduce inflation from the country. With the rise in prices of basic necessities of life, electricity, gas, and petroleum prod-

ucts for the poor, the government has also left the dragon of unrestrained taxes on the salaried class. On the one hand, the Economic Coordination Committee has increased the monthly rent of gas meters from Rs. 20 to Rs. 40 and the per unit increase in power tariff is minimum 32 paise for up to 200 units monthly consumers has also been approved.

On the other hand, the government has announced a reduction of 2.40 rupees per liter in the price of high-speed diesel. By not providing any relief in petrol, kerosene, and light diesel, several inflation bombs have been dropped on consumers in a single day. Government economists are concerned about the satisfaction of the international financial institutions, but they are not concerned about the rising cost of living for the poor, who earn a few thousand a month and live in rented houses. How will they be able to bear the burden of this unbridled inflation?

A closer look at the plight of the Pakistani people reveals that in every era of power, the people have never been the priority of the rulers; the people have been used to gain power in the past and may still be used today. Both the opposition and the government are throwing rubble at each other and demanding sacrifices from the people, but the people themselves are not ready to give any relief. The people are forced to commit suicide due to inflation and unemployment, while the opposition is working on a strategy to bring the people to the streets in order to achieve power. In a situation where inflation has made the lives of the poor miserable, the poor decisions of the government cannot be appreciated in any way, especially from Corona.

The resulting economic and business conditions have added fuel to the fire for daily wage laborers. Lack of relief in petrol prices has created more problems for the common man, so the increase in gas meter fares and LPG prices should be withdrawn, so as to reduce the burden of inflation on the common man.

The PTI's agenda included strict accountability and the elimination of corruption as well as the control of inflation. During the elections, people were being reassured that there was no shortage of resources in Pakistan and the money collected from corrupt elements will be spent on the welfare of people.

There were also rumors of the presence of corrupt political leadership Swiss accounts worth Rs. 200 billion dollars. These 200 billion dollars was promised to be used to pay off all debts and spend the rest on development and prosperity projects. Those who believe in the destiny of the common man are now disappointed after the PTI government. The people did not raise their voice for two years saying that according to the government it had got a devastated economy, but now there is a wave of frustration and concern among the people and the situation is heading towards public outrage, as the government is in a state of crisis. If the economy is really strong and the economic crisis is over, why aren't its positive fruits reaching the people?

The PTI government does not benefit the people by repeating the mistakes of the past, these facts have been proved, even if they are not repeated; there is no difference in the truth behind them. If the government really wants to bring about change, it has to do something in practice to decrease problems. No major change has taken place in the last two years of the government, the vision of development of the poor and backward classes does not seem to be working, and there are no comprehensive changes in the fields of education and health which have been pointed out. In this situation, the poor decisions that the government is making cannot be appreciated. The present rulers must point out the mistakes of the past, but just pointing out the mistakes of the past will not solve the problems of the people, it is necessary to set a proud example, otherwise, like others, their successors will repeat the same mistakes in power.

Briefs

Four killed as floods hit France and Italy

DNA

PARIS: At least four people have been killed and many more are reported missing after flash floods struck south-eastern France and north-western Italy. Dozens of houses were destroyed and entire roads were washed away in a mountainous border region near Nice. Coastal areas on the French Riviera were devastated, with long stretches of beaches littered with storm debris. Meanwhile, rescue workers stepped up their search efforts amid fears that up to 20 people were missing. Eight were formally reported as missing and another 12 were thought to be missing, officials said. Nice and its surrounding area saw almost a year's rainfall in less than 12 hours over the weekend. Storm Alex, which brought fierce winds and torrential rain, then moved into northern Italy where record rainfall has also been seen.

Malaysian PM quarantines after minister tests positive

DNA

KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysia's Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin on Monday said he will self quarantine for 14 days after a minister who attended a high-level government meeting to discuss coronavirus developments on Saturday tested positive for COVID-19. The Southeast Asian country has seen a steady climb in cases in the past week in the aftermath of an election in the state of Sabah in Borneo on Sept 26. Authorities in Malaysia have warned that coronavirus restrictions may have to be reimposed if the trend continues, amid popular anger towards politicians who have been blamed for the spike. In a statement, Muhyiddin confirmed that Ministry of Health Affairs Minister Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri had tested positive, and that those identified as close contacts at Saturday's National Security Council meeting to discuss COVID-19 had been issued a 14-day home surveillance order starting Oct 3. "Pursuant to that, I will undergo self-quarantine at my home for 14 days as advised by the health ministry," Muhyiddin said.

New SOPs for wedding halls, restaurants

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During the session, the NCOC was briefed that non-compliance of mask-wearing and social distancing may lead to a rise in the spread of the coronavirus. "Monitoring of disease prevalence and containment measures are important," said minister Umar, adding that wearing face masks is "key" to curb the spread of coronavirus. The morning session observed that marriage halls and restaurants are turning into major centres for the spread of the disease. The forum also lauded the education sector for their efforts in complying to the health guidelines and protocols.

PDM announces new schedule

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to stand on its feet and the nation will announce that they want the rule of Constitution and law in the country," Iqbal said. Flanked by Shahiq Khagan Abbasi - who, it was announced, has been appointed the PDM's Secretary-General - and other senior opposition leaders, Iqbal said the participants of the meeting had also condemned the first information report (FIR) lodged against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and other PML-N leaders. The PML-N leader alleged that the government has damaged the Kashmir cause by implicating Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider in the FIR.



ISLAMABAD: Players of Nishtar and Rising Stars Hockey clubs in a group picture after a match with Midas hockey club. Nishtar defeated Midas with a convincing margin. - DNA

We are writing a new history: President Ilham

We are restoring historical justice today because the land of Karabakh is our ancient historical land. The people of Azerbaijan have lived, created and built in these lands for centuries

DNA

BAKU: President Ilham Aliyev has praised the Azerbaijani Army's successful counter-attack operations along the line of contact, saying that the country is writing a glorious history. Aliyev made the remarks while addressing the nation on October 4, when the city of Jabrayil and nine villages of Jabrayil district were liberated from the Armenian occupation. The liberated districts are Karkhulu village, Shukurbayli village, Yukhari Maralyan village, Charakan village, Dashkasan village, Horovlu village, Dejal village, Mahmudlu village, Jafarabad village. "Today, the people of Jabrayil, of course, are happy, as indeed are all the people of Azerbaijan. Yesterday, our ancient settlement, the Sugovushan settlement was

liberated from occupation. All the people of Azerbaijan celebrated this historic event, congratulated each other and could not hold back their tears. These were the tears of joy. Azerbaijan shed tears in the early 1990s but those were tears of defeat, tears of tragedy," the president said. "As you know, Azerbaijan has been fighting to restore its territorial integrity for a week now. On the battlefield, our soldiers and officers show heroism, inflict crushing blows on the enemy, put the enemy in its place, drive the enemy out of our lands at the cost of their lives. This glorious mission will find its worthy place in history," Aliyev said. "Today we are writing a new history of our people and state, a glorious history. We are restoring historical justice today because the land of Karabakh is our ancient historical land. The



people of Azerbaijan have lived, created and built in these lands for centuries. But for many years, for almost 30 years, Armenian executioners have occupied our lands, destroyed all our historical, religious and cultural sites," the head of state said. "We will restore all our cities. We will restore all our mosques destroyed by the Armenians. Life will return to these places. We have put an end to the attempts of Armenians to change

our historical names and falsify history, to erase the historical and cultural heritage of the Azerbaijani people. The historical names of our settlements are being restored, and they will be restored," the president emphasized. The president further spoke about the failure of the negotiations, saying that it has not yielded any results. "Can negotiations go on for 30 years?! Is it possible to keep the Azerbaijani people in such a situation for 30 years?! For 30 years, we have lived with hopes that the international community will resolve this issue. Countries and international organizations involved in resolving this issue will have their say. The world's highest international body, the UN Security Council, will work to implement its resolutions. These resolutions have been on pa-

per for 27 years. For 27 years, we have shown a constructive position, a fair position at all times - in all periods of negotiations. But what did we see in return? The aggressor became even more impudent. The aggressor's greed grew even more as they set their sights on our ancestral lands. As a result, all the occupied lands were attributed to the so-called "Nagorno-Karabakh republic", new maps were published and all the occupied territories were portrayed as Nagorno-Karabakh. What happened after that? Then they stated that they would not return an inch of the lands to Azerbaijan. It should be noted that 24 Azerbaijani civilians have been killed and dozens of others have been injured in the Armenian attacks that started on September 27.

Afghan president visits Qatar

DNA

KABUL: The Afghan president landed in Doha, Qatar, on Monday where crucial intra-Afghan talks between the Kabul government representatives and the Taliban are underway, an official confirmed. The president's spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said in a series of tweets that President Ashraf Ghani first visited Kuwait to pay homage to the late emir Sheikh al-Ahmad al-Jaber Al-Sabah "We highly appreciate your coming personally and be with us in our sad days, and hope to have you in our happy days too," he quoted the prime minister of Kuwait as saying. Later in the day, the Afghan leader would visit Doha where he is set to meet Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, emir of Qatar; Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdul Aziz al-Thani, the prime minister of Qatar, and a number of other senior officials to discuss the Afghanistan-Qatar bilateral

relations and mutual cooperation in various areas. Dawa Khan Meenapal, another spokesman of the Afghan leader, told Anadolu Agency on Monday no meeting is scheduled between Ghani and the Taliban leaders based in Doha. "The President would only meet peace delegates representing the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan," he said. According to the official statement, during the visit, Ghani is also scheduled to address a gathering of Qatar's prominent diplomats, academics and students at Doha Institute. Ghani's visit comes as representatives of the Afghan government and the Taliban continue to engage in agenda-setting talks for the landmark intra-Afghan talks in Doha since Sept. 12. According to the local Salam Afghanistan radio, the two negotiating teams are faced with a deadlock in talks, and a number of foreign mediators are trying to end the stalemate.

Pak NAVY retains champion title of national shooting championship

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

ISLAMABAD: 27th National Shooting Championship 2020 was held at Army Marksmen Unit (AMU), Jhelum. The mega national event which is held every year, involved all national level teams competing for the coveted title. Pakistan Navy, being the defending champion, won the title of National Shooting Championship consecutively third time with 17 Gold, 17 Silver and 11 Bronze medals whereas Pakistan Army secured the Runners Up position and Pakistan Air Force secured third position. GOC 23 Div, Major General Shahid Imtiaz graced the occasion as Chief Guest and gave away the medals to the winners. The week-long event was organized and hosted by Pakistan Army under the auspices of National Rifle Association



of Pakistan (NRAP). More than 300 Shooters belonging to the teams of Army, Navy, Air Force, Punjab, Sindh, WAPDA, ASF, Federal Rifle Association (FRA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) participated in the

event and displayed their skills. During the event, 04 new National records were made by Pakistan Navy shooters in the Rifle and Pistol Category in which Zeeshan Shakir Farid CPO/PTI, Nadra Raees CPO/

PTI, Rabia Kabeer AB/PT, Anas Rafi (Junior) from Pakistan Navy set new National records in Air Rifle Men, 25 meter Pistol women and Air Rifle Men Youth category respectively.

Europe's pushback of migrants 'shameful'

We cannot allow xenophobic reactions, only meant to draw facile consensus and electoral votes, to shape responses to challenges that are complex, but manageable

DNA

GENEVA: The UN refugee chief on Monday lambasted countries which close their doors to desperate migrants and Europe's "shameful" refusal to allow migrants stranded at sea to disembark quickly. Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said migrants and refugees around the world were continuing to take dangerous routes towards safety and opportunity. The solution for their destination countries, Grandi told the opening of the United Nations Refugee Agency's main annual meeting, "cannot be to close the door." "We cannot allow xenophobic reactions, only meant to draw facile consensus and electoral votes, to shape responses to challenges that are complex, but manageable." He warned of "the dangerous lines of thinking emerging in some of the world's richest countries - 'exter-

nalising' asylum beyond a country's borders - violate international law, put the lives of the most vulnerable in jeopardy and constitute precedents which threaten asylum globally." In particular, he highlighted the case of 27 migrants stranded in the Mediterranean Sea for nearly 40 days on a Danish freighter before it was finally

permitted to dock in Italy earlier this month. "States failed to live up to their responsibilities. As a European, I find it shameful that it took more than one month to disembark just 27 people." The Italian stressed that "people will continue to flee unless the root causes of their flight are solved." "Reducing search and rescue

capacity, or impeding those who engage to save others, or pushing back people without due process, will not stop people from moving; it will only lead to more deaths and the further erosion of refugee protection." - "Deep disappointment" - Grandi meanwhile welcomed the European Commission's recent proposal for a new Pact on Migration and Asylum, calling it "a unique opportunity... to set out clearly how responsibilities will be shared".

In an address coloured by the complexities of the Covid-19 pandemic, Grandi also voiced "deep disappointment" at the low numbers of refugees being resettled from precarious situations to third countries. "In 2019, fewer than 64,000 refugees were resettled - less than one quarter of one percent of the world's refugees, in a constantly declining trend," he said. The United States, which traditionally has resettled the most refugees, has

slashed those numbers under President Donald Trump, offering to take in a record low of just 15,000 refugees next year - down from more than 100,000 under Trump's predecessor Barack Obama. Grandi also warned of the deteriorating situation in Africa's Sahel. He said he had recently visited the region, which he described as "the theatre of one of the most worrying situations - a political, security and humanitarian crisis which has displaced millions." "Few situations have shocked me as much - the violence, the brutality, including horrifying stories of gruesome murders of parents in front of their children." In the past year alone, more than 600,000 people have been forced to flee their homes in the region, thousands of schools have been destroyed and thousands of women raped, Grandi said. "We need to restore a sense of urgency in the Sahel response," he insisted.



Fishing emerges as a hurdle in Brexit talks

DNA

BRUSSELS: The stage is set for a showdown on Brexit at a European Union summit next week. French President Emmanuel Macron's reluctance to make concessions on fish is stirring concern among officials he could sink efforts to reach a wider trade accord as negotiators begin on Monday a two-week period of intense talks. That follows Saturday's call between Boris Johnson and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. The two sides are nervous that major compromises on the key disagreements of fishing rights and state aid are still to be made, officials said. The EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, will discuss Brexit with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Monday too, a sign the bloc is weighing where it can and can't make concessions. "We are going into the last stages of these talks with a constructive attitude," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told reporters in Berlin after his own meeting with Barnier. "We still want a solution but of course there are areas which for us are very important." Officials say Macron holds the key if the EU's position is to soften. The fishing industry may represent only a tiny proportion of the French and U.K. economies, but it has assumed out-sized political importance in the discussions. The EU has said there can be no wider trade deal without an accord on what access EU boats will have to British waters.

Japan, South Korea to resume business trips

DNA

TOKYO: Japan and South Korea will resume business trips between the two countries, a measure the two countries halted due to the coronavirus pandemic, according to media reports on Monday. The date of the resumption is expected to be announced this week. Initially, according to Japan's Kyodo news agency, entry of expatriates and other long-term residents as well as travelers on short-term business trips will be allowed in both countries, provided they have tested negative for the virus. Diplomatic relations between the two countries remained at all-time low after a South Korean court asked Japanese firms to pay compensation to the victims of forced labor during Japan's colonial rule over the Korean Peninsula. Tokyo rejected the ruling, saying a 1965 agreement between Japan and South Korea had ended the issue. Last year, Japan restricted exports of vital industrial equipment to South Korea, hitting the country's tech industry. On Sept. 24, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, who took office mid-September, and South Korean President Moon Jae-In agreed to speed up negotiations for an early agreement to resume business trips, according to the Kyodo news agency. Japan imposed strict restrictions in February after coronavirus outbreak in the country and banned entry of foreign nationals. A total of 24,091 coronavirus cases have been reported in South Korea, with 73 additions over the past 24 hours.

President offers condolences

From Page 01
a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here said.

The president noted that the late Amir was a true and trusted friend of Pakistan and made invaluable contribution to the furtherance of brotherly relations between the two countries. The president also conveyed best wishes to Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah upon assuming his responsibilities as the new Amir and expressed the confidence that Kuwait would continue to forge ahead on the path of progress and prosperity under his wise stewardship. Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah expressed sincere gratitude to President Dr. Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Imran Khan, and the people of Pakistan for their condolences and for sharing the sorrow and grief of the Kuwaiti people.

Briefs

EU chief in self isolation after COVID-19 contact

DNA

ANKARA: The European Commission president said Monday that she is self-isolating due to contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

"I've been informed that I participated in a meeting last Tuesday attended by a person who yesterday tested positive for COVID-19. In accordance with regulations in force, I'm therefore self-isolating until tomorrow morning," Ursula von der Leyen wrote on Twitter.

The German politician added that she tested negative for the virus last week, and was tested again Monday. She is not the first senior EU official to be quarantined in recent weeks.

Last month, European Council President Charles Michel went into self-quarantine after a security guard in his team contracted the novel virus. As a result, the two-day EU Council meeting, scheduled for Sept. 24, was postponed until Oct. 1. The summit went ahead on Thursday and Friday last week, and was attended by Von der Leyen. Hot topics such as Eastern Mediterranean, Belarus and Brexit were discussed.

Egypt: journalist arrested while covering unrest

DNA

CAIRO: Egyptian authorities have arrested a journalist after she travelled to the southern city of Luxor to cover the alleged killing of a man during a police raid last week, according to her employer and family.

The al-Manassa news website said Basma Mostafa arrived in Luxor on Saturday morning but subsequently lost contact with her. Al-Manassa said in a report Mostafa believed she was being monitored by police while in the city.

Rights lawyer Karim Abdel-Rady, who is also her husband, said his wife appeared on Sunday at the headquarters of Egypt's state security prosecution in the capital, Cairo. Another lawyer, Khaled Ali, confirmed the 30-year-old journalist was brought before prosecutors. Later on Sunday, al-Manassa reported prosecutors had interrogated Mostafa and ordered her to remain in custody for 14 days. It said her lawyers did not know what charges she faced because they were not allowed to attend the investigation. Al-Manassa wrote on its website the last phone call made by Mostafa was at 11:15am local time on Saturday, in which she said a "policeman had stopped her in the city of Luxor and checked her ID before letting her go ... but continued to follow her".

There was no immediate comment by authorities. The government has in the past arrested journalists who it says are operating without proper permissions. The outlet Mostafa works for is banned from operating in Egypt and its website is blocked.

Emirates to expand its network in Europe

DNA

DUBAI: Emirates has announced it will resume flights to Budapest (from 21 October), Bologna (1st November), Dusseldorf (1st November), Hamburg (1st November) and Lyon (4th November), expanding its European network to 31 destinations, and offering customers around the world convenient connections via Dubai. The addition of these five destinations takes Emirates' global network to 99 destinations, as the airline continues to gradually meet travel demand, while always prioritising the health and safety of its customers, crew and communities. Flights to/from Budapest and Lyon will operate twice a week on Wednesdays and Saturdays while flights to/from Bologna, Dusseldorf and Hamburg will operate twice a week on Fridays and Sundays. All flights to the five cities will be operated by the Boeing 777-300ER, providing robust cargo capacity on each flight. Tickets can be booked on emirates.com, the Emirates App, Emirates sales offices, via travel agents as well as on-line travel agents.

Armenia's artillery attacks kill 24 Azerbaijani civilians, injure 121

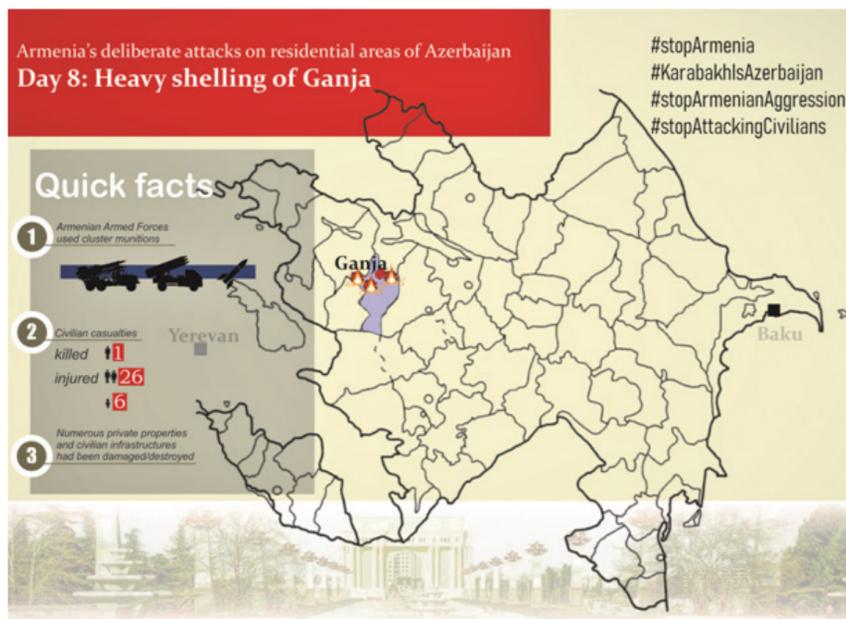
Azerbaijan disposes of solid facts on Armenia's shelling the Azerbaijani civilians and infrastructure from Armenia's own territory, namely from Gorus, Sisian, Vardenis, Jermuk, and Berd towns of Armenia

DNA

BAKU: In the framework of its new aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan the armed forces of Armenia are deliberately targeting the civilian population and infrastructure of Azerbaijan in violation of fundamental norms and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as Armenia's relevant international obligations.

As a result of Armenia's artillery and missile attacks, 24 Azerbaijani civilians were killed, 121 injured, more than 300 residential buildings and civilian objects destroyed.

Missile attacks on Azerbaijan's second biggest city Ganja, industrial city of Mingachevir, as well as the Khizi and Absheron regions of Azerbaijan, targeting densely populated areas and critical infrastructure from the territory of Armenia is an intentional provocation designed to enlarge the



zone of hostilities and bring the third countries

into the conflict. Azerbaijan disposes of

solid facts on Armenia's

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ture from Armenia's own

territory, namely from Gorus, Sisian, Vardenis, Jermuk, and Berd towns of Armenia. This evidence collected with the participation of local and international experts, including the foreign journalists on the ground, will be presented to the relevant international organizations. We urge Armenia to obey norms and principles of international law, including its obligations under the international humanitarian law, and implement the demands of the UN Security Council resolutions for immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

We reiterate that Armenia's leadership bears full responsibility for the results of the counter-offensive measures to be taken by the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan in order to ensure the security of its civilians and residential areas deep inside the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan.

World must resolutely condemn Ganja shelling: Saveliev



DNA

MOSCOW: "As Ganja is the second largest city of Azerbaijan and is located 60 kilometers from the front line, I believe the Armenian Army deliberately targeted and attacked to harm the people of Azerbaijan", Dmitry Saveliev noted. Launching a rocket attack on Ganja where 1 person died and 32 got wounded is a war crime, State Duma deputy,

head of the Russia-Azerbaijan friendship group Dmitry Saveliev told media. "The world community must resolutely condemn such actions and put pressure on the official authorities of Armenia to prevent such events in the future. Russia stands on the positions of recognizing the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the need to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict peacefully within the framework of international law. It is necessary to stop the bloodshed by the immediate withdrawal of Armenian troops from all occupied territories, which will allow refugees to return back to their lands and start the peaceful process of self-determination of Nagorno-Karabakh through a referendum," the Russian deputy noted.

US-UK trio win Nobel Medicine Prize

DNA

NEW YORK: Two American and one British-born scientist won the 2020 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for work in identifying the Hepatitis C virus, which causes cirrhosis and liver cancer, the award-giving body said on Monday. "Prior to their work, the discovery of the Hepatitis A and B viruses had been critical steps forward," the Nobel Assembly at Sweden's Karolinska Institute said in a statement on awarding the prize of 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.1 million). The three scientists will share the prize money. "The discovery of Hepatitis C virus revealed the cause of the remaining cases of chronic hepatitis and made possible blood tests and new medicines that have saved millions of lives." Thanks to their discovery, highly sensitive blood tests for the virus are now avail-

able and these have "essentially eliminated post-transfusion hepatitis in many parts of the world, greatly improving global health", the Nobel committee said. "For the first time in history, the disease can now be cured, raising hopes of eradicating Hepatitis C virus from the world population," the jury said. The award for work on a virus comes as the world battles the new coronavirus pandemic. They would normally receive their prize from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on December 10, the anniversary of the 1896 death of scientist Alfred Nobel who created the prizes in his last will and testament. But the in-person ceremony has been cancelled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, replaced with a televised ceremony showing the laureates receiving their awards in their home countries.

SRO to effect business growth, says Sadar Yasir

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry expressed concerns over the SRO 924(I)/2020 issued by FBR on Sep: 30, 2020 in order to regulate the businesses of real estate agents, accountants and jewelers to comply with the conditions of Financial Action Task Force (FATF), however, he said that the said SRO would affect the growth of business activities, especially in real estate sector and foil the objectives of PM's construction package. He said this while talking to a delegation of real estate sector that called on him led by Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi former President ICCI. Mehmood Ahmed Warraich, Tariq Nusrat Wani and Zarif Ahmed Khan were in the delegation. Abdul Rehman Khan, Vice President ICCI



was also present at the occasion. The delegation congratulated Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan on assuming the Presidency of ICCI and discussed with him the implications of SRO-924 on the business activities of the real estate sector.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that bringing Pakistan out of the FATF grey list was very important for its economy and business community was ready to cooperate with

the government to achieve this goal. However, he said that before issuing any SRO, FBR should consult with the stakeholders to address their genuine concerns and save them from unnecessary problems. He said that making regulations for businesses unilaterally without consulting the stakeholders always created difficulties for genuine business people and this approach should be avoided at all cost.

ICCI President said that the economy of Pakistan was struggling for revival from the impact of Covid-19 pandemic and it was high time that the government should take measures to promote ease of doing business and provide maximum facilitation to businessmen. However, issuing SROs like 924 to overregulate some businesses would prove counterproductive.



ISLAMABAD: Zahid Latif Khan Chairman REIT charring the Board meeting at the Pakistan Stock Exchange Tower. - DNA

No-deal Brexit would be 'irresponsible'

"With today's health and economic challenges, people on both sides of the channel have enough to shoulder, so it would be totally irresponsible to burden them in this position with the additional problems through a no-deal,"

DNA

BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the European Union's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier met in Berlin on Monday to discuss the ongoing trade negotiations between the UK and the bloc. Time is running out for the UK and the EU to reach an agreement. Barnier also met with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, who said that a no-deal Brexit would be "irresponsible," particularly given the economic and health impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

"With today's health and economic challenges, people on both sides of the channel have enough to shoulder, so it would be totally irresponsible to burden them in this position with the additional problems through a no-deal," Maas said. Maas stressed that the EU was still open to constructive discussions with the UK. "Our door is still open for a close and ambitious partnership with Britain," he said. The foreign minister also said on Twitter that while the coronavirus had made negotiations more difficult "in every respect," they had made reaching a

deal more crucial, too. UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the European Council meeting on October 15 is the final chance to ratify a deal between the EU and the UK, making it an effective deadline for trade negotiations. The EU said that negotiations should be

wrapped up by October 31 at the latest. The UK left the EU's political institutions on January 31, but very little about the way it trades with the bloc has changed as yet. That's because the UK is currently in a so-called transition period, still enjoying most benefits of Single Market and

Customs Union membership, which will end on December 31. If no deal is ratified by then, the UK could end the transition period without any trade agreement with the bloc. The meeting came shortly after global bank Goldman Sachs published a report on Monday morning predicting that a deal would be reached by early November, although there remained the risk of a breakdown in negotiations. "Our core view remains that a 'thin' zero-tariff/zero-quota trade agreement will likely be struck by early November, and subsequently ratified by the end of December," Goldman analysts said in a report sent to clients. "The risk of a breakdown in negotiations cannot be ruled out," the report added. "We continue to think the perceived probability of a 'no deal' will persist beyond the next European Council meeting in mid-October." Boris Johnson and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen spoke in a video conference on Saturday to discuss the "state of play" of Brexit negotiations, saying afterwards that "significant gaps remained." The EU launched legal action against the UK last week over British



CBI to probe Dalit woman's gang rape

DNA

NEW DELHI: India's federal investigators will take over the probe into the alleged gang rape and death of a young Dalit woman that has sparked nationwide outrage and days of protests.

A special team of the Uttar Pradesh state police that has been investigating the incident will soon be handing over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), a spokesman for the police said on Sunday. The 19-year-old - who belongs to a marginalised group formerly known as "untouchables" - was assaulted in a field outside her village in the northern Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district on September 14. She was severely injured and died two weeks later at a hospital in the Indian capital, New Delhi.

The attack on the teenager was the latest case highlighting sexual and other forms of violence against India's 200 million Dalits, who are on the lowest rung of the caste system and have historically faced discrimination despite laws to protect them. Four village men, who belong to the privileged and influential Thakur community, have been arrested in connection with the crime. Five senior police officers, including the district police chief, have been suspended over the investigation amid criticism of law enforcement's actions - including the cremation of the woman's body in the middle of the night against the wishes of her family. Local authorities barricaded the village after the cremation to block opposition politicians and media from meeting the victim's family. The decision was reversed on Saturday after widespread criticism.

Financial markets breathe easier

DNA

NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump's controversial drive-by to greet supporters outside the hospital where he is receiving treatment for the coronavirus, and an upbeat assessment by his doctors, have given financial markets a boost on Monday. But analysts warned that the president's health could be a source of heightened volatility in markets in the coming days as the November 3 US presidential election draws nearer. US stocks appeared to be headed for a higher open, with benchmark S&P 500 Index futures up 0.66 percent and Nasdaq index futures rising by 0.96 percent during Asian afternoon trading. Most Asian stock markets were also higher, with Australia's S&P ASX 200 index jumping 2.6 percent, its biggest one-day gain in nearly two weeks, and Japan's Nikkei 225 index was 1.3 percent higher. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index gained 1.6 percent, while mainland China's markets are closed for a holiday.

Czechia, a fresh state of emergency

DNA

PRAGUE: "I may have gotten carried away," Czech PM Andrej Babis, a populist billionaire, said in a televised speech on September 21, as he admitted easing coronavirus restrictions too early in the summer. On the same day, hours earlier, Babis had made the sudden decision to replace his health minister, Adam Vojtech.

With more than 81,000 cases in the Czech Republic, a country of 10.5 million people, the rate of the virus's spread is among the worst in Europe - almost as severe as in Spain. On Friday, the country recorded 3,793 new coronavirus cases, the highest daily count since the pandemic hit. Roman Prymula, the new health minister, has said daily infection rates are among "the worst in the world" - far higher than in the spring, at the peak of the global outbreak. On Monday, a new state of emergency gets under way in an attempt to contain the virus. It will last at least 30 days and enforce strict physical distancing by, for instance, closing secondary schools in areas with a large number of infections and banning spectators from sports events and limit the number of people attending weddings.

Briefs

NAB arrests two local bodies officers

ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has arrested two officers of the local bodies ministry in Sindh over alleged charges of corruption, a private news channel reported on Monday. As per details, the NAB team raided in Karachi's area of Clifton, late-night and arrested two officers of the Sindh local bodies ministry named Rahmatullah Shaikh and Manzoor Abbasi. According to NAB, both are accused of forging millions of rupees by paying to ghost companies through fake bills. Sources said that Rahmatullah Shaikh remained the focal person of Sindh ministers Saeed Ghani and Nasir Shah and was removed from his post by CM Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah in recent past. Meanwhile, it was learned that another officer Manzoor Abbasi made a plea bargain in a corruption case and already facing an inquiry into his assets. - APP

Nawaz Sharif didn't meet any Indian: M. Zubair

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Muhammad Zubair on Monday has clarified that party supremo and former Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif didn't meet any Indian in London. While addressing a press conference, the PML-N leader said that Nawaz Sharif is being linked to India with proper planning. The government ministers are getting personal with PML-N leaders instead of focusing on politics, he claimed. Muhammad Zubair further thanked his party for selecting him as spokesman of Nawaz Sharif and Maryam and said that the opposition will show full resistance on the platform of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). I will continue to perform duties as spokesman till the dissolution of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, he pledged. Muhammad Zubair told that Nawaz Sharif's speech had made the people of Pakistan happy and satisfied. All those who attended the meeting have been booked in treason case, he said. The reaction came day after Shahbaz Gill had claimed that 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 signal, she reached the meeting place.

COVID-19 claims 2 more lives in Sindh

DNA

KARACHI: As many as 252 new cases of coronavirus emerged when 7993 samples were tested raising the tally to 138,593 and two more patients lost their lives lifting the tally to 2523. In a statement issued here on Monday, Sindh chief minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said that 7993 tests were conducted against which 252 new cases emerged that constituted 3.1 percent current detection rate. He said that so far 1,416,482 samples have been tested against which 138,593 cases were detected all over Sindh that came to 10 percent overall detection rate. Shah said that two more patients lost their lives while struggling against the virus lifting the death toll 2,523 that constituted 1.8 percent death rate. He said that 432 patients recovered overnight. The number of patients cured so far has reached 131,462 that constituted a 95 percent recovery rate. The CM said that currently 4608 patients were under treatment, including 4,327 in home isolation, six at isolation centers, and 275 at different hospitals.

EU envoy lauds master Ayub's services on Teachers day

Ambassador of the Netherlands, Wouter Plomb, agreed pointing out that "World Teachers Day is also World Children Day. They give their students access to knowledge and skills which are essential for life"

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: On World Teachers Day, Ambassadors and diplomats from the European Union met Master Ayub and his team of teachers who provide education to underprivileged children in F-6 sector of Islamabad. During their visit, they discussed with teachers about their motivation to teach voluntarily and about the challenges they face in their daily work. To support the outdoor school, the visitors donated essential items such as notebooks, backpacks and pens to both students and teachers. The purpose of the visit was not only to show support to Master Ayub's mission of educating children, but also to highlight the European Union's strong pledge to support and improve learning environments with those who are trying to help improve the state of education in Pakistan. A firefighter by profession, Master Ayub has dedicated 30 years of his life to less privileged children in the hope of giving them a better chance at life. On his own initiative, he launched a school



in a park. Today more than 200 children attend every day to get essential education from one of the 12 teachers in Master Ayub's informal school. The teachers who are volunteering part time at Master Ayub's school believe those who have dedicated their lives to this profession deserve acknowledgment. "As it's said that if this profession holds the same respect as a father deserves, then teachers ought to be highly respected", said Muhammad Rukhsar, a teacher of Master Ayub's school. Reflecting on World Teacher's

Day, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan H.E. Ms Androulla Kaminara said, "It is inspiring to see the dedication of the teachers and eagerness of the students to learn. Even under these difficult conditions, outside, without shelter from the sun and rain, Master Ayub and his team are doing such an important work". Ambassador of the Netherlands, Wouter Plomb, agreed pointing out that "World Teachers Day is also World Children Day. They give their students access to knowledge and skills which are essential for life."



The Chargé d'Affaires for the Embassy of Romania, Adrian Miron, said, "Master Ayub is doing some amazing work. I would encourage him and others to continue this important duty that they have taken up, and to ensure that all children continue their journey to learn together and free of discrimination." Maria Jameel, a teacher and former student of Master Ayub's school talked about some of the challenges they face on World Teacher's Day. "At Master Ayub's school some of the teachers are from among the students. Of

course there is a big difference between a professional teacher and a student who just started teaching, but it is the dedication of both teachers and students that make up for the constraints that they are facing. The EU is dedicated to improving education and has a successful and long history of supporting Member States' education and training policies. Erasmus Plus is an EU scholarship programme that has enabled hundreds of Pakistani students as well as teachers to pursue their educational ambitions across Europe.

FM Qureshi assures to address issues of overseas Pakistanis



SAIFULLAH \ DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has reaffirmed the government's commitment to address the problems of overseas Pakistanis including those in the Europe on

priority basis. He was talking to Chairman of EU-Pak Friendship Federation Ch. Pervaz Iqbal Losar in Islamabad on Monday. Shah Mahmood Qureshi said overseas Pakistanis are our precious asset who have always open heartedly supported Pakistan in

difficult times including in the wake of Covid-19. Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Pakistan has launched economic diplomacy to apprise the foreign investors about investment opportunities in Pakistan and the government's business friendly policies. He said

several European countries are desirous to make investments in Pakistan as a result of our economic diplomacy. The Foreign Minister said we are striving to improve exports to cope with the adverse impact of Coronavirus.

FIR lodged against Nawaz, others for 'criminal conspiracy'

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: A first information report (FIR) has been registered against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif pertaining to criminal conspiracy for the "provocative speeches" he made in London to "defame Pakistan's institutions", it emerged on Monday. The First Information Report (FIR) registered against Nawaz on October 1 was lodged by a citizen in the Shadra Police Station's jurisdiction. The case was registered under the provisions of the Pakistan Penal Code for criminal conspiracy against the PML-N chief and other leaders. The FIR alleges that the former prime minister, in his speeches, supported the policies of India, and claimed that Nawaz wanted to give the impression that Pakistan will be listed in the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) grey list in its upcoming meeting. The citizen in the FIR claimed that Nawaz, in his speeches, wanted to divert the attention of Indian forces' atrocities in occupied Kashmir and India's occupation of the territory.

'Police should arrest those nominated'

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Information Minister Fayyaz-ul-Hasan Chohan Monday said that all Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leaders who have been nominated in treason case should be arrested by police. Fayyaz-ul-Hasan, in a statement, said that Punjab Police have rightly registered a case against PML-N leaders including Nawaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. Police should form teams for immediate arrest of all the accused, he added.

Shahbaz complains of 'inhuman treatment'

LAHORE: PML-N President and Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shahbaz Sharif on Monday complained to an accountability court that National Accountability Bureau (NAB) officials were treating him in an "inhumane and humiliating" manner in jail. While giving his statement to the accountability court, Shahbaz said he knew he was in custody on the court's orders, but it was his basic right that he receive medical treatment for his back pain, which he has been suffering from since 25 years. The PML-N leader told the court that he used to ask for assistance in changing the position of his chair for prayers, but on October 1 and 2, he was refused assistance when he sought help from jail officials. Shahbaz also alleged that instead of being served food on a table, as was usual till recently, his food is now being placed on the floor. "This is being deliberately so that I have to bend to pick it up. It is happening at the behest of Imran Khan and Shehzad Akbar," Shahbaz alleged. The Opposition leader warned that he would register an FIR against the prime minister and his aide on accountability, Shehzad Akbar, if anything happens to his health. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Germany Bernhard Schlagheck interacting with students World Teachers Day. He extended special thanks to all teachers who work hard every day to educate our children.- DNA

Pakistan, China enhance cotton trade: CEN

Pak mainly produces low-count sirospun yarns, such as those of 8s or 10s, generally below 21s, which are mostly imported to south China's Guangdong province to be made into denim, said Huang Xifeng

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan, and China are actively engaged in strengthening their bilateral trade in textile sector, as competitive partner, says China Economic Net (CEN). A team of CEN's reporting cell in its survey conducted during 2020 Autumn Joint Exhibition of China National Textile and Apparel Council in Shanghai noted that there was substantial growth of Pakistan's cotton yarn export to China in the recent months. Moreover, both sides were found eager to improve the existing arrangements to compete with each other for having better benefits for the cotton's growers and the traders. It was noted that Pakistan exported 54.613 million US dollars of cotton yarn in August, registering a year-on-year decline of 51.36%. As data from China's General Ad-

ministration of Customs shows, China imported 41.836 million dollars worth of cotton yarn from Pakistan in August, which is 4.36 times the 9.592 million dollars in the same period last year, with a year-on-year increase of 336 percent. Pakistan mainly produces low-count sirospun yarns, such as those of 8s or 10s, generally below 21s, which are mostly imported to south China's Guangdong province to be made into denim, said Huang Xifeng, sales executive of import and export department at Lital Xingshi (Taicang) Holding Co. Ltd. "We imported about 1,000 tons of cotton yarns from Pakistan every year. Our denim fabric is made of thick and low-count yarns, which are basically 10s or 8s, no more than 12s." Yang Bin, director of Seazon Textile and Apparel Co., Ltd in Foshan, China, said in an interview with CEN. Yang added that he has cooperated with Pakistan's cotton yarn

manufacturers for 10 years. "As for Pakistan's cotton yarn, we only imported it from Explorer, a Pakistani manufacturer, with which we have cooperated for more than ten years. Produced locally in Pakistan with American and Australian cotton as raw materials, it boasts the best quality of all. And yet, most of the other Pakistani producers adopt locally grown cotton, which may save RMB hundreds per ton. Although Pakistani cotton is somewhat of inferior quality to that in America, Australia, and China, it can be made into denim," Yang said. Pakistani cotton yarn RMB 3,000 cheaper per ton than that of China with zero tariff. The main reason for the surge in import lies in the fact that Pakistan's yarn export to China enjoys zero tariff, thus having a greater competitive advantage internationally. That's why we prefer Pakistani cotton yarn even when

offered the same price," said Ke Jiangwei, general manager of Xiamen Naseem Trade Co., Ltd, which has been importing Pakistani yarn for many years in China. "It is not just tariffs, but the price that attracts us," said Yang, adding that "as Pakistani yarn is much cheaper than the Chinese one, the largest gap reached RMB 2,000 to 3,000 per ton in the last two years, with a price gap of about 10%. Due to the COVID-19 epidemic this year, domestic cotton yarn cannot sell well in China, thus narrowing the price gap to about RMB 1,000." "The sirospun of 8s in Pakistan was RMB 17,000 or RMB 18,000 per ton before, and now it has dropped to about RMB 16,000 per ton. At present, the price of Pakistani yarn in China's domestic market has rebounded. It has risen by more than ten percent compared with the price in May and June. It may have been sold for RMB 15,000 per ton

before, and now RMB 16,500, or even RMB 17,000. The price gap is as high as RMB 1,000-2,000 over the past three months," Ke explained. We mainly purchase cotton yarns in stock, and it will be too late to order them from Pakistan, he added. He pointed out that 8s and 10s cotton yarns from Pakistan are currently in great demand in Lanxi City, east China's Zhejiang Province. A factory with more than 200 looms can manage 200-300 tons of cotton yarns," He Hao, a salesperson from Shengzhou Shengtai Haobang Textile Co., Ltd. Company, said in an interview. He suggested that Pakistan could try to produce cotton yarns with mixed cotton through a new technique called rotor spinning. Pakistani cotton spinning products are what we need for a long time, so will continue to import them as long as they can be consumed in China's factories and their prices are acceptable," Ke said.

At least 8 killed in Afghan car bomb blast

DNA

KABUL: A suicide car bomber has targeted the convoy of a provincial governor in eastern Afghanistan, killing at least eight people, including four civilians, government officials have said. At least 30 others were also wounded in the incident, which took place in eastern Laghman province's capital, Mehtarlam, Afghanistan's interior ministry said on Monday. The condition of the governor, Rahmatullah Yarmal, was not immediately known and officials would not confirm local reports that he was slightly wounded in the bombing. Yarmal escaped unharmed, a provincial police spokesperson said. Interior ministry spokesman Tariq Ariani said four of Yarmal's bodyguards had been killed in the bombing. He said the wounded included 28 civilians and two other guards. No group has claimed responsibility for the incident. Both the Taliban and ISIL (ISIS) armed groups are active in the area. The Taliban group has carried out assassinations of high-profile Afghan officials recently, while both groups attack government representatives, national security and defence personnel as well as civilians.

PTI leads rigging allegations

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) topped the list of those political parties who filed the most complains of rigging in the 2018 elections. According to the details, a private channel has obtained new interesting statistics regarding the rigging of the 2018 elections. According to the data obtained by a private channel, PTI is at the top among the complainants of fraud, PML-N is at the second position and PPP is at the third position. A total of 299 election petitions were filed in the Election Commission. The highest number of complaints of fraud was lodged by the ruling party PTI, while the PTI complained of fraud in 23 constituencies of the National Assembly and 53 constituencies of the Provincial Assemblies. PML-N has filed petitions regarding 28 constituencies of provincial assemblies and 15 of the National Assembly. The PPP complained about 9 constituencies in the National Assembly and 20 in the Provincial Assembly. Other political and independent candidates filed 151 complaints for the National and Provincial Assemblies. Election tribunals ruled on petitions related to 210 constituencies.

644 new virus cases reported

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Monday were recorded 8,907 as 644 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. Four corona patients, who were under treatment in hospital died on Sunday, according to the latest update issued by the National command and Operation Centre (NCOC). No COVID affected person was on ventilator in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Balochistan, while 88 ventilators elsewhere in Pakistan, out of 1,912 allocated for COVID-19 patients, were occupied. Some 29,565 tests were conducted across the country on Sunday, including 10,813 in Sindh, 9,325 in Punjab, 3,844 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), 3,053 in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), 1,475 in Balochistan, 510 in Gilgit Baltistan (GB), and 545 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). Around 299,836 people have recovered from the disease so far across Pakistan making it a significant count with over 90 percent recovery ratio of the affected patients. Since the pandemic outbreak, a total of 315,260 cases were detected so far, including AJK 2,862, Balochistan 15,399, GB 3,852, ICT 16,789, KP 38,076, Punjab 99,941 and Sindh 138,341.