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Prime Minister Imran Khan says no relief to opposition parties

Time to unlock the true potential of our trade relations



Pakistan, Nigeria need to promote high-level contacts



Briefs

NAM must resolve existing challenges

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi says Non-Aligned Movement must resolve to address existing and emerging challenges for peace and security. Speaking at virtual ministerial meeting of Non-Aligned Movement on Friday, he said forum should also look into root causes of conflicts, foreign occupation and military intervention and denial of fundamental rights including right to self-determination. He stressed on strict adherence to principles and objectives of UN and NAM Charter.

Opposition will put an end to govt together

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: The PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto said that his party had been criticising the government since day one and its facilitators. He said that political parties could no longer raise their voices in the "rubber stamp" parliament. Addressing a press conference, Bilawal warned the government that "those who were not afraid of dictators will not be afraid of a cricketer". "The media is stopped [from criticising the government] and our interviews are censored," he said. "Insha'Allah, all opposition parties, together, will put an end to this inept government."

PML-N to resign before Senate elections

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PML-N stalwart and former foreign minister Khawaja Asif said Thursday that when the PDM anti-government protest will reach its peak, every lawmaker of the party will resign from the NA. Asif was addressing the PML-N's Convention of Parliamentarians and Ticket-holders where he criticised the government. "The economy has been destroyed, the peace of the people has been taken away.

PM Imran says no relief to opposition

"I want to tell their supporters to take money and even eat their qeemay ke naan: but stay inside [and do not come out to protest]," he said

ABID RAZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday lashed out at the opposition parties for sticking together "when they are being called to account for their crimes." "I want to tell their supporters to take money and even eat their qeemay ke naan: but stay inside [and do not come out to protest]," he said. The prime minister also hit out at Nawaz and Maryam Nawaz's spokesperson Mohammad Zubair for comparing the PML-N supreme to deceased Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini. "He [Zubair] was saying that Khomeini was also exiled," said the premier, noting that Khomeini was sent abroad on gunpoint while Nawaz "faked" numerous illnesses to do the same. Taunting the PML-N chief, the prime minister jokingly remarked that one of his ministers "cried" when she came to know that Nawaz was suffering from so many diseases. "We were in a cabinet meeting that lasted for six hours [on the Nawaz Sharif issue]. Doctors were also present in it. When the doctors told us that Nawaz was suffering from so many diseases, I saw that our Human Rights Minister

Continued on Page 06

PM interacts with Facebook COO

STAFF REPORTER / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan welcomed on Friday Facebook's investments and programmes in Pakistan and encouraged the tech giant to increase its footprint in the country. During a virtual meeting with Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg, he recognised the immense potential of digital platforms like Facebook and the role that they can play in giving global opportunities to Pakistani youth and entrepreneurs and how the opportunities they create can lift people out of poverty. PM Khan and Sandberg discussed Facebook's investments in Pakistan, the company's support for digital literacy initiatives in the country and its work around COVID-19. The premier raised concerns over the global rise in hate and extremism and acknowledged the immense challenge of fighting hate speech online.

President Alvi for increased Pakistan, Nigeria cooperation

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has emphasized the need for increased cooperation between Pakistan and Nigeria in the areas of trade, economy and defence. He said that Pakistan attached utmost significance to its relation with Nigeria and wanted to further strengthen and diversify the existing bilateral relations to the mutual benefit of the two countries. He stated this during a meeting with outgoing Nigerian High Commissioner, Maj Gen (R) Ashimiyu A. Olaniyi, who made a



farewell call on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Friday. While talking to the High Commissioner, the President said that both countries needed to promote high-level contacts and visits which would further cement bilateral relations. The President highlighted the atrocities being committed by India security forces against the Muslims of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K). He urged the international community to play its role for peaceful resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute and protection of the Muslim minority in India.

Continued on Page 06

Pak slams India's 'two front war' comments

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday termed as "irresponsible" a statement by the Indian air force chief about India being ready for a "two-front war" with China and Pakistan, saying he should keep in mind his country's "defence limitations". Speaking at a press conference earlier this week, India Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria had claimed that India was fully prepared for

Pak condemns Houthi attack

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday strongly condemned the recent drone attack launched towards the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by Houthi militia. Pakistan also appreciated the successful interception of the drone, which prevented the loss of innocent lives. Pakistan called for immediate cessation of such attacks.

a two-front war. "We are ready and very well-positioned to take on China and there is no scenario where they can get the better of us," he was quoted as saying by The Hindu. Responding to these claims during a weekly press briefing, Foreign Office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said "such provocative statements are a true reflection of [the] RSS-BJP mindset, a dangerous mix of extremist ideology and hegemonic designs."

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Ali Alizada meets Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Gen. Nadim Raza. - DNA

Pakistan Army supports Azerbaijan's stand

Ambassador of Azerbaijan meets Gen. Nadeem Raza; briefs him about latest situation in Nagorno-Karabakh

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman JCSC Gen. Nadeem Raza has reaffirmed the brotherly relationship between both the countries built on strong foundations. JCSC also said that Pakistan Armed Forces fully support Azerbaijan's position on Nagorno-Karabakh, which is in line with the several unanimously adopted United Nations Security Council resolutions. He made these remarks

Nagorono-Karabakh is Azerbaijan: President

PARIS: When Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan shared a platform in a rare encounter at February's Munich Security Conference, they were both asked to give a historical overview of Nagorno-Karabakh. "In order to talk about how to resolve the conflict first we need to go back and look at the issue of history," declared Aliyev, arguing it is "historical truth" that Nagorno-Karabakh is part of Azerbaijan. For Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh is an integral part of the Azerbaijani state and is recognised as such by the UN. It has a centuries-old record of Muslim settlement by Persians and Seljuk Turks. - DNA

during his meeting with Ali Alizada, Ambassador of Azerbaijan who called on him at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi. Matters of bilateral interest and regional security were discussed during the meeting. It may be mentioned here that Ambassador of Azerbaijan along with his military attaché and DHM held a news conference on Thursday. He briefed the Pakistani media about Armenian aggression and losses to civilian people.

Continued on Page 06

NCOC issues guidelines for marriage halls

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on Friday issued guidelines for marriage halls to hold wedding ceremonies amid strict compliance of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and safety guidelines. The NCOC meeting was briefed that marriage halls have been reopened from 15 September in view of overall positive results of government's smart lockdown policy about COVID-19. The Forum was told that being a very high risk sector, it has the potential to increase positivity at National level, if COVID-19 SOPs were not followed. Therefore, in order to reduce chance of disease spread from this high risk sector, in depth deliberations were done at NCOC and guidelines had been formulated and shared with federating units for strict implementation in marriage halls. NCOC advised the organisers of marriage halls to ensure 300 individuals for indoor gatherings and 500 individuals for outdoor gatherings. - APP

Pak, Malaysia to enhance cooperation

The two FM's reaffirmed excellent ties that exist between Pak, Malaysia



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi held a telephone call with his Malaysian counterpart Dato Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein. Foreign Minister Qureshi reiterated Pakistan's strong desire to further enhance the strategic level partnership with Malaysia in economy, trade, defence, education and science and technological fields. The two Foreign Ministers reaffirmed the excellent ties that exist between Pakistan and Malaysia and emphasized the importance

of close cooperation to overcome common challenges brought by Covid-19. Foreign Minister Qureshi appreciated efforts of the Government of Malaysia in ensuring the well-being of Pakistani community residing in Malaysia. He also assured that Malaysian nationals in Pakistan would be extended all possible assistance by the Pakistani authorities. He also wished success to Malaysia for the forthcoming APEC Summit 2020 in December. Both Foreign Ministers agreed to further strengthen ties and cooperation that exists between the two nations and countries.

Tiktok blocked in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Friday blocked Chinese-owned video-sharing app TikTok after the company failed to fully comply with the instructions for "development of an effective mechanism for proactive moderation of unlawful online content". The PTA said the step was taken after the authority received a number of complaints from different segments of the society against immoral and indecent content on the video-sharing application. "Keeping in view the complaints and nature of the content being consistently posted on TikTok, PTA issued a final notice to the application and gave considerable time to respond and comply with the Authority instructions for the development of an effective mechanism for proactive moderation of unlawful online content," read the statement issued by PTA.

Ban on public gatherings likely

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Due to prevalence of COVID-19, large scale public gatherings are banned in most of the countries around the world, being high risk activities, such gatherings have the potential to cause exponential increase in disease spread thus may jeopardize the success achieved against COVID-19, hence should ideally not be held. Sources said on Friday that public gatherings may be banned in future in order to avoid COVID impact. Sources further said however, if at all some public gatherings are unavoidable then these must be organized with strict compliance of SOPs; for which currently deliberations are underway to be subsequently decided at NCC.

Pakistan-Morocco ties strong and historic: Asad

Ambassador Mohamed Karmoune thanked the speaker for his remarks and said Morocco attached immense importance to its decades old relationship with Pakistan, undoubtedly those relations were based on religion, history and culture

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly (NA) Speaker Asad Qaiser Friday said Pakistan was keen to enhance people to people and economic contacts with African continent through pursuance of the 'Look Africa Policy'. Asad Qaiser said this during a meeting with Ambassador of Kingdom of Morocco, Mohamed Karmoune here, said a news release. "The National Assembly of Pakistan resolves to actively pursue look Africa policy for enhancing engagement at multilateral

sectors," he said, referring to the establishment of Parliamentary Friendship Group (PFG) in the NA. He said the group would play an apt role in bringing both the Nations more closer. The speaker said Pakistan and Morocco's ties were deeply imbedded in history as those relations were based on religion, mutual respect, solidarity, and good political will. He appreciated engagement of Moroccan Parliament with Pakistan at International parliamentary forums and stressed for synergising the engagement between the friendly



countries in Africa. Speaking about the trade relations, the speaker said that immense economic opportunities were present on both sides, therefore, efforts should be made to enhance bilateral trade and economic cooperation with Morocco. He also called for collaboration in education sectors by exchange of students in medical, engineering and sciences. Ambassador Mohamed Karmoune thanked the speaker for his remarks and said Morocco attached immense importance to its decades old relationship with Pakistan. He said un-

doubtedly those relations were based on religion, history and culture. He agreed that it was time to unlock the true potential of our trade relations, stressing for enhancing connectivity of people from both the brotherly countries. The envoy assured the speaker that he would extend all out support for enhancing bilateral cooperation and people to people contacts. He also suggested for an early interaction with Members of the Pakistan-Morocco PFG for chalking out a strategy for future interaction.

Inside...

- HR organizes awareness session on child rights, prevention of child abuse - Page 02
- ICCI for duty free import of furniture machinery - Page 03
- Imran Khan to promote trade and strengthen bilateral relationships - Page 04
- Hindutva: State-sanctioned pogrom - Page 05
- Pakistan welcomes French investment: Fakhar Imam - Page 06
- Kyrgyzstan's president declares state of emergency in capital - Page 07
- EU delegation marks Day against Death Penalty - Page 08

Briefs

Balochistan
govt to install
tracker
system in
buses

ISLAMABAD: The Balochistan government has planned to install tracking system in buses running on Quetta-Karachi highway to monitor and check the movement of the bus. The installation of tracker device in buses running on national highways would also control over speeding and provide the data, said an official of the Balochistan government. Meanwhile a meeting will be held with the transporters regarding the installation of the tracker, he added. On the direction of chief minister, he said the government would write letters to the Chairman National Highway Authority (NHA) and the Federal Secretary of Communications for the deployment of Motorway Police on the national highways of the province to control the traffic accidents in the province. The Balochistan government has also working on 'Green Bus Service' project to provide best and affordable public transport to the commuters of Quetta. The provincial government was planning to launch the bus service in Quetta to overcome the traffic issues and fulfilled its promise made during the election campaign. A state-run public transport comprising, six big and four mini buses would be started on an experimental basis by determining suitable routes in Quetta. Jam Kama Khan has also directed the authorities concerned to expand the bus service in other cities of the province, he said. "If public transport is standardized, people will travel in it and it will have a positive impact on the overall traffic system," he said. — APP

Accused in
SRP reference
strike plea
bargain

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Recoveries in the Sindh Roshan Programme reference have been initiated under the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) plea bargain procedure. As per details, Ayaz Siddiqui, an accused named in the reference showed his consent to strike plea-bargain with the NAB. The plea was accepted by DG NAB Rawalpindi, Irfan Mangi. After acceptance of plea bargain request, Siddiqui submitted Rs6.6million cheque in favour of NAB. According to the NAB, funds were transferred into Ayaz Siddiqui's account from M/s Wudood Engineering Services. It is to be mentioned here that Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah is also nominated in the reference and he had been quizzed by the graft-buster body in the case. NAB alleged that several companies won contracts worth billions of rupees for the Roshan Sindh project by paying bribes. The inquiry into this scandal is among others taking place as part of the fake accounts case probe.

Six suspects
granted bail
in IBA case

DNA

KARACHI: The six suspects arrested in the Karachi University-IBA harassment case were granted bail on Friday morning by the District West judicial magistrate. The young men have to pay sureties of Rs20,000 each. All six are the sons of non-teaching staff of Karachi University. They and four others stalked two IBA students on campus and tried to force them to stop their car and pull a young woman in the car out. The four others are reportedly not associated with the varsity and used to come there to use the free Wi-Fi. The Mobina Town police have recorded the statement of Shaheer Ali, the male student who was harassed. A case has also been lodged. The suspects were not able to be identified through CCTV footage as it was too dark and the cameras were installed too high.



ISLAMABAD: Inspector General Islamabad Police Amir Zulfiqar, DIG Syed Waqar Uddin, AIG Haroon Joia, President ICCI Sardar Yasir Ilyas and Former President ICCI Zafar Bakhtawari are standing in the honor of national anthem at the launching ceremony of Islamabad's Aerial Drone Surveillance by Islamabad Police. DNA

HR organizes awareness session on
child rights, prevention of child abuse

The participants were encouraged to report cases on any kind of Child Abuse on the Ministry's helpline 1099 which is easily accessible to everyone. "The session was very good and I found it really helpful.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: To continue the Minister of Human Rights Dr. Shireen Mazari's mission to raise awareness of public about the rights of children and prevention from child abuse, the Ministry of Human Rights through its Human Rights Awareness Programme engaged 3 more child protection committees from Sabzi Mandi area, Meher Abadi and I-9 to inform them about the rights of children, and ways in which children

can be protected from child abuse through community based measures. The session was conducted at the Office of the Chairman, Market Committee, Sabzi Mandi I-11 Islamabad where the audience of 45 participants comprised of parents, civil society representatives, community leaders and media. Director General (IC), Ministry of Human Rights, Hassan Ali Mangi shared his views on child rights saying that the society must follow the guidelines of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and treat its children with love and care.

He further said that it's the duty of parents, society and the government to provide a safe space for the growth of children. He further encouraged community representatives to hold dialogue with children about child abuse. Adding to that he said that MoHR is committed to protect the rights of every child in Pakistan and the role of parents and teachers in sensitizing them and raising awareness on self-protection. Discussion was based around the rights of children in the constitution of Pakistan, protection of

child rights, role of MoHR and its pledge to protect the rights of every child in Pakistan. Participants were enlightened to encourage children to speak out whenever they feel uncomfortable with anyone whether it's the peer, family or someone at school. The members were also informed about newly passed bill of domestic labour under Schedule 1 of the Employment of Children Act 1991, in an effort to strengthen legislation pertaining to the issue as child domestic labour causes children physical, psychological,

moral and social harm. The participants were encouraged to report cases on any kind of Child Abuse on the Ministry's helpline 1099 which is easily accessible to everyone. "The session was very good and I found it really helpful. One of the most enjoyable and informative session I have ever attended. Thank you for organizing and a very special thanks to the great speaker. I learned different new aspects of child abuse and laws regarding child rights." Farah Chauhan Member Child Rights Committee.

Court grants Safdar
bail in sedition case

DNA

GUJRANWALA: A Gujranwala sessions court on Friday granted interim bail to Captain (retired) Muhammad Safdar Awan, the son-in-law of PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif, in a sedition case. He appeared before Additional Sessions Judge Arshad Mahmood who approved his bail plea and directed him to furnish surety bonds worth Rs50,000 to secure the bail. A first information report (FIR) was registered against Capt (retd) Safdar Awan and a PML-N MPA, Imran Khalid Butt, at a police station in Gujranwala's

Satellite Town. According to the FIR, Captain (retd) Safdar Awan had threatened to topple the government through protests and allegedly provoked people against the state and its institutions. Earlier, the Lahore High Court (LHC) had granted him protective bail until October 10 in the case. Justice Asjad Javed directed him to join investigation into the case and appear before the relevant Gujranwala court. In his plea, Muhammad Safdar termed the case political vengeance. He said he wanted to join police investigation into the case and requested the court to grant him protective bail.

No question of
mid-term elections,
says Ch. Sarwar

DNA

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar on Thursday said that mid-term elections were out of question and the opposition lived in a fool's paradise if it thought it could derail the government through protests, sit-ins and long march. Addressing a ceremony in connection with the National Disaster Day at the Governor's House here, he said the next general elections would be held in 2023, adding that doors of dialogue were always open in politics and democracy and government was open to dialogue with the

opposition on national issues. The Governor Punjab said the opposition leaders were free to hold private meetings and press conferences to exercise their democratic right, adding that nobody would be allowed to take law into hand. To a question, he said the government had already clarified that it had nothing to do with the treason case against the PML-N leadership, adding that he was personally opposed to the idea of calling somebody a traitor. "Setting aside the political differences, the PTI government has not issued a treason certificate to anybody as it is against the political vision of the party," he added.

Yasmin appeals to masses to avoid
public gatherings over COVID-19 fear

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Health Dr. Yasmin Rashid on Friday appealed to the masses to avoid participation in public gatherings amid fear that a second wave may hit the province, once again disrupting economic and day-to-day activities. "A gradual increase in COVID-19 cases is witnessed during the past week in Punjab," she said adding that a minimal increase in COVID-19 patients

is being witnessed across the Punjab hospitals recently. Dr. Yasmin Rashid said that they had overcome the virus cases in Punjab province after hectic efforts and any lapse or negligence during implementation upon the SOPs could ruin all such measures. "We have prepared SOPs to be followed during public gatherings," she said but appealed to the masses to refrain from attending such gatherings. The minister also asked the concerned authorities

to implement upon the virus-related SOPs in the educational institutes. While citing an example of the Sindh province, she said that the authorities there had already imposed lockdown in parts of the province after a sharp increase in cases. "Similar scenario could emerge in Punjab and could disturb the day to day routine," the Punjab health minister said. It is pertinent to mention here that Punjab on Thursday reported 124 new cases of COVID-19 with

two deaths by the disease in the last 24 hours. Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar in a statement today said that the province has 1521 active cases of coronavirus. He said Punjab has overall 10,02,72 cases of novel coronavirus, while 96,506 patients have recovered to health. "In the last 24 hours two patients died by COVID-19, while the total count of deaths by the disease in Punjab has been 2,247," the chief minister said.



PESHAWAR: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Gulzar Ahmed along with other judges of Supreme court planting a sapling tree in premises of Supreme court branch registry. — DNA

'Bundal island project to provide
investment opportunities'

The Passage Exercise covered various operational serials to enhance interoperability and augment collaborative efforts to ensuring practical maritime security in the region. PNS ZULFIQUAR is also deployed on Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP) in Gulf of Aden

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Governor Sindh Imran Ismail has said Bundal Island in Karachi will attract fifty billion US dollars' investment which will benefit country's overall economy. Addressing a news conference along with Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali

Haider Zaidi in Islamabad, he said federal government will take all the stakeholders on board to make this eco and environment friendly project. He said a working group will be established where there will be representation of provincial and federal governments and other relevant departments. The Governor said this project will create

job opportunities up to one

hundred and fifty thousand. He said a fish market with state of the art facilities will be provided to the fishermen and it will help boost the export in fishing sector. Imran Ismail said he will hold a meeting with Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah and will try to address reservations of Sindh government. He said Bundle Island will

increase revenue of Sindh government. It will also become a tourists' destination in the country. Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Haider Zaidi said the area of Bundal Island is under jurisdiction of Port Qasim Authority. He said Pakistan People's Party is trying to make it an issue unnecessarily.

LHC
dismisses
bail petition
of accused
of rape case

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday dismissed bail petition of an accused involved in a gang-rape case. The accused tried to flee from the court premises after dismissal of his bail petition but the police foiled the attempt and arrested him. The single bench comprising Justice Shehram Sarwar Chaudhry heard the pre arrest bail petition filed by Muhammad Ramzan.

A counsel on behalf of the complainant argued before the court that the accused, along with his two accomplices, raped a woman in Shorkot jungle. He submitted that the accused's DNA sample had matched with a sample obtained from the victim. He pleaded with the court to dismiss the bail petition. He also submitted that the police had not arrested the co-accused yet. However, the defence counsel argued that the police had registered a baseless case against his client. He pleaded with the court to grant benefit of the bail to him. The court, after hearing detailed arguments of the parties, dismissed the bail petition. — APP

Shehbaz's
family, 7
others on
ECL

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal authorities have put the names of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif's wife and two daughters on the Exit Control List (ECL) in the money laundering and assets beyond means case. The names were put on the no-fly list on the recommendation of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) following approval of the federal cabinet. Besides the three members of the Shehbaz family, the names of seven other people linked with the case were also placed on the ECL. On Aug 17, the national graft buster filed Rs7 billion money laundering and assets beyond means reference against the Shehbaz family, including his wife Nusrat Shehbaz, sons - Hamza Shehbaz and Suleman Shehbaz - and two daughters, Rabia Imran and Javeria Ali. Suleman is a proclaimed offender in the case. The other accused named in the reference include Nisar Ahmed, Syed Muhammad Tahir Naqvi, Ali Muhammad Khan, Qasim Qayyum, Rashid Karamat, Masroor Anwar. The bureau approved requests by Muhammad Mushtaq alias Mushtaq Cheeni, his son Yasir Mushtaq, Shahid Rafique, and Aftab to turn approvers against Shehbaz family in the case.

Human
trafficker,
bike lifters
arrested

SWABI: Swabi police in a successful action here Friday arrested a human trafficker associated with international network and handed over him to Human Trafficking Cell of FIA, Mardan for further action. A press release issued from the office of DPO Swabi said a police team headed by SHO Yaqar Hussain, SI Raz Muhammad conducted a raid and arrested the human trafficker named Bakht Munir, son of Rahimullah, resident of Dagai area. The arrest was made after a post was shared on social media regarding the death of a youth named Ziyad at the hands of human traffickers. The arrested accused was handed over to FIA Mardan. Meanwhile, taking action on directives of DPO Swabi, Imran Shahid, SDPO, Shaikat Khan constituted a team for the arrest of motorcycle thieves on complaints lodged by some local people. The police team led by SHO Zaidi, Inspector Akbar Ali Khan while working on scientific lines traced the bike lifters. The police succeeded in arresting the gang leader, Ayaz, resident of Dagai area and later on his identification arrested two other members of the gang identified as Muqaddas and Imtiaz, residents of the same area. — APP

Briefs

Police arrest two suspected dacoits

RAWALPINDI: Sadiqabad police on Friday claimed to have arrested two suspected dacoits during an encounter. According to police spokesman, Sadiqabad police intercepted two suspected motorcycles in Qayyumabad area but the suspected dacoits opened fire on the police. As a result, in cross firing, a suspected dacoit identified as Manzar alias Usama received bullet injuries and died. Police arrested two suspected dacoits namely Aftab and Kamran Shehzad while two others managed to escape from the scene. Police recovered weapons and other items from their possession and impounded a motorcycle being used by them. The spokesman informed that the suspected dacoits had remained jail birds and challaned in different cases. They were also allegedly involved in martyrdom of Police Constable Shahid Zameer who was killed in 2012. The gang was wanted in number of dacoities, robberies and cash snatching cases. Superintendent of Police (SP) Rawal Mazhar Iqbal said the suspected dacoits who managed to escape would also be sent behind the bars. City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younas appreciated immediate reaction of police and appreciated performance of SP Rawal and Sadiqabad police. — APP

1000 disabled recruited in depts: DC

RAWALPINDI: Around 1000 disabled have been recruited in government and private departments to provide them opportunity to earn livelihood, said Deputy Commissioner Capt (ret) Anwar-ul-Haq here Friday. Chairing a meeting to review the process of recruiting the disabled, he said adequate facilities were being provided to the disabled by the Punjab government and directed the officials to ensure payment of their salaries in time. The DC directed the officials to recruit the minor disabled persons in anti-dengue/polio squads while recommendations to provide more facilities to disabled would be brought into the knowledge of high officials as govt was committed to provide them opportunities to earn their livelihood in a respectful manner. — APP

One killed, four injured in separate incidents

ATTOCK: One person was killed and four other were injured in separate road incidents in various parts of Attock and Taxila on Friday. In first incident, one motorcyclist was killed and his two friends sustained serious injuries as a speedy dumper recklessly driven by unknown driver rammed over them near railway crossing on Rawalpindi-Kohat road in limits of Jand Police station. Hospital and Police sources said that 22 years old Haris Nawaz was died on the spot while his friends 18 years old Hammad Ahmed and 30 years old Adil Mehmood were injured critically. The driver of the dumper managed to escape from the scene. In second incident, two persons were injured as their car turned turtle due to over speeding on Islamabad-Peshawar motorway (M-1) near Ghazi interchange in limits of Hazro police station. Both the persons on board were trapped in the wreckage that were retrieved after cutting the body of the car and shifted to Rawalpindi due to their critical condition. Respective police registered separate cases.



ISLAMABAD: SSP Anti terrorism Mustafa giving briefing about Drone introduced by Islamabad Police to President ICCI Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Khalid Choudhry Former SVP-ICCI & Saif ur Rehman Khan Former VP ICCI. — DNA

ICCI for duty free import of furniture machinery

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan emphasized that SBP should issue loans on easy terms for the furniture sector business community to enable this industry to flourish and become competitive in the international market

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that Pakistan has a great potential to promote the export of furniture products as the trained and skilled manpower to manufacture high quality furniture products is already available in Pakistan. However, due to the lack of modern machinery, the furniture industry has not yet developed up to its full potential, while China is far ahead of Pakistan due to modern machinery. Therefore, he called upon the government to allow duty free import

of furniture machinery so that this industry can grow to its full potential and play a more effective role in boosting exports and stabilizing the economy. He was addressing as chief guest at the oath taking ceremony of Furniture Market Trade Unions, Golra More, Islamabad. Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Ajmal Baloch President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajiran, Ejaz Abbasi former President ICCI, Khalid Choudhry former SVP ICCI, Taj Abbasi President All Pakistan Furniture Association and Zahid Hussain Chairman, Ch. Irfan, Akhtar Abbasi and others were also present at the occasion. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan emphasized that SBP should issue loans on easy terms for the furniture

sector business community to enable this industry to flourish and become competitive in the international market. He appealed to the Chairman CDA Amir Ali Ahmed to take immediate steps for resolving the key issues including of Golra Furniture Market including street lights and parking facility. Ajmal Baloch, President, All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajiran, said since the establishment of MCI, there has been no development works in the markets in the last four years due to which the condition of markets has deteriorated. He said that with the sunset and spread of darkness in Golra Market, incidents start happening in the evening while the street

lights and parking department have come under the custody of CDA and hoped that CDA would address these issues. The newly elected President of Golra Market Trade Union Farhan Khan and Secretary General Sheikh Kashif speaking at the occasion, thanked the guests and said that Golra Market is within the boundaries of Islamabad but CDA and MCI are not ready to accept it. Due to this situation, the problems of the market are increasing. He demanded that Golra Market be considered a part of the federal capital and CDA should start development works in the market. All Pakistan Furniture Association President Taj Abbasi and Chairman Zahid said that the ICCI Pres-

ident was well aware of the problems of the furniture industry and hoped that he would play an active role in resolving them. They said that there was an urgent need for a furniture mart in Islamabad so CDA should provide land for it. They assured Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan that full cooperation would be extended to the Chamber for organizing Furniture Expo. They expressed concern over the rising prices of foam and demanded that the government should take notice of its cartel to save people from high inflation. They further said that the imposition of sales tax on furniture showrooms with a covered area of one thousand square yards would be an injustice so the government should avoid it.

ABAD playing vital role in agriculture sector: Chief

Qurat ul Ain said, as many as 40 projects at the cost of Rs 9 billion have been completed which include Barani Area Project, Small Dam Umbrella Project, Barani Area Development Project and Barani Village Development Project

DNA

ATTOCK: Agency for Barani Area Development (ABAD) has been playing vital role for the development of agriculture sector and prosperity of the farmers. Chief ABAD Qurat ul Ain Irshad said this while addressing a seminar which was held on launch of project "Rehabilitation of Mini Dams and Ponds" which will cost Rs 300 million. Farmers belonging to different areas of the Attock district attended the seminar. Chief ABAD said that since establishment of this agency, billions have been spent in agriculture sector and for the prosperity of the farmers. She said more than 1200 small dams and ponds have been built in Rawalpindi Division districts which include Attock, Jhelum, Chakwal and Rawal-

pindi. While talking about the new project she said that for the rehabilitation of dams and ponds so for Rs 166 million have been released. She said under the program, govt will pay 80 percent cost for the rehabilitation of dams and ponds to farmers. Chief said, for the development of live stock, different projects have been completed while skill development has also been done for the self employment.

Qurat ul Ain said, as many as 40 projects at the cost of Rs 9 billion have been completed which include Barani Area Project, Small Dam Umbrella Project, Barani Area Development Project and Barani Village Development Project. While informing farmers about the future projects she said that at the cost of Rs 10 billion a new project will soon be launched in 13 districts of the Punjab which will help improve agriculture sector and farmers will become prosperous.



HSSC Special Exams from Oct 15

ISLAMABAD: FBISE has announced to conduct Special Annual Examination 2020 of the HSSC from October, 15. According to an announcement on Friday, FBISE stated that roll number slips of the candidates appearing in the said examination have been dispatched at the addresses given by the students in the admission forms. In case, the roll number slip is not received by any candidate, he/she should download the same from the FBISE Website i.e www.fbise.edu.pk. The downloaded roll number slips will be acceptable at the examination centre, it added. It was further informed that in case of any difficulty in this regard, the candidates may contact the following officers of the board. The contact numbers are included Controller Exams (Conduct) 051-9269506, Director One Window Cell 051-9269577, Deputy Controller Exams 051-9269519, Deputy Secretary (OWC) 051-9269551, Assistant Controller Exams 051-9269542 and Superintendent (SSC Conduct) 051-9269555. — APP

Pak successfully overcomes locusts: Fakhar

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam Friday said that due to dedicated work done by all the concerned stakeholders, Pakistan remained successful in controlling locusts. "The challenge of locust was no doubt enormous but it was met extraordinarily well with coordinated efforts of the NLCC, provincial governments, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and of course the villagers of the affected areas," he said while chairing a meeting here at the National Locust Control Center (NLCC). The minister also commended the efforts by all stakeholders including the leadership, common people and concerned international institutions such as Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) who played vital role in Locust controlling. He said due to timely deployment of equipments and other resources by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) the country managed to avoid any major loss. Fakhar Imam said about 63 districts of the country including 10 each from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh and almost all districts of Balochistan were affected by the locust attack and for the first time in 60 years, locust swarms entered the country from Afghanistan via FATA region and Dera Ismail Khan that was unexpected. Furthermore, he said it was also for the first time that locust settled in cropped areas of Balochistan while in routine, it used to settle in desert areas. "Despite difficulties at economic front, every Pakistani citizen, institutions and leadership played due role in meeting the challenge, and this can be a case study how the locust was controlled." The minister also stressed the need for promoting agriculture based economy in the country saying that the ministry was in constant touch with the provinces to formulate such policies that would help development of the sector. — APP

Opening ceremony of Divvy Film Festival held

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Director General, Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA), Fauzia Saeed on Friday said PNCA was striving hard for revival of film & Cinema in Pakistan by taking various steps to boost film industry. Addressing the participants at the opening ceremony of the Divvy PNCA film Festival, she informed that PNCA announced a Film Diploma Course which aimed to streamline film industry on modern lines. She said that this Film festival will include more than 20 independent films, documentaries, feature films, short films, fiction films and animations. She said that the festival will celebrate the breadth and depth of independent films being made by dedicated and talented filmmakers. She said that certain films will be premiering for the first time in the Festival adding that each Friday evening has been carefully curated to create a thoughtful experience for the viewer with a film making discussion. On inaugural day, Song of Lahore, by Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy, Darling by Saim Sadiq, Burka Avenger anti-cult by Haroon, and K2 and the Invisible Footmen by Iara Lee were screened.

People's problems to be resolved: DC

ABBOTABAD: Deputy Commissioner, Muhammad Mughis Sanauallah on Friday held an open court (Khuli Kachehri) to resolve problems of masses at their doorsteps. Addressing the forum, the DC said the district administration was committed to extending relief to residents by resolving their problems at earliest and directed the department concerned to take immediate measures to this effect. The open court held in Government High School Sheron in Lower Tanawal was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Relief, Muhammad Abid, Additional Assistant Commissioner Revenue Asif Iqbal, officials of relevant departments besides people from different walks of life. The participants raised different issues pertaining to revenue department, education, forest, health, TMA and Wapda etc. The deputy commissioner said that doors of his office were open for the people and assured them of prompt resolution of their problems. He said that those public complaints which were related to the provincial or the federal departments would be referred to relevant authorities for further action. — APP

Former Justice donates Rs 1 mn

RAWALPINDI: Former Judge Lahore High Court (LHC) Justice (R) Ibad ur Rehman here on Friday donated Rs 1 million for the construction of lawyers' hospital. The cheque has been handed over to LHC Bar Association in the presence of lawyers community. Meanwhile Executive Committee of LHCBA on the occasion appreciated and thanked the honorable Justice for his valuable contribution. — APP

AC accepts plea bargain request of accused

ISLAMABAD: An Accountability Court (AC) on Friday accepted the plea bargain request of an accused Ayaz Sadiqui in a reference pertaining to Sindh Koshan Programme connected with fake accounts scam. AC-I Judge Muhammad Bashir conducted the hearing on the corruption reference filed by National Accountability Bureau (NAB). During course of proceedings, the NAB prosecutor informed the court that the accused had submitted a pay order worth Rs6.6 million as plea bargain. The NAB chairman had given approval for the plea bargain with the accused. — APP

'Poultry sector vital for economic growth'

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has organized an awareness seminar in connection with World Egg Day at Chamber House Rawalpindi here on Friday. Dr. Hassan Sarosh, former Chairman Pakistan Poultry Association (PPA) who was chief guest on the occasion in his address said that the poultry industry was playing a crucial role in ensuring food security in the country and emphasized that use of poultry products should be further promoted in order to end the problem of stunted growth in growing children. More awareness and information must be spread among the masses with respect to the nutritional val-

ue of eggs and its importance for human health, he added. Earlier, addressing the seminar RCCI President Nasir Mirza said that concrete steps must be taken to promote and uplift the Poultry sector as it contributes 40% of the

total meat consumption. The poultry sector generates employment and provides a source of income to more than 1.5 million people of Pakistan directly & indirectly, he added. To promote poultry sector being

a vital segment of Livestock the Government must reduce taxes in revision of import duties, additional import taxes, and sales tax on poultry feed ingredients, plant and machinery etc, he demanded. Nasir Mirza, while referring to

recent nutrition survey results from the World Bank said that Pakistan is included in countries where severe stunting (44%) in young children is found and is at alarming level and increased consumption of eggs can help overcome this issue. The participants were informed that the Pakistan's poultry industry is producing more than 17,500 million table eggs per annum against per capita consumption of 88 eggs annually. The developed countries consume 300 eggs per capita per annum. A large number of members, representatives from PPA, Academia and civil society attended the session. Later, the chief guest distributed certificates among the winners of the cooking competition in connection with World Egg Day.



Briefs

Outlaws held for gas refilling illegally

RAWALPINDI: The City police in its ongoing crackdown against outlaws netted three accused for gas refilling illegally and driving motorbikes recklessly, informed a Police spokesman on Friday. According to details, a Police team under the supervision of SHO, Westridge Police Station conducted a raid and nabbed Qaiser Zaman on the charges of gas refilling illegally and seized gas filling instruments, cylinders from his custody. Meanwhile, Jatli PS apprehended Atif Mehmood while Kallar Saydian Police nabbed Qaiser Abbas for driving motorbikes recklessly. Police have registered separate cases against all of them and started investigation. — APP

Medicinal imports increase 2.81% in 2 months

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The imports of medicinal products witnessed an increase of 2.81 during the first two months of current financial year 2020-21 as compared to the imports of corresponding period of last fiscal year. Pakistan imported medicinal products of worth US \$171.326 million during July-August 2020-21 as compared to the imports of US \$166.648 million during July-August 2019-20, showing growth of 2.81 percent, according to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, Pakistan imported 3,459 metric tons of medicinal products during the period under review as compared to the imports of 3,777 metric tons during corresponding period of last year, showing decrease of 8.42 percent in term of quantity. On year-on year basis, the import of medicinal products decreased of 5.32 percent in August 2020, as compared to the imports of the same month of last year. The medicinal products imports during August 2020 were recorded at US \$81.989 million against the imports of US \$86.600 million in August 2019. On month-on-month basis, the medicinal imports also decreased by 8.23 percent during August 2020 as compared to the imports of \$89.3375 million in July 2020, the PBS data revealed.

'Government attaches great importance to postal services'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed on Friday said that the present government attaches great importance to the improvement of postal services and transparent governance. In a message, on the occasion of World Post Day, he said that Postal sector plays a commendable role in financial services at affordable rates aimed at narrowing the financial inclusion gap as well meeting the evolving needs of its customers irrespective of all physical barriers. "Being aware of the challenges of the digital world of today, Pakistan Post has also adopted a progressive and forward looking approach to make Pakistan Post a financially viable and self-sustaining digital entity," he added. He said that Universal Postal Union (UPU) is a chain which connects people and communities, adding that it helps to sustain the flow of information, facilitate the movement of goods across the frontiers. The minister said that in order to meet the challenges brought forth by the monumental changes in the field of information technology, postal services throughout the world have transformed and adapted themselves to these technology driven changes and have survived in the ever changing competitive environment of today. "Post has five million employees force and a network of 670,000 outlets around the world," he added. Murad Saeed said that our government is helping Pakistan Post as public service organization to contribute in national economy, adding that it has a history of more than 160 years including pre-partition and present Pakistan as service providing organization having the largest network in every nook and corner of the country. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, president, Islamabad chamber of commerce and industry administering oath to Farhan Khan, president, Sheikh Kashif secretary general and other newly elected office bearers and members of Golra furniture market trade union. M. Ijaz Abbasi, Ajmal Balouch, Taj Abbasi, Zahid Hussain, Khalid Chaudhry and others are also in picture. — DNA

Imran Khan to promote trade and strengthen bilateral relationships

UK Pakistan Business Council has taken practical steps in this regard. Ata-ul-Haq, General Secretary UK Pakistan Business Council, said that his visit to Pakistan was aimed at strengthening public-private partnership and promoting mutual trade cooperation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of UK Pakistan Business Council led by President of Pakistan Chapter Khurshid Barlas called on Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Ahmed Chaudhry in Islamabad. Secretary General of UK Pakistan Business Council Ata-ul-Haq and Adnan Ahmed were present on the occasion. Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Ahmed Chaudhry said that Pakistan and the United Kingdom have great potential for boosting bilateral cooperation and trade relations, and Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision is to promote regional trade with all countries, Khurshid Barlas said. The activities of the UK Pakistan Business Council have been continued in the form of zoom meetings. Ata-ul-Haq, Secretary General, UK Pakistan Business Council, said that Pakistan and the UK would be able to provide all possible information on trade and introduce their products to Pakistani and British businessmen. Opportunities will be provided for which contacts are ongoing at all levels.



WSW 2020 holds webinars, programs to educate people

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Like other parts of the globe, World Space Week (WSW) 2020 will conclude on Oct 10 (tomorrow) across the globe including Pakistan under the theme "Satellites Improve Life" due to the COVID-19 pandemic". Pakistan also observed WSW through arranging virtual activities like webinars, discussion programs and competitions to educate the younger

generation about the contribution of space technology for betterment of human condition. SUPARCO being the National Space Agency of Pakistan had celebrated World Space Week every year with a number of activities since the year 2005. World Space Week celebrated to commemorate the launch of earth's first human-made satellite, Sputnik I, on October 4, 1957 and the signing of the Outer Space Treaty on October 10, 1967. On

December 6, 1999, The United Nations General Assembly declared World Space Week as an annual event celebration to be commemorated from October 4-10. World Space Week is the largest annual space event in the world. In 2019, World Space Week was celebrated with over 8,000 events in 96 countries. Events included school activities, exhibitions, government events, and special activities at planetaria around the world.

One killed, four injured in separate incidents

ATTOCK: One person was killed and four other were injured in separate road incidents in various parts of Attock and Taxila on Friday. In first incident, one motorcyclist was killed and his two friends sustained serious injuries as a speedy dumper recklessly driven by unknown driver rammed over them near railway crossing on Rawalpindi-Kohat road in limits of Jand Police station. — DNA

'BISP moving on to dynamic digital Ecosystem'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, Dr. Sania Nishtar said Benazir Income Support Program is moving swiftly on a dynamic digital Ecosystem for facilitating deserved people in the country. During a meeting with Managing Director National Telecommunication Corporation, Brig (R) Viqar

Rashid Khan in Islamabad today (Friday), she said that use of technology has increased transparency and effectiveness of program launched by the government to eradicate the poverty. Sania Nishtar also visited National Data Center at NTC and appreciated the performance and support of NTC for providing necessary access and Data Center facilities for initiatives taken by Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division and BISP.

Sanjrani stresses for enhancing cotton production

Cotton was a trade mark of Pakistan. Good quality cotton was produced in Pakistan which subsequently ensured products of high quality cloth exports. He emphasized the need for coordination between the Ministries and organisations involved in the agriculture sector

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of a four-members delegation of Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association was held with Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here at the Parliament House on Friday. The delegation was led by Dr. Jaso Mall T. Limani, Chairman Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association. The members of the delegation briefed the Chairman Senate about substantial decrease in the cultivation and production of cotton crop in Pakistan. The delegation informed Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani that about 15 million bales of cotton were produced in Pakistan which have declined to around 7 million mainly due to decrease in cotton cultivation and production. The production has dropped that low due to unavailability of quality

seeds and modern machinery. As a result the trend of cultivating alternative crops has increased among the farmers who have started cultivating other crops in cotton areas. They were of the view that situation can't improve until new varieties of quality seeds and modern machinery is made available to the cotton farmers. In order

to increase the cultivation and production of cotton, there is an urgent need of a full attention of the concerned institutions for provision of new varieties of seeds through dedicated research on modern lines. Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani while expressing concern on the decline in cotton cultivation and production

in the country said that cotton was a trade mark of Pakistan. Good quality cotton was produced in Pakistan which subsequently ensured products of high quality cloth exports. He emphasized the need for coordination between the Ministries and organisations involved in the agriculture sector, including the Ministry of Commerce,

the Ministry of National Food Security and Agricultural Research Departments and stressed that the private sector should be involved in increasing the research in production of quality seed paving the way for cultivation and production of cotton in the country. Chairman Senate tasked Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi, Chairman,

Senate Standing Committee on Commerce, to prepare a comprehensive report in consultation with the concerned ministries and research institutes to assess the decline in cotton production and exports. Suggestions for increasing cotton cultivation and production can be sought from all stakeholders. Chairman Senate said that new varieties of cotton seeds and access of modern machinery to the common farmers could improve the cultivation and production. He said that cotton was being cultivated in Punjab, Sindh but trend has emerged in Balochistan as well but there is a dire need for a coordinated strategy to increase production. Chairman Senate was accompanied by Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Commerce Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi and Senator Dr. Ashok Kumar.



Acting classes start today

ISLAMABAD: Theater Wally will start acting classes titled "Explore Your Talent" to provide the students with practical experience about acting from October 10.

In collaboration with Rung School of Music and Arts, the classes are being aimed to get good understanding of acting as an art, a medium and a career.

Students will be presented with a detailed and unique study plan, culminating in a live performance as well as the opportunity to perform in a well publicized web-series. According to the official, students would receive specialist training in voice, movement emotive skills adding that this course would equip the students with the skills they would need to become a professional actor.

It will include studying various schools of acting and discuss the challenges of understanding a character and portraying it in more than one way. Difference between stage, TV and screen acting will also be underlined with theoretical and practical assignments, he said. He added that it will be a 3-months course that will cover all aspects of a theater performance. The participants will also be asked to go out and choose characters which they will then portray before the class.

In addition, this course will help the students in gaining confidence in performing in front of a live audience, he said. He said that anyone and everyone should attend these basic level acting classes even if they are not planning to adopt acting as career. The Acting Classes will help you gain confidence to speak before a bunch of people, and help you get rid of self-consciousness and body stiffness, he stated. — APP

Motor cycles imports reduced by 49.57%

ISLAMABAD: Motor cycles imports during first two months of current fiscal year reduced by 49.57 per cent as compared to the corresponding period of the last year. According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Friday, the Motor Cycles imports came down from \$13,337 thousand in FY 2019-20 of last financial year to \$6,726 thousand of the same period of current financial year. During the period of July-Aug 20 this year, imports of Buses, Trucks and Oth. Heavy vehicles reduced by 42.20%, worth \$26,999 thousand as compared to the imports valuing \$46,710 thousand of same period of last year, it added. Meanwhile, Motor Cars imports decreased by 31.40%, worth \$84,343 thousand as compared to the imports of valuing \$122,953 thousand of the corresponding period of last year. During the period under review, Parts and Accessories imports also came down by 39.81%, valuing \$37,710 thousand imported as compared to the imports worth \$62,653 thousand of same period of last year. — APP

NCHD to assess COVID-19 impacts

ISLAMABAD: Chairman, National Commission for Human Development (NCHD), Col © Amirullah Marwat on Friday said that a nationwide survey would be conducted in 41 districts covering 16,400 households to assess the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. Talking to APP, he said that NCHD has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Islamic Rescue Committee (IRC-IVAP) in this regard. He said that the survey would provide the knowledge about the extent of vulnerability across geographic and various demographics. He said that this comprehensive analysis would provide an understanding how, why and the context in which humans and communities respond allowed to anticipate unwanted scenarios and initiate mitigating measures. "The analysis will generate information that will be evidence for strategic planning, program implementation and response monitoring during COVID-19 outbreak" he said. Chairman, NCHD said that it was very important to have situation analysis by conducting a comprehensive assessment, adding that it would help the government in understating the overall impact and the proportion of population at risk. — APP

World Bank report

THE World Bank does not paint a flattering picture of Pakistan's economy in its report on South Asia, predicting a mere 0.5 percent growth in the current fiscal year, as opposed to the official target of 2.5 percent, which is already anemic enough, well below the 4 percent averaged in the three years prior to 2018-19, which was the first year of the present PTI government. The World Bank said that the whole region had experienced an increase in poverty because of the covid-19 depression. One of the effects of the depression is the bottoming out of workers' remittances, predicted to come down by 8.8 percent this year, thus contradicting the government claims that the remittances of the first couple of months of the fiscal showed that there was an economic turnaround. Another worrisome indicator was the rising public debt, and thus the need to fund it by further loans. This would be unsustainable, and combined with collapsing remittances, would lead to the sort of balance of payments deficit that bedeviled the government at the beginning of its tenure. It seems that the government has put more effort into enhancing its optics, and not enough into actually improving the economy. The government must remember that it cannot use the covid-19 pandemic as an excuse for its poor performance as an economic manager. The young people unable to get jobs in a sluggish economy, or their parents, who struggle to make ends meet, and count themselves lucky if they still have jobs, are not going to forgive the present government when election time comes around. Perhaps the report's most damaging prediction is that the sluggish growth for the next five years, which would go well past the current tenure, in which less than three years are now left. While people generally vote with their pocketbooks, it is not as if the present government is brimming over with so many achievements that it can afford to treat the economy as casually as it does now.

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A scarred economy

THE chief of the International Monetary Fund, Kristalina Georgieva, has said that while the world's economy has suffered deeply as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the downturn and the long-term impact may not be as bad as had been originally feared. She has attributed this largely to the \$12 trillion put under the floor of the world's economy to support firms and households. But she has warned that the developing world could be confronted by a lost generation that has missed out on education, job opportunities, and other chances in life. This is the scenario we are seeing in Pakistan and which many fear will have a long-term impact. The World Bank has warned Pakistan about external financing risks that could be compounded by difficulties in rolling-over bilateral debt from non-traditional donors and tighter international financing conditions. A World Bank report says that a possible resurgence of the coronavirus, triggering a new wave of global and/or domestic lockdowns and further delaying the implementation of critical structural reforms, is a major factor in possible risks to Pakistan's economy. However, the words of the IMF chief offer at least some reassurance. We certainly hope the world can make a recovery, but exactly how it will engineer this and what measures it will take to make the recovery possible is still far from certain. Economies too have all suffered from the decline in the quality of jobs and the fact that so many businesses have been forced to pull down their shutters. Here in Pakistan we can see that in many places, with businesses and industry laying off workers in many sectors. The problem is not one that can disappear immediately. But if the IMF chief is confident that it has been halted and that some recovery can be made in the years ahead, this is encouraging for all of us, no matter where we live. The crisis was shared in common. It is now time for the developed world to help countries which are less able to help themselves.

Hindutva: State-sanctioned pogrom

Dr M Ali Hamza



The anti-non-Hindu campaign that is openly directed to Indian Muslims is gaining pace in a different manner. The Modi's plan is creeping into IOK. Last year on August 5, when India revoked the semi-autonomous status of the IOK, it also scrapped the local special citizenship law, guaranteed under Article 35 (A) of the Indian constitution. Since then, up to 25,000 Hindus have been granted domicile certificates in Indian-administered Kashmir

DESPITE being the country's largest religious-minority, India's Muslim communities have been frequently subjected to violent attacks and assault by right-wing Hindu nationalists. Earlier these attacks were characterized as communal conflict between Hindu and Muslim populations. However, with the rise of Hindu-nationalism, the attacks have become more systematic, taking the shape of state-sanctioned pogroms. Few examples of Muslim atrocities in India are: the riots of Kolkata in 1964 displaced 70, 000 Muslims. Muslims in Kolkata became more isolated and segregated than ever before in the aftermath of this riot. In the Nellie massacre of 1983, 1800 Muslims were slaughtered and the incident is described as one of the most severe massacres since World War II with the majority of victims being women and children. Orchestrated by Shiv Sena: a Hindu nationalist group led by Bal Thackeray, caused Bombay riots of 1992. Who can forget the Gujarat violence? In 2002, an incident described as an act of "fascistic state terror", Hindu extremists under the leadership of monstrous Modi carried out acts of violence against the Muslim minority population and killed more than 2000 Muslims. Latest Delhi riots of 2020, which left 53 Muslims dead and more than 200 seriously injured. The riots were triggered against a citizenship law; another offering by Hindu fascist Modi. A law that has been seen by as anti-Muslim and some columnists referred to these riots as a pogrom. The anti-non-Hindu campaign that is openly directed to Indian Muslims is gaining pace in a different manner. The Modi's plan is creeping into IOK (Indian Occupied Kashmir). Last year on August 5, when India revoked the semi-autonomous status of the IOK, it also scrapped the local special citizenship law, guaranteed under Article 35 (A) of the Indian constitution. Since then, up to 25,000 Hindus have been granted domicile certificates in Indian-administered Kashmir, raising fears of the beginning of demographic changes in the Muslim-majority

Himalayan region. The issuance of domicile certificate is certainly the beginning of the end. This is the beginning of Kashmir becoming another Palestine. This demographic shift is in fact Muslim cleansing and an open purge. Behind this purge is the Hindutva mindset. It is vital to comprehend the essential philosophy of Hindutva. According to Merriam-Webster's Encyclopedia of World Religions, Hindutva is a concept of "Indian cultural, national, and religious identity". The term combines a geographically based religious, cultural, and national distinctiveness: a true 'Indian' is one who participates in 'Hindu-ness'. A staunch Bengali Hindu, Chandranath Basu founded the principals of Hindutva. Later the Hindutva campaign was championed by the Hindu nationalist volunteer organization Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and other organisations, collectively called the Sangh Parivar. The term was popularized by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, also known as Veer Savarkar: an Indian independence activist and politician who propagated the Hindu nationalist philosophy of Hindutva. An ideological brochure by Savarkar; originally published in 1923 under the title Essentials of Hindutva, and reprinted as Hindutva: Who Is a Hindu? reprinted in 1928. Savarkar's brochure forms part of the list of works published during British rule that later influenced post-independence contemporary Hindu nationalism. Hindus, according to Savarkar, are those who consider India to be the land in which their ancestors lived, as well as the land in which their religion originated. He advocated the creation of a Hindu

state in that sense. Sarvakar used "Hinduism" as a comprehensive term that includes all religions originated on Indian land and outlines the vision of a "Hindu Rashtra" (Hindu Nation) as "Akhand Bharat" (Undivided India) that ranges across the entire Indian subcontinent. Some Indians, who claim to be secular, insist, however, that Hindutva is primarily a cultural term to refer to the traditional and indigenous heritage of the Indian nation-state, and they compare the relationship between Hindutva and India to that of Zionism and Israel. This view of these seculars carry no weight, because as summarized by Merriam-Webster's Encyclopedia of World Religions, holds that "even those who are not religiously Hindu but whose religions originated in India like Jains, Buddhists, Sikhs, and others, share in this historical, cultural, and national essence. Those whose religions were imported to India, meaning primarily the country's Muslim and Christian communities, may fall within the boundaries of Hindutva only if they subsume themselves into the majority culture. It simply means that Muslims should withdraw from their religious belief and binding. Is this explanation by Merriam-Webster's Encyclopedia of World Religions not referring to Hindutva as a purge? Mr. Modi has transformed India into Hindutva driven rouge and irresponsible state. His Govt. trampled fundamental norms and rules of international laws to advance Hindutva ideology. But are the sane minds in India have also turned irresponsible to these inhuman acts? Have Indians' bigger majority converted into Sangh Parivar, that dreams of Akhand Bahart through a purge? Are common Indians' not worried about their identity slipping into future as insane and ridiculously nationalist mob? This is a time for sane Indians to shut-up Mr Modi, shut-down Hindutva ideology, shackle-up groups like RSS and shun Muslim persecution and bizarre state sanctioned pogrom, particularly in IOK and generally within the boundaries of India.

Payam-e-Pakistan: Gateway to end of sectarianism!

Attiya Munawer



The code of conduct also states that no one has the right to declare a person affiliated with the government, armed forces, and law enforcement agencies as an infidel and the movements of linguistic, regional, religious, and sectarian prejudices against the state will be avoided. In a meeting chaired by the Minister of Religious Affairs

THE religion of Islam recognizes the usefulness and necessity of differences of opinion within a permissible limit and our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) called this scholarly dissent a mercy, but this difference of opinion in scholarly matters should be made only for the purpose of explaining religious matters in good faith. The role it has played in the development and rise of the Islamic nation and in the promotion and dissemination of Islamic knowledge is a part of our scientific and national history that we can be justly proud of it, but the aspect of discord which divided the Nation of Islam into different warring groups has always been condemned and is still condemned today. The background of all the conflicts that have divided the Muslim Ummah into warring sects has been political, not scientific, and religious. If any attempt is made to expose the causes and motives of such conflicts, then the conspiracy of the enemies is clearly reflected in the background. There is no doubt that anti-Muslim forces have taken advantage of sectarian divisions and whenever the Nation of Islam seems to be moving towards a common goal, the enemy's secret hand has sparked the sectarian strife among Muslims. In this regard, foreign conspiracies are being hatched in Pakistan to spread unrest through sectarianism. Therefore, a meeting of representatives of all religious schools of thought was organized by the Islamic Ideological Council under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Pir Noor-ul-Haq Qadri. In the meeting, the adoption of a 20-point Unified Code of Conduct for the promotion of professional harmony is a very important and timely step, the need for which was acutely

felt, as hostile forces are constantly pursuing national security and are engaged in nefarious conspiracies vicious conspiracies to disrupt peace and order on regional, ethnic and sectarian grounds, for which such a code of conduct was indispensable. The code of conduct signed by these scholars makes it clear that no school of thought will be allowed to make baseless accusations and hate speech against others. No one will be able to insult the Holy Prophets, the Righteous Caliphs, and the Companions. The code of conduct also states that no one has the right to declare a person affiliated with the government, armed forces, and law enforcement agencies as an infidel and the movements of linguistic, regional, religious, and sectarian prejudices against the state will be avoided. In a meeting chaired by the Minister of Religious Affairs, the representatives of all schools of thought have pledged in writing to adhere to the code of conduct. However, the scholars, madrasa administration, intellectuals, and civil society must unite against extremism and hostile elements that promote sectarian religious violence to spread unrest in the country. At present, the enemy seeks to destroy national unity through sectarianism. In order to thwart this conspiracy, it is necessary that the scholars of all schools of thought, following the guidelines of the government, effectively inform people, and promote unity among them. It should be kept in mind that the anti-national forces can succeed in their nefarious activities through our mutual hypocrisy, therefore, as a Muslim and a follower of the High Imam, thwart the nefarious intentions of such elements by going beyond professional affiliation. Let us forget our differences and unite against the anti-Islamic and anti-patriotic forces and

give a full and blunt answer to the negative propaganda against Islam and Pakistan. We need to understand the fact that the survival of Islam and its rise is not in sectarianism and factional differences, but in mutual unity and solidarity. It is gratifying that the scholars representing all sects and schools of thought have tried to understand the security needs of the issue along with the social aspect, but have also assured to play their role in improving the current situation. At present, sectarian hatred can be a major threat to a state plagued by terrorism, economic woes, corruption, and political instability. The guarantor of the end of this sectarianism is the message of Pakistan which is also the message of Islam. However, anti-national elements are openly sending the message that Pakistan will be destabilized through sectarian riots. The unfortunate aspect of this whole situation is that some ignorant people become instruments of these conspiracies. The irresponsible attitude of the ruling political parties is incomprehensible and despite knowing the deteriorating situation in the region, they are making serious fatwa-like allegations against the security agencies and government figures in order to save their hereditary politics, while the state of Pakistan is active on many internal and external fronts at the same time. Scholars and intellectuals have always played a positive role in safeguarding the interests of the state, but the state and scholars need to create as many opportunities as possible where scholars of all sects not just sit together, but even explain the common strategy to fight the anti-Islamic forces. The tactics of the enemy are aimed at dividing us. So, if we remain united, the enemy will fail on its own and that is the message of Pakistan.

Briefs

PM Imran says no relief to opposition

From Page 01

Shireen Mazari was crying," he joked as the audience laughed. Taking another swipe at the PML-N, the prime minister mocked leader Talal Chaudhry over a recent incident in which he was roughed up.

"A senior leader of their party [PML-N] went for 'organisational restructuring' to a lady's house at 3:00 am in the night. He's then going around wondering her brothers beat him up," he mocked. Reiterating his unflinching stance that the government will never give any legal relief to the opposition, PM Imran Khan said the country had been destroyed because retired Gen Pervez Musharraf had extended favours to the PML-N and the PPP a decade ago. PM Imran Khan said the real reason Nawaz always had problems with the military leadership was because they know about his crimes. "He wants to control the ISI because they always find out about his corruption," he said. "They're the number one agency in the world." "This is why Nawaz Sharif fights with every army chief - he wants to turn Pakistan Army into Punjab Police."

Pakistan Army supports Azerbaijan's stand

From Page 01

The ambassador had also informed the gathering that his country wanted to settle the issue peacefully but Armenia on Sept 27 launched aggression against Azerbaijan, therefore Azerbaijan had no option but to respond. The ambassador had also thanked Pakistan and Turkey for their whole-hearted support.

Alvi for increased Pakistan, Nigeria cooperation

From Page 01

The meeting expressed satisfaction over the current level of cooperation and emphasized the need to further strengthen defence, trade and political relations. The President appreciated the efforts made by the outgoing High Commissioner for enhancing bilateral relations between Pakistan and Nigeria.

PECB holds annual investiture ceremony

DNA

BEIJING: The newly elected students council of the Pakistan Embassy College Beijing (PECB) took oath of their offices in an auspicious investiture ceremony held in the college gymnasium here on Friday.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque graced the occasion as the chief guest. Principal, Shazia Amjad, staff and the students welcomed the guests. The ceremony started with recitation from the Holy Quran. The national anthem was played. While addressing the audience, Ambassador Haque said that the extra curriculum activities were equally important to inculcate the leadership qualities among the students. He advised the students to take responsibility and work hard on their talents and potentials in a bid to prepare them to contribute to the development of the country. Ambassador Haque also appreciated the role of principal and the teaching staff for their hard work and efforts for organizing the investiture ceremony in a befitting manner. The members of student council are elected through voting annually. Sikandar Khan, a student of A Level-II was elected as the Head Boy while Areeba Ali also a student of A Level-II was elected as the Head Girl. Talha Bin Imran, student of A Level-II and Cindy Avom, student of IG-II were elected as Sports Captain Boys and Sports Captain Girls respectively.



RAWALPINDI: Central Punjab's Fahim Ashraf celebrating after taking wicket against Northern during a National T20 cup match. - DNA

Pakistan welcomes French investment: Fakhar Imam

Agriculture is the backbone of Pakistan's economy as it not only provides food security to the people but also employment opportunities to a large percentage of population

DNA

PARIS: Pakistan has huge potential in the field of agriculture and agri-products and the country welcomes French investment, technology and expertise, in a mutually beneficial way. This was stated by Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Syed Fakhar Imam in a webinar on the agriculture sector of Pakistan in which 25 French companies participated. The webinar was organized by the largest business federation of France, MEDEF in cooperation with the Embassy of Pakistan, Paris. He said agriculture is the backbone of Pakistan's economy as it not only provides food security to the people but also employment opportunities to a large percentage of population. In addition to modernizing agriculture we also want to develop related sectors like fisheries, livestock, processing of fruits, meat production and dairy as well as organic farming, he added.

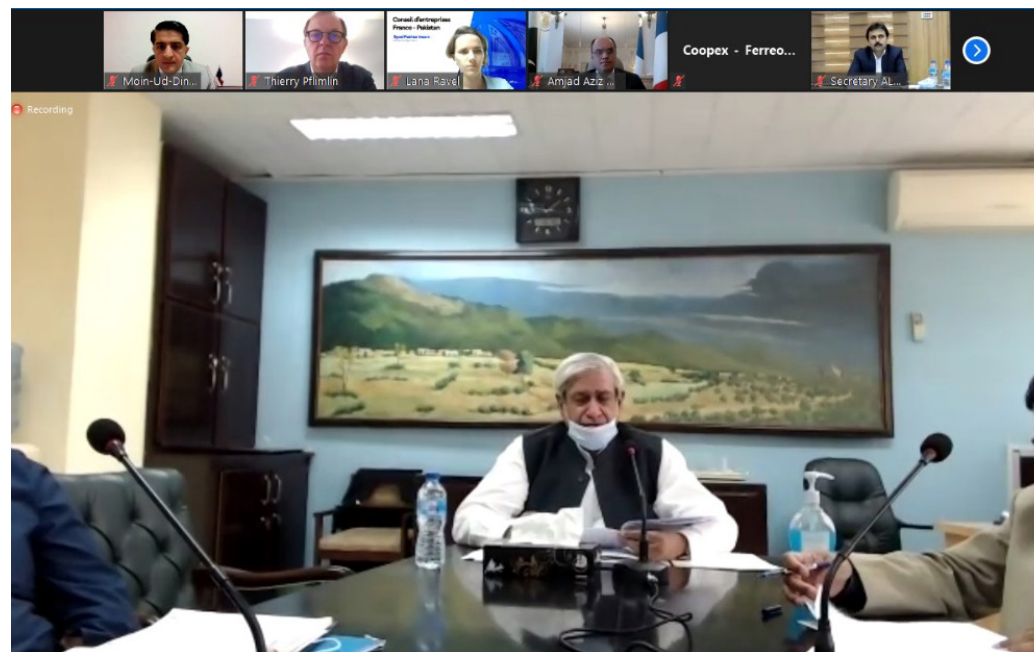
In his introductory remarks,

Mr. Thierry Pfilmlin President Total Global Services, who is also President Pakistan-France Business Council, introduced MEDEF, as the largest employer federation in France which was established in 1998. It has more

than 750,000 member firms, 90% of them being small and medium enterprises with fewer than 50 employees. Every year, MEDEF International organises a number of delegations of French business leaders with tangible pro-

jects to targeted countries, especially developing countries. Mr. Muhammad Amjad Aziz Qazi, Charge d'Affaires a.i. Embassy of Pakistan Paris, praised the long-standing cooperation with MEDEF, adding there is huge potential in the

agriculture sector to enhance mutual cooperation between the two countries. Agriculture is the mainstay of Pakistan's economy and an important sector in French economy, he said, and Pakistan can benefit from French best practices in this sector. Representative of French Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Mr. Sylvain Maestracci said that France is the world's seventh largest agricultural producer, fourth largest agricultural exporter and EU's leading agricultural power, accounting for about one-third of all agricultural land within the EU. More than half of French farms are primarily devoted to animal production, which account for 43% of France's total agricultural produce equaling 25.7 billion Euros. The participating French companies expressed keen interest in Pakistan's agricultural sector and sought information on various sub-sectors including dairy, animal husbandry, seed production, organic farming and forestation in which they could cooperate with Pakistan.



FAO to support the development of forestry in Uzbekistan

DNA

TASHKENT: FAO supported the development of the Concept for the Development of Forestry in Uzbekistan. The document was initiated within the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) project "Sustainable forest management in mountainous and valley regions of Uzbekistan", implemented jointly with the State For-

estry Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan and financed by the Global Environment Fund. When developing the Concept, the best foreign experience in the field of forestry was taken into account, including the proposals of specialists from Italy and Hungary on sustainable forest management, gender issues, and institutional development. At the same time, experts from Germany and Turkey presented their visions of pasture management and lease relations.

European countries see record daily spike

MONITORING DESK

BRUSSELS: Europe is struggling with a new surge in COVID-19 cases, with countries hitting record daily highs. Europe registered 96,996 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking its total to 6,558,747 with 243,767 deaths, according to the World Health Organization Thursday. The ECDC added Thursday ten more countries to its "red list" on its coronavirus map, meaning those countries have crossed the threshold of 120 infections per 100,000 people in the past 2 weeks.

China officially joins WHO-backed COVAX: spokesperson

MONITORING DESK

BEIJING: China Thursday signed an agreement with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, officially joining COVAX, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said Friday. This is an important step China has taken to uphold the concept of a shared community of health for all and to honor its commitment of turning COVID-19 vaccines into a global public good, Hua said in a statement released on the Foreign Ministry's website. Currently, the COVID-19 pandemic still poses

a severe threat to the safety and health of people in all countries. China continues to focus on ensuring that developing countries have equal access to appropriate, safe and effective vaccines. "To that end, we have solemnly pledged to make vaccines developed and deployed by China a global public good, which will be provided to developing countries as a priority," Hua said. China has maintained close communication with COVAX with a positive attitude towards joining it, Hua said, noting that even when China is leading the world with several vaccines

in advanced stages of R&D and with ample production capacity, it still decided to join COVAX. "We are taking this concrete step to ensure equitable distribution of vaccines, especially to developing countries, and hope more capable countries will also join and support COVAX. China will also strengthen vaccine cooperation with relevant countries through the COVAX network," said the spokesperson. China will continue to work together with COVAX partners and contribute its share to the global fight against the pandemic to safeguard all human beings' safety and health, Hua said. Enditem

French aid worker, politician freed by Mali captors

DNA

BAMAKO: An elderly French aid worker and a top Malian politician captured by presumed terrorists landed to emotional reunions with their families after their release along with two Italian hostages.

A white-robed Sophie Petronin, 75, the last French citizen known to be held hostage anywhere in the world since her abduction in 2016, was embraced by her son as she touched down in Mali's capital, Bamako. Politician Soumaila Cisse, a three-time presidential candidate and former opposition leader, was also hugged by loved ones and greeted by cheering crowds on his way home.

Italian priest Pier Luigi Maccalli, who was abducted in neighbouring Niger in 2018, and Nicola Chiacchio, who went missing last year during a solo bicycle trip, were also freed. Mali's government has not revealed the circumstances of the releases, which follow talks with the hostage-takers. Malian authorities freed more than 100 prisoners over the weekend. After first emerging in northern Mali in 2012, a brutal terrorist insurgency has spread to the centre of the country as well as Burkina Faso and Niger. Thousands of soldiers and civilians have died in the conflict and hundreds of thousands have been displaced. Kidnappings are also common. French President Emmanuel Macron voiced "immense relief" at the release of Petronin, and said he would welcome her back to France. - APP

Didn't hesitate to join Atletico: Suarez

WEB DESK

MADRID: Luis Suarez has revealed he did not think twice about joining Atletico Madrid after being told by new Barcelona manager Ronald Koeman that he was no longer required at the club.

The 33-year-old opened up about his September departure from the Camp Nou after scoring from the penalty spot to help Uruguay beat Chile 2-1 in their opening 2022 World Cup qualifier on Thursday. "I did not take Barcelona's message about needing a change of air very well," Suarez said. "More than anything, because of the way it was handled, because you have to recognize when a cycle is over. 'What my family wanted was to see me happy. There are things that are not known, but at Barcelona they send you away to train separately... My wife was the one who saw that I was down and let me take the opportunity. When Atletico came looking for me, I didn't hesitate for a moment.' Suarez's exit after six seasons and 198 goals with the Blaugrana prompted his teammate and close friend Lionel Messi to publicly criticize the club as he bid an emotional farewell on social media. "I wasn't surprised by what Messi did because I know him well," Suarez said. "He knew the pain I was feeling. The way it was handled, as if I was being thrown out, is what hurts most. There were other ways to do it. They were six years and that's what bothered him [Messi] too."

Pak diaspora urged to pursue long-term investments

DNA

OTTAWA: Pak diaspora in Canada urged to pursue long-term investments in Pakistan, Canadian companies investing in power projects in Pakistan, investment in power transmission lines also being discussed High Commissioner for Pakistan to Canada Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar has urged the Pakistani diaspora and their representative associations in Canada to synergise their resources and formulate consortiums to launch bigger investment and development initiatives in Pakistan. "It is heartening to see the Pakistani diaspora in North America come forward and contribute generously to the development of the country of their origin through home remittances and extension of relief and assistance to fellow brothers and sisters in difficult times, but it is high time various associations and their members of Pakistani diaspora thought of investing in bigger, long-term projects in Pakistan, particularly in the agriculture, housing, education and food sectors," said the High Commissioner. He was talking to a group of Pakistani investors and investors who met him at the High Commission to share with him various activities and initiatives launched by them in Pakistan, particularly in the water conservation, housing and education sectors. Mubin Ahmad, a Pakistani businessman from

Edmonton, Alberta, and Mr. Atta ur Rehman Syed and Mrs. Sadaf Ibrahim, President Canada Pakistan Association, National Capital Region, were also present. Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar suggested that various associations and organisations of Pakistani diaspora in the North America put together a large

business delegation consisting of potential investors among the Pakistani community to visit Pakistan and the High Commission could provide them all necessary assistance and set up their meetings with the Board of Investment and other relevant authorities in Pakistan. He also advised them to formulate

concrete business proposals and the Mission could act as a catalyst for fruition of those projects. Meanwhile, on the instructions of the High Commissioner Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar, Deputy High Commissioner Pakistan Mr. Shahbaz Malik held a detailed meeting with the Canadian Trade Commissioner to Paki-

stan, Mr Margaux McDonald currently visiting Canada to discuss issues related to bilateral trade. The Deputy High Commissioner was briefed that a Canadian IT company called "Constellation Software", which is the largest software company in Canada dealing with maintenance of old softwares, had hired around 1000 Pakistani software engineers and programmers, including women, from Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad.

About other projects in the pipeline, the Canadian Trade Commissioner told Pakistan's Deputy High Commissioner that a Canadian company named JCM, involved in renewable energy particularly wind energy, had set up a 50MW plant in Jhimpir region of Sindh province, and a similar 50MW project was already in its final stages.

Both the officials also discussed the ongoing talks between the Canadian authorities with the Private Power & Infrastructure Board (PPIB) in Pakistan to forge government-to-government partnership for the construction of high-power transmission lines in Pakistan. The project, if successfully concluded and implemented, would be the first of its kind and it would be financed by multiple investors, including the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC), the Canadian government body involved in overseas investments. Both the officials agreed to liaise actively for enhancement of mutual trade and investment.



Briefs

India: COVID-19 cases near 7M, economy to shrink 9.5%

DNA

NEW DELHI: As the number of novel coronavirus cases in India nears 7 million, the country's Central Bank projected that the economy would contract by 9.5% this fiscal year.

After a meeting of India's monetary policy committee on Friday morning, the governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Shaktikanta Das, said: "The Indian economy is entering into a decisive phase in the fight against the pandemic."

"For the year 2020-21 as a whole, therefore, real GDP is expected to decline by 9.5 per cent, with risks tilted to the downside. If, however, the current momentum of upturn gains ground, a faster and stronger rebound is eminently feasible," Das said in a statement after the meeting. He said the meeting unanimously decided to "leave the policy repo rate unchanged at 4%."

According to the official statistics released in September, India's economy contracted by nearly a quarter from April to June, when the country went into a complete lockdown to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Das said: "By all indications, the deep contractions of Q1:2020-21 are behind us; silver linings are visible in the flattening of the active caseload curve across the country." India's already-battered economy took a fresh hit with the pandemic and the related economic fallout. The country ground to a halt after it imposed a nationwide lockdown in March to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. In June, the country started to resume economic activities in a phased manner.

S Korea: Dozens injured as fire engulfs building

DNA

SEOUL: Dozens of people were hospitalized in the South Korean city of Ulsan after a fire engulfed a multi-story building late Thursday, according to local media. The fire broke out in a 33-story commercial and residential building at midnight and engulfed the entire building due to strong wind, Yonhap News Agency reported. Rescuers evacuated hundreds of people from the building. Around 90 people were taken to a hospital, with no death reported. According to local officials, firefighters are still searching the building to ensure no one is inside. Witnesses said the exterior walls of the building, possibly insulation, appear to have caused the fire to spread quickly, according to the report.

Former Unaoil executive sentenced over Iraq bribery

DNA

LONDON: A British former executive at Monaco-based oil and gas consultancy Unaoil has been sentenced to three years and four months in jail for bribing Iraqi public officials to clinch \$1.7bn worth of oil projects in post-occupation Iraq.

Iraqi-born Basil al-Jarah, Unaoil's former Iraq country manager, admitted to paying \$17m in bribes to secure contracts to construct oil pipelines, an oil platform and offshore mooring buoys in the Gulf, as the war-torn nation tried to shore up a battered economy after the fall of ex-president Saddam Hussein in 2003. It is the third sentence handed down by a London judge after a five-year investigation by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and United States authorities into how the prominent Ahsani family, which ran Unaoil, secured energy contracts for Western blue-chip clients in the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia. Former Unaoil managers Stephen Whiteley, 55, and 45-year-old Ziad Akle have already been sentenced to three and five years in jail respectively after a London trial.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Pakistan, Mr. Tarek Mohamed Dahroug called on secretary commerce, Muhammad Sualeh Ahmed Faruqi in Islamabad. – DNA

Kyrgyzstan's president declares state of emergency in capital

The state of emergency includes a curfew and tight security restrictions. It will go into effect at 8 p.m. on Friday (14:00 UCT) and will last until October 21.

FOREIGN DESK

BISHKEK: Kyrgyzstan's president, Sooronbai Jeenbekov, declared a state of emergency in the capital, Bishkek, on Friday and ordered troops to take to the streets to restore order. The announcement came as large rallies gathered on Friday in the fifth consecutive day of protests. Fist fights broke out between rival factions and gunshots were fired into the air, according to an media correspondent on the scene. Key leaders were evacuated from the area. The state of emergency includes a curfew and tight security restrictions. It will go into effect at 8 p.m. on Friday (14:00 UCT) and will last until October 21. The president's office did not say how many troops would be deployed, but said checkpoints would be set up and military vehi-

cles sent out.

The Central Asian country has been in a state of unrest since opposition supporters seized government buildings on Tuesday following Sunday's controversial parliamentary elections, which were later annulled. In the ensuing protests, at least one person has died and hundreds have been injured.

Jeenbekov said earlier on Friday he was ready to resign once a new Cabinet was appointed. "We need to get the situation back to the rule of law as soon as possible. After legitimate executive authorities have been approved and we are back on the path of lawfulness, I am ready to leave the post of president of the Kyrgyz Republic," said Jeenbekov on Friday morning. The president's statement was an abrupt U-turn after days of rival politicians claiming leadership po-

Kyrgyz president accepts PM's resignation, amid political crisis

DNA

BISHKEK: Kyrgyzstan President Sooronbai Jeenbekov has signed an order dismissing Prime Minister Kubatbek Boronov and his cabinet on Friday, his office said in a statement. Boronov tendered his resignation after opposition groups on Tuesday seized government buildings in response to protests over a controversial parliamentary election which has since been annulled.

But hours later, Jeenbekov denied claims he may be planning to resign. He has made no public appearances since Monday and it was unclear if the offer to resign stood after he declared the state

of emergency later on Friday. Russia called on security forces earlier in the week to restore order, describing the situation in the former Soviet republic as "chaos." Borders were largely closed

had been confirmed by parliament and his office. "We need to get the situation back to the rule of law as soon as possible. After legitimate executive authorities have been approved and we are back on the path of lawfulness, I am ready to leave the post of President of the Kyrgyz Republic."

The statement comes hours after Jeenbekov's press chief said the president's resignation was not "under question" in talks he was holding with national political leaders.

on Thursday following clashes between police and protesters.

It remains unclear which candidate or party would replace Jeenbekov. After forcing the Cabinet to resign and the election

commission to annul the results of Sunday's parliamentary election that triggered the protests, opposition groups have so far failed to agree on who would lead a provisional government.

Kyrgyzstan's outgoing parliament has also not convened or appointed one of at least three interim premier candidates, with some MPs saying they feared for their safety. Two political parties close to Jeenbekov swept Sunday's parliamentary vote, but at least 11 other parties have refused to accept the results. Observers said the election was marred by credible allegations of vote-buying. If Jeenbekov were to resign, he would become the third Kyrgyz leader to be felled by political unrest after uprisings unseated authoritarian presidents in 2005 and 2010.

UN's World Food Programme wins Nobel Peace Prize

DNA

STOCKHOLM: The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded this year to the UN World Food Programme (WFP) for its efforts to combat hunger, the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced Friday. With the world in danger of a hunger crisis, the Nobel committee praised the WFP for "acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict."

Nobel Peace Prize Committee Chair Berit Reiss-Andersen said in a press conference that they aimed to "turn the eyes of the world to the millions of people who suffer from or face

the threat of hunger." The novel coronavirus pandemic has contributed to an upsurge in the number of hunger victims around the world, the committee said, pointing to countries, like Yemen, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, South Sudan and Burkina Faso. "In the face of the pandemic, the World Food Programme has demonstrated an impressive ability to intensify its efforts," it added. "As the organisation itself has stated, 'Until the day we have a medical vaccine, food is the best vaccine against chaos.'" Hunger and food insecurity can cause conflicts, just as conflicts could lead to hunger and food insecurity, the committee said, adding,

French nationals of Armenian fighting against Azerbaijan

"Report of journalist proves that French nationals of Armenian origin are in the ranks of Armenia's forces as mercenaries attacking Azerbaijani civilians/mercenaries"

DNA

BAKU: Hajiyev made the remarks while commenting on the report by Russia's Novaya Gazeta newspaper where the reporter who was in Nagorno-Karabkh had recorded the fact of French-Armenian mercenaries fighting against Azerbaijan. "Report of journalist proves that French nationals of Armenian origin are in the ranks of Armenia's forces as mercenaries attacking Azerbaijani civilians/mercenaries. Instead of accusing Azerbaijan we urge countries to take measures to stop their nationals." Armenian armed forces launched a large-scale operation in the front-



line zone on September 27 at 6 am, shelling the positions of the Azerbaijani army from large-calibre weapons, mortars, and artillery installations of various calibres.

Thirty one civilians have been killed and 164 others have been injured since the outbreak of large-scale hostilities on September 27, after Armenia launched another attack along the line of contact. Among the civilians are three children. As a result of the shelling of civilian infrastructure facilities by the occupying country's armed forces, 1,054 houses, as well as 142 civilian facilities were severely damaged. On October 4, Armenia launched missile attack on Ganja, Azerbaijan's second largest populated city. There were also attacks on Mingachevir city that has a hydroelectric power station as well as on Khizi and Abheron region on the same day.

Uzbekistan: New system of work on women and youth issues defined

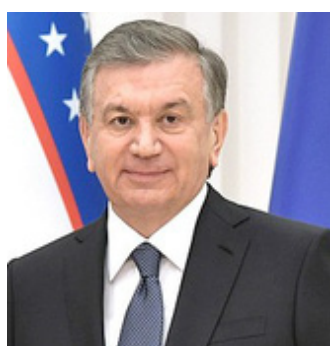
He said, achieving social and political accord in Kyrgyzstan as an SCO member state is important for the security and sustainable development across the SCO countries

DNA

TASHKENT: Under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, a video conference was held on 8 October on measures to increase the role of women and youth in society and ensure their employment. Women and young people make up a significant part of the population, and solving problems of concern to these categories is an essential part of social work. In recent years, a vertical system for the implementation of state policy on women and youth issues has been created in Uzbekistan up to the level of mahallas. To address youth issues, a separate post of deputy khokim with a staff of up to 3 specialists has been introduced in each district, in each region - a deputy khokim with a staff of 4 specialists, territorial departments of the Agency for Youth Affairs have been allocated 3 and 11 staff units, respectively. To address women's issues at the mahalla level, a separate position was introduced for deputy chairman of the mahalla, at the district level - for the

deputy head of the department for mahalla and family affairs, to whom 2 specialists are assigned, up to 8 staff positions were allocated at the regional level. In addition, the People's Receptions of the President and trade unions are assigned to the solution of issues of youth and women. However, the ability of these departments and the four local sectors to effectively organize work in this direction raises questions.

In this regard, the introduction of a new system of work with women and youth has been determined. As you know, in order to provide social support to the population in our country, a list of families in need of material assistance and support, also known as the "iron notebook", has been started. Similarly, in the context of each mahalla, district, city and region, a "youth notebook" and a "women's notebook" will be formed. These lists will be kept separate from the "iron notebook". They will include young people and women in need of social, legal and psychological support, as well as seeking to acquire new knowledge and professions. As a result, systematic, targeted work will



be established with them. The meeting discussed the system of work with youth and women on the example of the Khatyrchi region and the city of Yangier. Responsible persons were instructed to develop a standard model of this system and test it in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the city of Tashkent, one city and district of each region, in a total of 28 territorial units. Sector leaders and representatives of responsible departments were instructed to study the situation in each mahalla, hold talks with every woman and young man, identify their interests and needs, and on this basis

develop targeted measures.

- From now on, we need to establish a system of employment for the unemployed by visiting people's homes. Where leaders go from door to door and resolve issues, the situation will change. The main goal is the transition from economic stability to efficiency, the President said.

It was noted that it is important to motivate young people and women to improve their knowledge and skills, acquire a profession, provide them with psychological, legal, medical and financial assistance. For example, free counseling can be arranged through a family psychologist or the district justice department. Elderly single women can be treated by visiting nurses, mahalla and family departments. Ensuring employment for unemployed youth and women should be the most important task of the deputy khokim for investments, district and city employment departments, the Center for the Support of Entrepreneurship, the reception offices of the Prime Minister and banks. Organization of meetings with celebrities who have achieved great success in their work in order to motivate young people and women, the preparation

and distribution of audio and video materials teaching foreign languages, professions and business will also give a good result.

The meeting pointed out the importance of widespread use of the social contract mechanism. At the same time, the state provides material and social support in order for a citizen to acquire a profession, find a job, or provide his own employment.

It was noted that when working with "notebooks" one should effectively use the capabilities of non-governmental non-profit organizations. The importance of expanding interaction with them in such areas of work as the social adaptation of persons who have served their sentences, psychological support for young people and women, teaching them foreign languages and professions. For this work, the potential of the research institute "Mahalla Va Oila", the Institute for the Study of Youth Problems and the training of promising personnel will be mobilized. In addition, non-governmental non-profit organizations will be provided loans at 4 percent per annum for the implementation of complex programs of business courses and microfinance services.

Jordan enters 48-hour nationwide lockdown

DNA

AMMAN: Jordan entered a nationwide 48-hour lockdown starting on Friday for the first time in months as health officials worry a spike in coronavirus infections could threaten its stretched healthcare system, officials said.

The country has seen what officials say an "exponential" rise, with about 10,000 cases confirmed in just more than a week - a near-doubling of the total number of infections since the first cases in early March and a reversal of what had been among the lowest infection and death rates in the Middle East.

In its latest bulletin on Thursday, the Health Ministry reported 1,317 new cases and 13 more fatalities, bringing the total number of infections to 21,517 and 144 deaths. Senior officials are struggling to avoid a broader lockdown that the hard-hit economy can ill afford. The IMF forecasts the economy, which was struggling even before the health crisis, will shrink 6 percent this year, the first contraction since 1990.

"The last thing we want is a complete lockdown for two weeks or three weeks, we don't want to reach this ... It remains the last weapon if cases rise unbelievably high and lead to our hospitals being overwhelmed," Health Minister Saad Jaber told state television this week. The community spread of the virus has forced authorities to maintain the closure of schools for two million pupils, after a brief resumption of lessons at the start of last month.

Several killed at Rohingya camps in Bangladesh

DNA

DHAKA: A turf war between criminal armed groups in Rohingya camps in southern Bangladesh has killed at least eight people and forced thousands to flee following clashes in recent days, police and humanitarian workers said.

Authorities on Thursday said they have arrested 12 people after days of gunfire, arson, and abductions by gangs competing for dominance in the sprawling camps, the world's largest refugee settlement. The camps in Bangladesh host a million mainly-Muslim Rohingya since 2017 when a sweeping military crackdown forced more than 730,000 of them to flee their homes in Myanmar.

"A tense situation is prevailing there," Rafiqul Islam, an additional police superintendent based in the nearest town of Cox's Bazar, told Reuters news agency by telephone. "Two groups are trying to establish dominance in the area," he said, adding that they were suspected drug and human traffickers. The region is notorious for a lucrative trade in methamphetamine, commonly used as a recreational drug which is manufactured across the border in Myanmar.

Former Trump fundraiser charged with illicit 1MDB

DNA

KUALA LAMPUR: A former top fundraiser for President Donald Trump has been indicted on a charge that he illegally lobbied the United States government to drop its investigation into the Malaysia 1MDB corruption scandal and deport an exiled Chinese billionaire.

Elliott Brody was charged in a Washington federal court with one count of conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent after allegedly agreeing to take millions of dollars to lobby the Trump administration. The indictment, which was made public on Thursday, said Brody was recruited in 2017 by an unnamed foreign national, understood to be Malaysian financier Low Taek Jho to pressure US officials to end their investigation of the multi-billion-dollar scandal at Malaysian state fund 1MDB, which was engulfing then-Malaysian prime minister Najib Razak. The scandal involved the theft of more than \$4.5bn from the state fund 1MDB, which was used to buy luxury properties, art, designer goods and to fund the Hollywood movie Wolf of Wall Street, which was produced by Najib's stepson.

Briefs

WFP awarded Nobel Peace Prize

DNA

ROME: The United Nations' World Food Programme has been announced as the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for the agency's "efforts to prevent use of hunger as a weapon of war". "For its effort to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict affected areas and for acting as driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict," announced the Nobel Prize Committee on Twitter. The UN Agency was established at the "behest of former US President Dwight Eisenhower" in 1961 as an experiment to provide food aid through the UN system. The WFP's first test came in September 1962 after an earthquake in northern Iran killed more than 12,000 people. Later, in 1963, the agency launched its first development programme in Sudan and in 1965 it was included as a "fully-fledged UN programme" with the agency to last "as long as multilateral food aid is found feasible and desirable". Today, the WFP is the "world's largest humanitarian agency" which springs into action when during disasters and works "tirelessly to bolster nutrition and food security". Taking to Twitter, WFP thanked the Nobel Committee for "honouring" it with the prize, adding that it is "powerful reminder to the world that peace and zero hunger go hand-in-hand".

'Allies to leave Afghanistan when situation permits'

DNA

KABUL: NATO on Thursday said that its members would consult and decide on when to leave Afghanistan after US President Donald Trump asserted to bring all American forces home by Christmas. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg exclaimed the alliance's longstanding position that it will end its mission in Afghanistan only when "conditions on the ground" permit. "We decided to go into Afghanistan together, we will make decisions on future adjustments together, and when the time is right, we will leave together," said Stoltenberg. He further added that: "We will make decisions based on the conditions on the ground because we think it is extremely important to continue to be committed to the future of Afghanistan because it is in our interest to preserve the long term security of Afghanistan." Earlier, US President Donald Trump tweeted: "We should have the small remaining number of our BRAVE Men and Women serving in Afghanistan home by Christmas!" On the other side, the Taliban group welcomed Trump's tweet. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said Trump's statement was welcome and he considered it a "positive step" for the implementation of the peace agreement.

EU delegation marks Day against Death Penalty

Pakistan has one of the highest number of executions in the world. Since the de-facto moratorium on the death penalty was lifted in 2015, the country has executed 516 individuals

IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The Delegation of the European Union (EU) to Pakistan on Friday hosted an exclusive live screening of a one-of-a-kind art performance on the eve of World Day against the Death Penalty. Titled 'Before The Sun Comes Up' and produced by Justice Project Pakistan, it was streamed live online featuring artists based in two different countries performing from their homes via Zoom. The screening was attended by foreign dignitaries, including ambassadors from the European Union, civil society organizations and government officials. The Chief Guest at the event was Federal Minister for Law and

Justice Barrister Dr. Muhammad Farogh Naseem. "The call for the death penalty might come from an impulse in reaction to a horrific crime. But as a society, we need to reflect deeper on what justice really means and what needs to be done for such crimes not to happen again. The performance that premiered invites us to enter this discussion," said European Union Ambassador Androulla Kaminara of the art performance that will be streamed live for the public on Saturday, October 10 on Dawn.com 6pm (GMT +5) onwards. "The EU holds a principled position against the death penalty in all circumstances and for all cases. It considers capital punishment to be inhumane, degrad-

ing and unnecessary. As a matter of fact, there is no valid scientific evidence to support that the death penalty deters crime more effectively than other punishments. Instead, it is the certainty of being caught and punished that serves as a deterrent and of course actions to prevent such crimes from happening in the first place," she added. Under its international commitments, namely the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Pakistan has committed itself to limit the death penalty to the "most serious crimes," to allow for clemency petitions and to provide adequate protection for juvenile offenders and the mentally ill. This is one of the conventions linked to the

GSP+ export regime offered to Pakistan. Pakistan has one of the highest number of executions in the world. Since the de-facto moratorium on the death penalty was lifted in 2015, the country has executed 516 individuals. Pakistan also has over 4,000 individuals on death row - 15% of the world's death row population. 'Before the Sun Comes Up' is based on four original short stories of death row prisoners written by acclaimed Pakistani novelist and writer Mohammed Hanif. Narrated by actor and director Sarmad Khoosat, it also features a musician and a visual artist from Edinburgh, Scotland. The performance was conceived by Ryan Van Winkle and produced by Justice Project Pakistan, a non-profit

legal action firm that represents the most vulnerable prisoners facing the harshest punishments at home and abroad. The performance will be streamed live on Dawn.com today (Saturday, October 10) at 6 pm PST. Sarah Belal, executive director of Justice Project Pakistan, added, "We want to highlight flaws in our criminal justice system so viewers can witness the horrors of being on death row, particularly at a time when a pandemic has cut them off from the little interaction they were allowed earlier with the rest of the world. No one heard from these prisoners for nearly six months. So we decided to tell their stories through the pen of one of our country's most celebrated writers."

Speaker issues PO for Hamza Shehbaz

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Perwaiz Elahi on Friday issued production orders for Opposition Leader Hamza Shehbaz Sharif. The speaker issued production orders for Hamza to allow him to attend the provincial assembly session which is scheduled to meet today at 3pm. The session requested by the opposition parties will discuss matters related to inflation and law and order situation. It may be noted that Hamza Shehbaz is on judicial remand over charges of assets beyond means and money laundering. The NAB has filed a reference accusing former Punjab chief minister Shabbaz Sharif, his son Hamza Shabbaz and others for causing losses to the national exchequer and misusing authority by sanctioning the construction of a bridge to facilitate the sugar mills. NAB officials say, Shehbaz Sharif, being the chief minister of Punjab, misused his authority by issuing directives for the construction of a 10-kilometer-long drain in Chinot primarily to benefit the sugar mills owned by his sons. Shehbaz and Hamza have been accused of fraudulently causing a Rs 213 million loss to the national exchequer.

JIT formed to investigate sedition case

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: A four-member Joint Investigation Team (JIT) on Friday has been formed to probe sedition case against Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo and former Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif along with other party leaders. According to details, the joint team headed by CIA Superintendent of Police has formally launched inquiry into the matter. Sources told that all the nominated PML-N leaders will be included in the investigation. A sedition case was registered against Nawaz Sharif in Shahdara police station over provocative speeches. Names of party's vice president Maryam Nawaz and other senior leaders including Ayaz Sadiq, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Pervaiz Rashid, Khawaja Asif, Rana Sanaullah and Iqbal Zafar Jhagra were also included in the case. The FIR stated that Nawaz Sharif is a convict and the law of Pakistan doesn't allow him to carry out such kind of speeches.

Negative RT-PCR test required from passengers

LONDON: The Pakistan High Commission (PHC) in London on Friday clarified that the government of Pakistan required to provide proof of negative RT-PCR test, conducted not more than 96 hours from the commencement of travel from all passengers. "We have seen reports about the requirement of some particular Lab for COVID-19 RT-PCR test for travel to Pakistan, a statement issued by the PHC said. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Portugal to Pakistan, Paulo Neves Pocinho called on Advisor to PM on commerce and investment, Abdul Razak Dawood. - DNA

NAB wants cancellation of Nawaz' passport

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The NAB has requested the Ministry of Interior to "cancel" former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's passport and "block" his national identity card, it emerged on Friday. The NAB Rawalpindi has written to the ministry, asking the authorities to cancel the aforesaid documents of the PML-N supremo for his absence from the court and especially after being declared a proclaimed offender by an AC. "In view thereof, copies of the said court order and perpetual non-bailable warrant of arrest are forwarded for processing of blacklisting/cancellation of the passport.

China thanks Pak for support on HK issue

"So far, 57 countries made a joint statement on Hong Kong related issues and 48 countries made a joint statement on Xinjiang related issue," she added

BEIJING: China on Friday thanked the government and people of Pakistan for extending a strong support on its position on Hong Kong related issue at the United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) Third Committee. "First, I like to say thank you to Pakistani government and people," Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Hua Chunying remarked in response to a question asked by APP regarding a statement made by Ambassador Munir Akram, the Pakistani permanent representative to the UN, on the Hong Kong related issue. China thanks that Pakistan and other countries' justified voices showed once again the people could speak right and wrong, said Hua who resumed her regular briefing after the National Day and Mid Autumn holidays. The spokesperson said over 70 countries voiced their support to China's position on Hong Kong and Xinjiang related issues during the debate held at the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly between October 5 to 8. "So far, 57 countries made a joint statement on Hong Kong related issues and 48 countries made a joint statement on Xinjiang related issue," she added. Hua said Pakistan and Cuba represented the relevant countries and delivered speeches saying that China's implementation of Hong Kong National Security Law was good for the steady implementation of the "One country two systems" and it was also good for the Hong Kong's prosperity and stability, noting, "Hong Kong peoples' legal rights and freedom can be more guaranteed in a safe environment." She pointed out that these countries supported China's measures in Xinjiang to deal with terrorism and extremism and to protect people's right in Xinjiang and opposed politicization and double standards on human rights issue besides rejecting accusation and interference in China. - APP

Roosevelt Hotel shuts down on Oct 31

DNA

NEW YORK: The Pakistan International Airline's (PIA) iconic Roosevelt Hotel will close its doors to customers permanently from October 31 due to financial constraints, according to a statement on the hotel's website. "Due to the current economic impacts, after almost 100 years of welcoming guests to 'The Grand Dame of New York' The Roosevelt Hotel is regretfully closing its doors permanently as of October 31, 2020," the notice said. "We have been honored to serve alongside our wonderful staff and to be a part of our many guests' and clients' lives and celebrations, who have graced us over these past nine decades," it said. The hotel said that it was working on alternatives for the guests with a future reservation. "We have enjoyed being as much a part of our guests' stories as we have been an integral part of the history of Midtown Manhattan since 1924." The statement, however, was later removed from the website but the hotel's front desk is not accepting reservations post-October 31.

Zhijing Cup Pak-China Friendship contest unveiled in Thar

The contest finally concluded, with the top three won by one welder from China and two from Pak

DNA

ISLAMABAD: 1st "Zhijing Cup" China-Pakistan Welder Friendship Contest Unveiled in Thar, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. In the contest hosted by the management team of the Thar Integrated Coal Mine and Power Project in Pakistan, eight welders from the two countries demonstrated their professional expertise according to operating instructions. Under the guidance of "Zhijing" spirit, which means the pursuit of perfection in Chinese, all the participants geared themselves with personal protective equipment and devoted their meticulous to every single crack by repositioning their torch with varied welding intensity, using overhead or horizontal position. The friendship contest is a flagship activity during the 2020 Quality Priority Month of Shanghai Elec-

tric Group, which aims at highlighting the pursuit of quality in the company and making the project an excellent one while displaying the techniques of welders from two countries so as to further China-Pakistan friendship. This contest mainly tested hands-on operations. In the contest, eight contestants were required to finish switching a welding machine on/off, commissioning, plate welding, and vertical welding, etc. within 40 minutes, and they were marked by the judging panel based on 12 indicators including weld appearance, reinforcement, width difference, and angular distortion, etc. according to international conventions. The contest finally concluded, with the top three won by one welder from China and two from Pakistan. "I'm so delighted to participate in the China-Pakistan Welder Friendship Contest and win the second prize.

I was enjoying the whole process. Also, I improved myself by learning new skills from an experienced Chinese welder. I aspire to make my due contributions to the building of Thar Power Station. Long live China-Pakistan friendship!" Mobeen, a Pakistani welder and second-prize winner, said excitedly after the contest. Chinese and Pakistani welders differ in their training and operating habits. Specifically, Pakistani welders are not accustomed to the acid electrode and most of them are incapable of welding using their left hands, which prevents them from operating in certain construction scenarios. To this end, Shanghai Electric Group provided orientation training where Pakistani welders could improve their expertise through strengthened practice by learning from experienced Chinese mentors based on the company's arrangements.

CPEC boosts Pakistan's medical industry, saving Rs. 230 bln

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is going to achieve another milestone in boosting Pakistan's new emerging medical industry. According to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday, the local manufacturing of medical equipment in the Allama Iqbal Special Economic Zone (SEZ), the first SEZ under CPEC is going to save Pakistan Rs. 230 billion every year and reduce the current cost by roughly 50%. The manufacturing units will be set up in Pakistan's first medical city, which will start the medical device

manufacturing zone on 200 Acres. For this purpose, a MoU was recently signed between the Pakistan Ministry of Science and Technology and Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) - the developing body of the Allama Iqbal Special Economic Zone (SEZ). Since the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the minister of science and technology Chaudhry Fawad Hussein has been focusing more on manufacturing its own medical devices instead of importing from other countries. For this purpose, the manufacturing of medical

devices, especially ventilators was started. Pakistan is now among the top 10 countries which have successfully made its own ventilators for local use and to export worldwide. The whole process of importing and setting up of the machinery in Faisalabad medical city would take six to eight months. In the first phase, the production of syringes, needles, cannulas, cartridges, wires, and cables and cardiac stents will start within the stipulated time. While in the second phase, the production of x-ray and dialysis machines will start in Pakistan. Prime Minister Imran Khan inaugurated the Al-

luma Iqbal Industrial City Faisalabad in January this year. The project aimed to attract foreign and local investors promoting progressive economic activities in the country. The industrial city spreads across 3,217 acres of land and consists of various other sectors also including textile, information technology, chemicals automotive and service complex. Progress has been achieved on the development of the SEZs in the last few months wherein four CPEC SEZs at Rashakai in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dhabeji in Sindh, M-3 Allama Iqbal in Punjab, and Bostan in Balochistan are now in advance stage of development.

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