



Islamabad POST

Monday, October 19, 2020

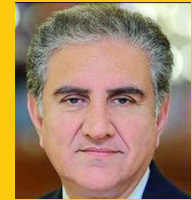
Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

EU envoy praises Pak rural women struggle for rights

Ties with Saudi Arabia are historic, says FM Qureshi

Olyntho Vieira new Brazil envoy to Pakistan



Briefs

Hekmatyar arrives today

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan's former prime minister and Hizb-e-Islami chief Engineer Gulbuddin Hekmatyar is arriving in Islamabad today on a three-day visit on the government invitation. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi had extended an invitation to Hekmatyar as part of Pakistan's policy of engagement with Afghan leaders. Pakistan has planned to invite other Afghan leaders to discuss with them Pakistan's cooperation in the peace process and bilateral relations. He will also speak at the Institute of Policy Studies in Islamabad.

'PDM's campaign getting decisive'

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice president Maryam Nawaz on Sunday said that she and her party leaders are not afraid of being arrested. Talking to media before leaving to attend Karachi rally, Maryam Nawaz told that campaign against the incumbent government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is getting decisive. While responding to a question regarding Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan's decision to not issue production orders, Maryam Nawaz said that those who think that VIP protocols are being given to the opposition leaders in jails are wrong.

PDM holding planless shows: Shibli

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz says the opposition alliance of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) only busy in holding shows which has no direction and no plan. In his tweet on social media platform Twitter, Shibli Faraz said opposition parties have nothing to do with the issues of general masses as they are busy in crying over their personal interests.

China tops FDI in Pakistan

China's FDI is proving as a breather for Pakistan as except China the rest of FDI's outlook has presented a bleak outlook

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: In terms of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) 2020-2021, China has consolidated its first position as topmost FDI country in Pakistan, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday. It poured \$103.6m during the first quarter of FY21 in comparison to \$55.4m last fiscal year. Meanwhile, Hong Kong also increased FDI to \$38.4m during the first quarter compared to just \$6.9m in the same period last fiscal year. The data mentioned above has been released by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). China's FDI is proving as a breather for Pakistan as except China the rest of FDI's outlook has presented a bleak outlook. As per SBP's recent data, Foreign direct investment (FDI) into the Pakistan dropped 50.7 per cent year-on-year in September to \$189 million against \$383.5m last year. The flight of FDI from United States fell to \$18.9m compared to \$26.5m in the previous

fiscal. Chinese inflow as FDI in Pakistan has become a sign of booster for Pakistan economy. Over the last 9 years consecutively, China has been securing as biggest source country pumping up investment in Pakistan. Cumulatively in the first half (Jul-Dec) of the fiscal year 2019-2020, China invested a net \$422.5 million compared to \$217.1 million in the same period of 2018-2019. During 2013 to 2018, Pakistan received US \$11.96 billion worth of net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Year wise data manifested that during 2012-13, net inflow of FDI was posted at US \$1.456 billion, while during 2013-14, the net FDI was registered at \$1.699 billion, and in 2014-15, the total FDI stood at \$987 million. Similarly \$2.3 billion worth of FDI flowed to Pakistan during 2015-16, \$2.746 billion in 2016-17 and \$2.767 billion in 2017-18. According to data issued by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), China emerged as highest investor with \$4.966 billion during the period followed by UK, which made FDI of \$1.6 billion.

Continued on Page 06

India stuck in difficult situation: Moeed Yusuf

He said India has been using Afghan territory against Pakistan and creating misunderstandings

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Security Dr Moeed Yusuf has said India is stuck in a difficult position in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and unable to figure out what to do. He said India has been using Afghan territory against Pakistan and creating misunderstandings but now Pakistan has managed to improve the situation. Talking to a news agency in Islamabad, he said India's move of August 5, 2019 had expectedly backfired and it has lost Kashmir for all practical purposes. - APP

'Nawaz targeting state on Modi's behest'

ISLAMABAD: The emerging trend of targeting state institutions and dragging those into political rivalries is totally uncalled for as armed forces have nothing to do with any political process in the country, a senior security official said on Sunday. "Nawaz Sharif's attack on military leadership is in fact attack on the Pakistan Army. This is the same thing Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is talking about," he said. "Indian newspapers are praising Nawaz Sharif and giving extraordinary coverage to his anti-army statements. PML-N's agenda is gradually coming before the masses. Nawaz Sharif is playing in the hands of the enemies of Pakistan," the official said. The comments were made days after Pakistan-Muslim League-Nawaz chief Nawaz Sharif hurled baseless allegation against the military leadership at a rally of PDM in Gujranwala. - APP



KARACHI: PDM Chairman Maulana Fazalur Rehman, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and PML N leader Maryam Nawaz share stage during PDM procession in Bagh-e-Jinnah Karachi. - DNA



LAHORE: Firefighters struggling to extinguish fire erupted at Hafeez Centre. - DNA

Massive fire erupts at Hafeez Centre

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: A huge fire erupted at Hafeez Center shopping plaza in Lahore's Gulberg area on Sunday morning which gutted several shops and valuables worth millions. The fire fighting teams have so far become unsuccessful in douse the blaze and are busy in evacuating people in the building, whereas some people remained trapped at the roof terrace. Rescue officials summoned more vehicles of the fire brigade and other equipment from other districts. On the other hand, traders started taking out valuable items including computers, laptops and mobile phones from their shops on their own. Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar took notice of the incident and ordered authorities to utilise all resources for dousing the fire at earliest. He asked local administration and Rescue 1122 to take every necessary step for saving the lives and assets of the citizens.

Prayers resumed at Grand Mosque

AGENCIES

MAKKAH: Saudi Arabia is allowing its citizens and residents inside the kingdom to perform daily prayers at the Grand Mosque in Mecca, the holiest site in Islam, for the first time in seven months. Sunday also marked the start of the second phase of the gradual return of citizens and residents to performing the Umrah - an Islamic pilgrimage to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina undertaken any time of the year - expanding the capacity to 75 percent. Earlier this month, Saudi Arabia resumed allowing citizens and residents to perform the Umrah at Islam's holiest sites, Mecca and Medina, after a seven-month pause due to coronavirus concerns.

Pak slams Armenian PM's statement

"For our part, we wish to make clear that Pakistan has consistently extended diplomatic, moral and political support to Azerbaijan"

NIHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has categorically rejected the baseless and unwarranted comments by the Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan that Pakistan's armed forces fought along with the Azerbaijani army in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. We have seen the transcript of Armenian Prime Minister's interview on 15 October with a Russian TV referring to some unsubstantiated reports alleging involvement

Continued on Page 06

PM wishes Independence Day to Azerbaijan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday extended felicitations to Azerbaijan as the country celebrated its 29th Independence anniversary. In a tweet, the premier paid tribute to Azeri forces "for valiantly defending their territorial integrity" and reiterated Pakistan's support in its quest to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute as per UNSC resolutions. "I extend warmest felicitations to (President) Ilham Aliyev and fraternal people of Azerbaijan on their Independence Day," the prime minister wrote on Twitter. Azerbaijan first declared independence from the Russian Tsar under the chairmanship of Mehmet Emin Resulzade on May 28, 1918, but was occupied by the Soviet Union after a short period of two years. - DNA

Olyntho Vieira new Brazil envoy to Pakistan

In 2005 he presented a thesis titled International Refugees Protection: the use of resettlement in third countries as the least solution and burden sharing to the program of high studies at the Brazilian diplomatic academy

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Olyntho Vieira has been appointed new ambassador of Brazil to Pakistan. Mr. Vieira is a seasoned diplomat having served in various Brazil missions. He joined the Ministry of External Relations in 1984. After graduating from the Diplomatic Academy in 1985, he started his tenure as Third Secretary of the Diplomatic Service of Brazil, assigned to Personnel Payments Division where he remained up to 1988. He was appointed adviser to the Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic in 1990 where he served till 1991 when he was assigned to the embassy of Brazil in Paris as Second Secretary in charge of financial and administrative matters. In 1994 he was appointed second secretary of the diplomatic service at the Embassy of Brazil in Montevideo in charge of the Trade Promotion Section. In 1995 he was appointed head of the division responsible for the coordination of the financial and administrative affairs of the diplomatic and consular network of Brazil. Continued on Page 06



PDM a democratic alliance: Bilawal

DNA

KARACHI: Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Sunday said that Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) is a political alliance of democratic parties, which will overcome challenges of foreign policy and economy. Bilawal Bhutto, in his statement on 13th anniversary of Karsaz bombings, paid tribute to martyrs of the bombing and said that workers of PPP embraced martyrdom for supremacy of constitution and democracy. Bilawal, while responding to statement of Prime Minister Imran Khan, said that movement will continue despite threats from Imran Khan. The movement to get rid of the incumbent government will succeed, he said. On the other hand, PDM is all set to hold second rally in Karachi today (Sunday) as a part of its anti-government campaign. According to details, 160 feet long and 60 feet wide stage has been placed in Karachi's Jinnah Bagh while over 50,000 chairs have also been arranged to facilitate the participants.

16 corona deaths reported

DNA

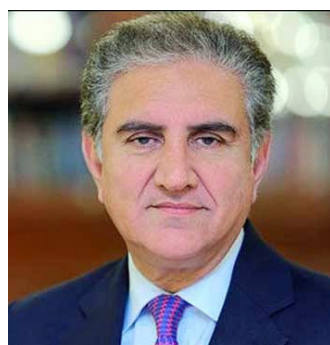
ISLAMABAD: The total active COVID-19 cases in Pakistan on Sunday were recorded 9,296 as 567 more people tested positive for the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. 16 corona patients, 15 of whom were under treatment died in hospital and one out of hospital on Saturday, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). No COVID affected person was on ventilator in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Balochistan, while 74 ventilators elsewhere in Pakistan, out of 1,884 allocated for COVID-19 patients, were occupied.

Ties with Saudi Arabia are historic, says Qureshi

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi has also urged Opposition leaders not to harm national institutions for their personal interests

MULTAN: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi responding to diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia, observed that Pakistan enjoyed historic ties with Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia also supported PTI government during financial crises and offered oil on deferred payments. He posed question why could PPP government not avail oil on deferred payments from Saudi Arabia during their regime. About China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), some powers wanted to sabotage the mega project, said FM Qureshi and also added that the work on second phase of CPEC was heading forward with rapid pace. Similarly, the FM also hinted that conspiracies were being hatched to create chaos in Gilgit Baltistan also. Foreign Minister condemned

the elements targeting national institutions. Masses have immense love and respect for armed forces. Armed forces defeated foreign agenda as well as the terrorists. Armed forces always helped masses whether it was fight against COVID 19, Locusts attack, Floods situations and Cleanliness in Karachi. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi criticized Sindh government's inability to clean "nalas" (sewerage water-ways). He added it was armed forces who managed cleanliness in Karachi. Shah Mahmood Qureshi said opposition parties were claiming to dislodge incumbent government before December. He said that how was it possible to dislodge a democratically elected government by public meetings. In Past, the tradition of public



meetings, aimed to dislodge governments had caused loss to democracy. Qureshi maintained that the both opposition parties, PPP and PML N, completed their respective tenures. He however added that Opposition would gain nothing for these conspiracies. If we assume re-elections

in the country, said Qureshi while posing question, would it be possible for coming government to complete its tenure and bring political stability in the country? He added that PTI government was democratically elected and acknowledged internationally. Foreign Minister stated that PDM was creating hurdles in the way of revival of country's economy. He urged masses especially traders to ignore Opposition's agenda. Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi also urged Bilawal Bhutto Zardari not to be shareholder of India's narrative on Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The incumbent government of PTI internationalized the issue of IIOJK. Bilawal should not let Kashmiris disappointed, stated FM. The whole

Pakistanis have same stance on issue of IIOJK and the stance would remain the same in future also. The present government have clear policy on IIOJK. Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi urged Opposition not to harm national institutions for their personal interests. During meetings with Opposition parties, it was agreed that national institutions would not be dragged in politics. Qureshi termed it sad that some elements were criticizing state institutions instead of government policies. He urged masses not to be part of campaign against state institutions. Qureshi, termed Karsaz incident as sad it had claimed lives of innocent people. He, again, lauded Pakistan army for eradicating terrorists from across the country. - APP

Inside...

- Sahiwal admin to provide all possible help to industrialists - Page 02
- Chairman CDA directs for repairing SWTP - Page 03
- ICCI calls for promulgation of a balanced rent control act - Page 04
- Regional geopolitical irritants - Page 05
- Belarusians march despite police threat to open fire - Page 06
- New Zealand: Jacinda Ardern won a landslide victory - Page 07
- EU envoy praises Pak rural women struggle for rights - Page 08

Briefs

'PRCS to promote welfare work'

DNA

FAISALABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Abrarul Haq said that public relief and welfare work was a noble deed and PRCS will promote it at grass root level under an organized manner. He was addressing a certificate distribution ceremony at Red Crescent (Hilal-e-Ahmar) Hospital Faisalabad here on Saturday. He said that PRCS was striving hard to provide maximum relief to the masses in health sector. Hilal-e-Ahmar Hospital was working in Faisalabad with a facility of 300 beds and we were considering upgrading it up to 600 beds besides establishing Hilal-e-Ahmar Hospital in this metropolis, he added. He said that Hilal-e-Ahmar Hospitals rendered excellent services during coronavirus lockdown. The Red Crescent Society had established coronavirus specific hospital within 15 days which had the facility of 120 beds, 15 ventilators and oxygen system attached to 90 beds. He said that PRCS had also formed a Muhafiz Force which was activated through an 'App' and it had helped 96000 families with ration during COVID-19 period.

3 held for decanting gas illegally

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested three accused for illegally refilling gas cylinders and selling petrol illegally and recovered refilling equipment from their possession, informed police spokesman here on Sunday. During course of action, Rata Amral police have arrested accused namely Minhas for illegally refueling gas cylinders while accused Haseeb was also held for openly selling petrol. Similarly, Naseerabad police arrested accused identified as Muhammad Waqas for illegally refueling gas cylinders. Police have registered separate cases against them and started investigation. — APP

Govt urged to draft policy for radio broadcasters

PESHAWAR: Speakers at an event on Sunday urged the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to draft policy for radio broadcasters and value their contribution as the radio was the best medium for voicing public issues. The event 'Radio as promoter youth culture' was organized under the auspices of Pakhtunkhwa Radio Broadcasters Forum (PRBF) at Nishtar Hall here on Sunday. Large number of young broadcasters, university and college students, right activists and others attended the event. The participants of the PRBF demanded of the KP government to draft a transparent policy regarding hiring and firing and due training of the upcoming youth who wanted to join radio as KP had about 38 state-run and private radio stations airing a wide range of shows both in national and local languages.

Biodiversity for food, agriculture among earth's most crucial resources

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Malik Amin Aslam Sunday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to join global efforts for protecting environmentally and biologically-sensitive areas to stem loss of biodiversity resources. Speaking at a virtual meeting of the international High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, organized by the French and Costa Rican governments, he emphasized that biodiversity for food and agriculture are among the earth's most crucial resources. Amin Aslam said under the country's Protected Areas Initiative measures are being taken to improve environmental governance, management, financing and conservation activities on about 7,200 square kilometers. Environment ministers of UK, Canada, Spain, France and fourteen other

Sahiwal admin to provide all possible help to industrialists

Deputy Commissioner Babar Bashir assured the Small Industrial Estate to listen carefully to the issues of sewerage, sanitation, condition of the park and encroachments and resolve them on priority basis

DNA

SAHIWAL: Deputy Commissioner Babar Bashir has said that the district administration will continue to provide all possible assistance to the industrialists and traders to solve their problems and provide them a better business environment - for the development and improvement of the city.

The services of industrialists and traders will also be availed to provide better living facilities to the citizens, he said during a visit to the Small Industrial Estate. The delegation led by Sohail Anjum Ansari, former president of Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was also attended by Zafar Sardar Ghman, President, Small Industrial Estate, Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar, Senior Vice President, Haji Saeed Al

Khairi, Vice President and General Secretary Abdul Khaliq, Shehzad Anjum Ansari, Former Vice President, Sahiwal Chamber and Sufyan Dilawar, Assistant Commissioner.

Deputy Commissioner Babar Bashir assured the Small Industrial Estate to listen carefully to the issues of sewerage, sanitation, condition of the park and encroachments and resolve them on priority basis - Former President of Sahiwal Chamber Sohail Anjum Ansari said. Sewerage tax for industrialists by the Metropolitan Corporation Has been drastically increased while there is no sewerage drainage nor staff cleaning in the estate - the only park in the industrial estate is in a state of disrepair due to neglect while the garbage of all the surrounding slums is also an industrial estate. Deputy Commissioner assures prompt resolution



Deputy Commissioner Babar Bashir (center) presents a plaque to industrialists in the Small Industrial Estate. He called on the industrialists to enhance the beauty of Sahiwal. Appreciated the spirit and assured full cooperation of the district administration in this regard.

DG parks and horticulture, Taha Saleem, visits IoBM

DNA

KARACHI: The Institute of Business Management (IoBM) is collaborating in corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative with the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC). IoBM and KMC with close coordination with the office of Parks and Horticulture Karachi will initiate "#LetsGreenKarachi" project. It is a sustainable plantation drive to be held across the city. The first stakeholder meeting in this regard was held on Saturday, October 17, 2020, at IoBM. Director General Parks and Horticulture Karachi, Mr. Taha Saleem, an IoBM alumnus, along with stakeholders of this project attended this



meeting. The participants decided on the areas where the tree plantation drives will be initiated. They also discussed various strategic objectives of this project. Besides the presence of

Mr. Talib Karim, President IoBM; Dr. Syed Irfan Hyder, Rector IoBM, this meeting was attended by Dr. Shahid Amjad, HoD Environment & Energy Dept., IoBM; Mr. Salman Tufail,

Director, Tufail Group; Mr. Salman Mahmud, CEO Future Agritech, Mr. Taufiq Pasha, Horticulture Expert, Mufti Faisal Japanwala, and members of the IoBM Alumni Association.

FDA's drive against encroachments

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Under the directions of Faisalabad Development Authority Director General Muhammad Suhail Khawaja, FDA anti encroachment team carried out grand operation and demolished the illegal constructions and other encroachments from the front of more than 50 shops at main bazaar Nazimabad. The heavy machinery was used to demolish the illegal structures and the police contingent provided legal cover and supervised the anti encroachment operation to avert any resistance from the shopkeepers. According to the details, on the orders of Supreme Court of Pakistan, the complete survey was got conducted by the FDA administration in the resistance colonies and commercial markets under FDA control and encroached sites were identified and marked for removal of the encroachments were given suitable time and asked to remove the illegal constructions and

other encroachments voluntarily by themselves but the shopkeepers of main bazaar Nazimabad failed to comply with the directions and did not cooperate in this regard. On the request of FDA Director General, the CPO Faisalabad deployed heavy contingent of police to make the anti encroachment operation a success without facing any resistance from the public. The anti encroachment team headed by State Officer Intiaz Ali Goraya, carried out grand operation and demolished the tea stalls, oven structures and other constructions made by the shopkeepers by encroaching the sites of roads. The main bazaar was made clear for the public utility. FDA Director General Muhammad Suhail Khawaja has informed that the anti encroachment operation would be continued and violators would be dealt with iron hand. He warned that criminal cases would be got lodged and the law breaker beside imposing heavy amount of fines against them.

Saiful Malook: A lake famous for its fairytales

DNA

PESHAWAR: The fatigue and boredom of tedious journey from plain to northern areas of Pakistan suddenly gets relieved as one feasts one's eyes with awe stricken scenic beauty of Saiful Malook lake amid cold breezes, popping up delightful thoughts of being in realms of fantasy and fairytales. The crystal clear greenish-blue water of the world famous Saiful Malook Lake, which is spread on 1.06 square miles and has 113 feet depth with elevation of 3,224 meters from sea level leaves mesmerizing effects on the minds and souls of millions of tourists every year. Known as the

lake of fairy tales, Saiful Malook is surrounded by snow-capped mountains of Malika Parbat on its east at Kaghan valley Mansehra district, taking visitors into a lap of peace and serenity. Named after Persian Prince, Saiful Malook, the lake is a main centre of attraction for foreign and domestic tourists in Kaghan and Naran valleys especially during summer season due to its pleasant weather and waterfalls emanating from nearby glaciers of Malika Parbat. Noted Sufi poet, Mian Muhammad Bakhsh in his famous book "Fairytale of Saiful Malook" has narrated about Prince Saiful Malook and fairy princess Badriul Jamal during Malook's visit to the lake.

'Opposition running 'save corruption movement'

DNA

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping Ali Zaidi on Sunday accused the joint opposition of running a 'save corruption movement'. Talking to media persons, Ali Haider Zaidi said that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) brought the country to the brink of disaster due to their mega corruption but whenever someone asked them about corruption, they said that the democracy was in danger. He maintained that PML-N and PPP did nothing for the masses. The minister said that PPP had been ruling Sindh for over 12 years but it could not provide even potable water to the masses. Earlier today, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz had said the opposition alliance of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) only busy in holding shows which had no direction and no plan. In his tweet, Shibli Faraz had said opposition parties had nothing to do with the issues of general masses as they were busy in crying over their personal interests. He had further suggested PDM president and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman to address the Karachi rally before the participants left the venue.

7 Sahulat Bazaars set up in Faisalabad

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: On the instructions of the Punjab government, seven Sahulat bazaars have been set up in the district to provide fruits, vegetables and groceries to the consumers at fixed government rates. These bazaars were located and functional at Riaz Shahid Chowk ISLAM nagar, Faizan e Madina chowk Susan road, Mofel Bazar Jhang road, Gojra Road Samundari, Jhumra Road Jarawal, Quaid-e-Azam Road near General Bus Stand Tandianwala and Chiniot Road near Main Water Works Chak Jhumra. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali visited the different Sahulat Bazaars and checked the availability, quality and prices of essential commodities. He asked the Assistant Commissioners that the essential commodities should be available to the consumers at fixed government rates. He also stressed on crackdown against profiteers and hoarders and clarified that implementation of price control mechanism as per government guidelines should be ensured. Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali visited fruits and vegetable Market Sadhar and inspected the bidding process and wholesale prices of fruits and vegetables. Assistant Commissioner Sadar Umar Maqbool, Extra Assistant Director Agriculture Abdul Rehman and officers of the Market Committee were also present. Deputy Commissioner went to the stalls and checked the prices of vegetables and fruits and their quantities while reviewing the auction procedures.



DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan distributing food packets among the families with low income, sponsored by TIKA. — DNA

OCTOBER 2020

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:

www.centrelines.com.pk
www.dnanews.com.pk
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@ Postislamabad / @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markaz, ISLAMABAD-PAKISAN
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165



Briefs**Minister directs measures to control prices**

DNA

ATTOCK: Provincial Minister for Revenue Col (R) Malik Anwar Khan has said that tangible step are being taken to control the prices of edibles and all the stakeholders are being taken into confidence for the provision of relief to the masses. He said this while presiding a meeting in Attock. DC Attock Ali Anan Qamar, Assistant Commissioner Zameena Wazir, Distt Officer Rabia Naseem and others were present.

Provincial Minister directed all the officers to ensure availability of edibles at control prices. He said, to control the present wave of price hike different committees headed by provincial ministers have been constituted to have a look at the prices of wheat flour, sugar, vegetables, fruits and other edible items.

He directed the officers to visit fruit and vegetable markets on daily basis and monitor the process of auction of fruit and vegetable. Punjab Seed Corporation to also play its role for controlling the price of wheat. Earlier while briefing the minister the officers said that 20kg flour bag was available @Rs 860 and for the purpose 14 sale points have been setup. Action is being taken against those involved in over charging and till now more than 20 million rupees as fine has been deposited in national kitty.

IRSA releases 115,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 115,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 69,600 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarela Dam was 1528.17 feet, which was 142.17 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded as 38,100 cusecs and outflow as 58,000 cusecs.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1216.70 feet, which was 176.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 8,700 cusecs and 35,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 71,900, 55,700 and 24,600 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 7,200 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 7,700 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. — APP

IESCO issues power schedule

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Sunday issued power suspension programme for Monday various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work.

According to IESCO spokesperson, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 08:00 am to 12:00 noon, Rizwan Mill, Al Qadir Mill, Mail, Vanhar, Sarkal, Chakral, City, DHQ, KRL, Faziya, Jinnah Camp, Al Noor, Falcon, CDA, FH S, I-8/4, Shakrial, Noor Mohammad, Kurry Road, Khurram Colony, Service Road, Tariq Shaheed, Muslim Town, Bani, Katarian, Holy Family, F Block, Chakra, Sihala, RCCI-1, RCC I-2, RCCI-3, Coral, G-10/4, Highway, Talai, Iqbal Town, Al-Noor Colony, CDA, Faziya, Nogzi, Faziya, Islampura, Kohar, Fatehpur, Abbaspora, Jinnah Road feeders, 08:30 am to 12:30 pm Balkasar, Danda Shah Bilawal, Dharabi, Akwal, Darwat, Bhal, Dhadi Express, Syed Kasran, Mangwal, Khaipur, Sarpak, Qadir, Sarkal, Kachehri, Rawal, Sagarpur, CS Shah, Lillah Town, Ajmal Shaheed, HPT Two Feeders and surrounding areas. — APP

Chairman CDA directs for repairing SWTP

He said that all the repair work should be completed and reported within three months, so that the sewage water of Islamabad could be treated according to the international environment standard and used for horticulture

FIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) has directed to start repairing the Sewage Water Treatment Plant (STP) immediately and issued instructions to make it operational within three months, while estimating the required budget in this regard he has also demanded a detailed report from the officers. Chairman CDA paid a surprise visit to STP yesterday.

Member Finance CDA, Director STP, Directors Environment, Director Road Maintenance and other officers were also present on the occasion. Chairman CDA Amir Ahmad Ali while issuing instructions to the concerned officers and staff on the spot said that repair and maintenance work of STP should be started immediately, all the faulty motors and system should be repaired and the plant should be started immediately. So that sewage wa-



ter does not contaminate natural streams. He also assured the officers and staff regarding

the provision of budget in this regard. He said that all the repair work should be completed and reported within three months, so that the sewage water of Islamabad could be treated according to the international environment standard and used for horticulture. A 100,000 gallon storage tank is also under construction. He also directed the concerned city sewerage to fix the sewerage network immediately and issued special instructions to re-

pair the lines immediately. The CDA chairman said that during this time he would also make occasional visits to check the working situation from time to time. The condition of the sewage water treatment plant has been very bad for the last three years, while the plant has been shut down for the last few months due to malfunction of several sewage pumps and malfunction of large tank motors and filters back wash system he added.

MoU for establishing Center of Excellence

ISLAMABAD: Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with POWER99 Foundation to engage in an effort to promote education in the field of journalism and digital media communication by establishing a Center of Excellence in Media Studies on the campus. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor, Quaid-i-Azam University and Najib Ahmed, Chairman, POWER99 Foundation signed the MoU, a press release on Sunday said. As a preliminary activity, the Foundation will assist QAU in developing curriculum, training manuals and course plans to impart education and skills to the degree and diploma students of the Center.

Later on the Foundation will support QAU to establish and manage a Digital Content Depository (DCD) for all departments of the University accessible to the students across the world to meet the new challenges facing the education sector of Pakistan due to pandemic. While addressing the ceremony, the Vice Chancellor said, this collaboration is a part of QAU's efforts to establish academia industry linkages. He said the center of excellence "Quaid-i-Azam School of Media Studies" would contribute towards evolving and changing landscape of media and communication industry by providing skilled human resource. Najib Ahmed, Chairman of Foundation said the foundation will help QAU to establish a Digital Audio Broadcast (DAB) Studio as a necessary component of the Quaid-i-Azam School of Media Studies. The organization will also provide technical facilities to different departments in their educational and co-curricular activities. Prof. Dr. Nazir Hussain, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof. Dr. Zahid Asghar, Registrar, QAU, Treasurer of the University and senior faculty members attended the signing ceremony. — APP

Tests and interviews conducted

ABBOTTABAD: To change the police culture Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Hazara police Qazi Jameel ur Rehman Saturday conducted first time written test and interview to select educated and well-mannered police Moharrar. The test was organized at all district headquarters of Hazara division under the supervision of senior police officers where for 56 police stations 117 candidates including 5 female appeared for the post of Moharrar and 175 candidates for Maddad Moharrar post. DIG Hazara Qazi Jameel ur Rehman said that Moharrar is the back bone of police station, their education, good conduct and manners help people to provide them justice, it also boosts the police mora. He further said that to bring the change in police culture these tests and interviews were the need of the time, we have conducted written test and interview in all over Hazara division and soon the successful candidates would be deployed in their respective districts. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Aajmal Balouch President All Pakistan Anjman Tajran & Khalid Choudhry Secretary Traders action Committee presenting Flowers to Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan President ICCI & Ijaz Abbasi Former President ICCI. Irfan Choudhry & Akhter Abbasi are also present at the occasion. — DNA

Transgender persons demand equal justice and security

The president Hazara transgender association said 54 transgender persons had been killed

DNA

ATTOCK: Transgender persons demanded of the government to take measures for providing justice and ensuring their security. The transgender persons staged a protest at Hassanabdal press club and asked the police to take action against elements involved in torturing, harassment and extortion against them. The protest was led by Nadra Khan, President

Hazara Transgender Association and participated by member KPK provincial youth parliament and the members of transgender community. The protesters said that they would fight for their rights. Talking to media persons, Nadra Khan said that a five-member dance party led by famous dancer Gull Mashal was going back to Rawalpindi on early hours of October 12, when around 11 persons equipped with different weapons intercept-

ed them outside a village in limit of Hassanabdal Police Station. They tried to abduct all the dancers. She said that when they resisted, the accused persons subject them to serve torture and later snatched cash worth Rs 0.4 million and jewelry items from them. The president Hazara transgender association said 54 transgender persons had been killed and other 599 were subjected to physical torture during the last two years.

Master Allah Bukhsh remembered

ISLAMABAD: The 32nd death anniversary of eminent painter and calligrapher Master Allah Bukhsh was observed today (Sunday), a private news channel reported. Born in 1895 in Wazirabad, Allah Bukhsh was actively involved in aesthetics and classical landscape paintings throughout his life. He produced his work in British India before partition and in Pakistan after split of Indian sub-continent. Most of his work revolves around traditional tales of Persian and Hindu mythology. He also depicted rural life, particularly culture of Punjab, Pakistan in his paintings.

PTCL appoints Matthew Willsher as President, CEO

ISLAMABAD: The PTCL Board of Directors has appointed Matthew Willsher, currently CEO of Etisalat Afghanistan, to the post of CEO PTCL Group (PTCL & Ufone) effective 1st December 2020. He succeeds Rashid Khan, who was President & CEO of the PTCL Group since March 2019 and decided to leave due to personal reasons. Matthew has been working in the telecom industry for over 25 years. Previously he has been CEO of Etisalat in Afghanistan and in Nigeria, and held CXO roles for Etisalat in UAE, Maxis in Malaysia, and CSL in Hong Kong. He has also worked in Australia, South Korea, Holland and the UK in a variety of commercial, operational and corporate roles. Matthew's career started in marketing for Procter & Gamble. He holds a degree in Physics from Oxford University in the UK, a Masters in Management from McGill University in Canada, and a Diploma in International Practising Management from INSEAD in France. DNA

Business Community lauds services of Police

Addressing the dinner hosted by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari, Sardar Yasir Ilyas said that Islamabad Police is an exemplary force and is much better than other parts of other of the country

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari and CDA's Coordinator for NA-54, Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari organized a dinner to honor the services of Jamil Hashmi (SSP) and Gulam Muhammad Baqir (DSP) on their retirement as well as for congratulating the recently promoted eleven DSPs at their residence. President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry Sardar Yasir Ilyas and SP Industrial Area Zubair Sheikh were the chief guests. Vice President ICCI, Abdul Rehman Khan and former Presidents of ICCI Zubair Ahmad Malik, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Zafar Bakhtawari, Ejaz Abbasi and prominent business leaders of Islamabad also attended the event.

Addressing the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas said that Islamabad Police is an exemplary force and is much better than other parts of other of the country. It has

improved its performance and perception with its hard work and dedication. He said that a few years ago, when a burglary took place at his house, Islamabad police had managed to catch all the dacoits successfully. "We must all work for the betterment and development of our country's future," he added. Acknowledging the serv-

ices of Jamil Hashmi, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that he had rendered excellent services for a better relation between Islamabad Police and the business community. This gathering is a reflection of the fact that we have a deep harmony and brotherhood between us and we share each other's joys and sorrows equally. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari

further said that by eradicating crime from Pakistan we can provide the people with the best sense of protection of their lives, property and honor as this is the basic duty of the state and Islamabad Police is performing this responsibility successfully enough. Mr. Zubair Sheikh said that Islamabad Police is working day and night to ensure peace and securi-

ty of the capital and the newly promoted officers of Islamabad Police would serve the city with the same zeal and spirit. He appreciated the role of ICCI for better coordination with the different markets for their role to curb the street crime in the city. Retired SSP Islamabad Police, Jamil Hashmi said in his address that Zafar

Bakhtawari and his family have rendered excellent services for Islamabad in various respects but it is unfortunate that their services have never been recognized at the national level.

He has put various efforts to improve the positive image of Pakistan in the diplomatic community. He further said that I have sincerely served the people of Islamabad and they have co-operated with me in this endeavor, for which I am thankful towards them. Representing the promoted DSPs Abdul Razaq, Ashraf Kahut, Mohammad Ameer, Nawaz Bhatti, Sajjad Bukhari, Chaudhry Mohammad Islam, Mubarak Ali Virk, Israr Ahmed Arain, Kazim Mansoor and Zulfiqar Ahmed, DSP Rana Mohammad Akram said that Islamabad Police will continue its efforts to improve its performance with the same hard work, passion and dedication. At the end, Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari offered his gratitude to all the honorable guests for joining the event.

**Bid to smuggle drugs foiled, three held**

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad, Sadder Circle police has thwarted an attempt to smuggle drugs from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to down parts of the country and arrested two persons including a woman along with huge cache of Heroin and Hashish, a police spokesman on Sunday said.

A team headed by DSP Khalid Mehmood Awan, comprising SHO Tarnol, Muhammad Aalamgir Khan and Sub-inspectors, Muhammad Khan and Shahid Asghar during a special checking near Chungi no 26 arrested the suspects after recovering 1.295 kilogram heroin and 550 garm hashish from their possession. The accused, identified as Anzar Gul and Shahida bibi confessed their involvement in inter-city drugs smuggling during the preliminary investigation.

Meanwhile, SHO Golra Police Station Inspector Sham-ul-Akber, Sub-inspectors Munir Khan along with others officials nabbed a drug pusher namely Mumtaz and recovered 1.160 kilogram hashish from him. Cases have been registered against them and further investigation was underway. — APP

3 held for decanting gas illegally

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested three accused for illegally refilling gas cylinders and selling petrol illegally and recovered refilling equipment from their possession, informed police spokesman here on Sunday. During course of action, Rata Amral police have arrested accused namely Minhas for illegally refueling gas cylinders while accused Haseeb was also held for openly selling petrol. Similarly, Naserabad police arrested accused identified as Muhammad Waqas for illegally refueling gas cylinders. Police have registered separate cases against them and started investigation. — APP

Briefs

Chairman CDA directs to repair STP

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Amir Ali Ahmed, has directed to start repairing the Sewage Water Treatment Plant (STP) immediately and issued instructions to make it operational within three months. He directed to estimate the required budget in this regard and has also demanded a detailed report from the officers, said media coordinator of CDA. Chairman CDA paid a surprise visit to STP on other day. Member Finance CDA, Director STP, Directors Environment, Director Road Maintenance and other officers were also present on the occasion. Amir Ahmad Ali while issuing instructions to the concerned officers and staff on the spot said that repair and maintenance work of STP should be started immediately, all the faulty motors and system should be repaired and the plant should be started immediately. So that sewage water does not contaminate natural streams. He also assured the officers and staff regarding the provision of budget in this regard. He said that all the repair work should be completed and reported within three months, so that the sewage water of Islamabad could be treated according to the international environment standard and used for horticulture. A 100,000 gallon storage tank is also under construction. He also directed the concerned city sewerage to fix the sewerage network immediately and issued special instructions to repair the lines immediately. – APP

83 new COVID-19 cases in Islamabad: NCOC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) on coronavirus Sunday said that 83 new COVID-19 cases were reported from the federal capital during last 24 hours. According to an official of NCOC, as many as 132 cases were reported last day while so far total 17,996 cases were reported from the federal capital. He said that 194 deaths were reported from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) while 16,672 patients had been recovered completely. Meanwhile, on the direction of Ministry of National Health Services, the district administration of Islamabad had started smart lockdown in different streets of Islamabad to reduce transmission of the infection in selected streets and other sectors of Islamabad. They also started taking actions on violation of SOPs related with the Corona while visiting marriage halls, markets and petrol pumps by its inspection teams. The administration also sealed schools, shops, workshop and restaurants on violation of SOPs. The inspection teams also issued notices to marriage halls besides imposing fines on owners of different shops. Commenting on the situation, an official of Ministry of National Health Services said that several local level administrative decisions were made to control the disease.

Pakistanis believe unemployment rises during past 6 months

DNA

ISLAMABAD: According to Dun&Bradstreet and Gallup Pakistan Consumer Confidence Index, 80% Pakistanis believe unemployment has increased in the past 6 months. The Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) is a reflection of current sentiments and future outlook as seen through the eyes of consumers across Pakistan. The CCI score is an indicator of consumer optimism/pessimism about the economy, as well as their own financial situation. Consumer Confidence Index is a leading indicator of the economic health and social well-being. A nationally representative sample of adult men and women from across the four provinces was asked the following question, "In your opinion, in comparison to last 6 months, unemployment in Pakistan has...?" In response to this question, 5% said decreased a lot, 9% said decreased, 5% said remained the same, 29% said increased and 51% said increased a lot.



ISLAMABAD: Group Photograph of participants of seminar with Chief Guest Dr. S.M. Junaid Zaidi, Executive Director COMSATS. The seminar under the title Innovative Strategies in Research and Education was arranged by Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) with the collaboration of Government College Women University Faisalabad. – DNA

ICCI calls for promulgation of a balanced rent control act

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the promulgation of a balanced rent control act in Islamabad was the dire need of the hour as it was a long standing demand of traders

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry along with a delegation visited Sitara Market, G-7 Markaz Islamabad and congratulated Altaf Hussain Shah, President, Rana Akram, Secretary General and other newly elected Office Bearers of the Traders Welfare Association of the market on achieving

landslide victory in the elections. Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the promulgation of a balanced rent control act in Islamabad was the dire need of the hour as it was a long standing demand of traders.

He said that the absence of a rent law was not only giving rise to rent disputes between the tenants and landlords, it also affected the business activities as well. Therefore,

he demanded that a balanced rent law should be promulgated which should protect the genuine rights of the landlords and the tenants.

He further said that an amended bill of rent control act was passed by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly and emphasized that the National Assembly should pass it as soon as possible while the Chamber would extend full cooperation in this regard.

Expressing his views, Founder Group Chairman Mian Akram

Farid and Vice President ICCI Abdul Rehman Khan said that no development work has been done in any market of Islamabad for the last four years due to which the problems of traders were increasing. However, they reiterated that the incumbent leadership of ICCI would do its utmost with CDA and MCI to resolve these issues.

The newly elected President of Traders Welfare Association Altaf Hussain Shah and Secretary

General Rana Akram speaking at the occasion said that traders have been facing financial difficulties due to Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns for the last seven months and they needed relief measures from the government.

They said that some steps of FBR, CDA and MCI were adding to the problems of traders and said that ICCI should play its role in resolving such issues through dialogue with these institutions.

5,807 persons' names removed from black list

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Interior has on Saturday removed names of 5,807 persons from its black list as meeting of review committee was held after four years. A meeting of the Periodical Review Committee formed to reconsider removal of people from the list was held on October 8, after a period of nearly four years. The committee had last met in December 2016. Of the total 42,725 blacklisted citizens, the committee recommended removal of 5,807 individuals after consultations

with all relevant departments who had called for blacklisting these individuals.

The decision to remove names was made after consulting with concerned departments. The committee will reconsider removing the rest of the people from the blacklist in its upcoming meeting. Minister for Interior Brig (ret) Ijaz Ahmed directed the Directorate General Immigration and Passports to convene a meeting of the committee twice a year. He called for steps to facilitate Pakistani citizens. – APP

CDA launches 'Light up Islamabad' campaign

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has launched a campaign 'Light up Islamabad' to restore the splendor of Islamabad Beautiful. The campaign, headed by Member Finance, CDA, Rana Shakeel would resolve the capital city issues, highlighted by the residents on the 'Light up Islamabad' app, to be launched soon. Talking to APP, he said, the suggestions and feedback from the citizens to make the federal capital better and more beautiful would be welcomed. Shakeel said it had been felt since a long by the residents that the concerned formations

were not paying attention to civic issues such as sanitation, water supply, road maintenance, dysfunctional street lights and others.

Taking cognizance over the growing concerns by the locals, the federal government had decided to place four major directorate of Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) under the administrative control of CDA to ensure smooth and effective service delivery in the city and to ease the difficulties being faced by its citizens, he said. The directorates included, Environment Wing, Sanitation and City Sewerage, Water supply and Sewerage Development and the engineering wing, Machinery Pool Organization (MPO).

Beaconhouse Group partners with Teach for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Teach For Pakistan and The Beaconhouse Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding, formalizing a 2-year partnership between the two organizations. The agreement was signed by Teach For Pakistan CEO, Ms. Khadija ShahperBakhtiar and Mr. Nassir Kasuri, the Executive Director North of The Beaconhouse Schools System. Other members of the organization's Board of Directors, including Mr. Os-

man Saifullah Khan and Mr. Tajamal Shah were also present at the occasion.

The Beaconhouse Group has been a founding partner to Teach For Pakistan, supporting the organization since its launch in Islamabad in 2017 by generously donating infrastructure and financial resources. With the support of partners like The Beaconhouse Group, Teach For Pakistan has to date placed and enabled 48 talented grad-

uates from the country's best universities to teach over 3,000 students and support 20 public schools in Islamabad's rural sectors of Tarnol, Nilore, Bara Kahu and Sihala. As its primary placement partner, Teach For Pakistan is supporting the Federal Directorate of Education in building an equitable and excellent education system. This partnership reflects the Beaconhouse Group's intention to elevate the quality

of education in low-income communities by supporting excellent teaching and learning opportunities for students, similar to those available to children attending private schools. Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Nassir Kasuri, who is also serving as the Chairman of the Teach For Pakistan's Board said, "Beaconhouse is a proud partner with Teach For Pakistan because it has a tremendous impact in classrooms and beyond. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Zahid Latif Khan, Capital Market Professional presenting crest to Mr. Abrar Hashmi, Consular General of Pakistan. Present are Dr. Saad Zaheer from Department of Homeland Security, Dr. Hasan Gokal from Harris County Public Health, Dr. Amer Zaheer from Baylor Medical College, Muhammad Umair Khalid, renowned Houstonian businessman and Muhammad Abdullah Khan, Director OPAL-BPO. The luncheon meeting's focus was 'Roshan Digital Account' for Overseas Pakistanis. – DNA

CRTI opposes Right of Access to Information (Amdt) Bill, 2020

The said amendment bill, if enacted by the Parliament, will limit the scope of the right to information law by excluding Parliament from the definition of public bodies, which are bound to provide information to citizens

ISLAMABAD: The Coalition on Right to Information (CRTI) strongly opposes the Right of Access to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which has been moved as a private member bill in the Senate of Pakistan. The said amendment bill, if enacted by the Parliament, will limit the scope of the right to information law by excluding Parliament from the definition of public bodies, which are bound to provide information

to citizens. CRTI condemns this move for being malafide, unconstitutional, and against the interests of the people of Pakistan. Commenting on the move, Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Executive Director of CPDI, said that the proposed amendment to Section 2 (ix) will not only weaken the Act but also the fledgling democracy in Pakistan. He went on to say that it is a shame that, instead of working to establish the reputation of the Parliament

as the most transparent institution, some senators wish to exclude it from the scope of RTI, which is a pre-requisite for transparent governance and public accountability. Mr. Aftab Alam, ED of Institute for Research, Advocacy and Development (IRADA), while strongly opposing the amendment, said that "removing Parliament from the ambit of RTI is sheer subversion of people's right to information. Any attempt to dilute the cit-

izens' right to information is tantamount to curbing the undiluted fundamental right to information as enshrined in Article 19-A of the Constitution of Pakistan."

Ms. Gulmina Bilal, Director Individual said, "The proposed amendment needs to be strongly re-thought as it is deemed to be against the very spirit of transparency and ensuring public oversight of financial resources, authority and public trust."

Mr. Muhammad Anwar, Executive Director of Centre for Governance and Public Accountability (CGPA) CGPA said, "the very basis for exempting the parliament from the ambit of RTI is flawed. The sanctity of the parliament improves, not diminishes, with more openness and transparency. Citizens must know about the working and performance of the Parliamentarians. Such information is critical for citizens to decide whom

to vote in general elections. By depriving citizens from such constitutional rights, the parliament is striking on the very roots of democracy."

Mr. Adnan Rehmat, ED of Civic Action Resources, remarked that "the amendment is unacceptable since the public pays for the parliament's upkeep. If the representatives of common people cannot deem themselves accountable than they don't deserve our votes and taxes." – APP

'PM's portal to empower Tiger Force'

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Climate Change Zartaj Gul said on Sunday that PM's Tiger Force portal has been launched to empower the Tiger Force for better results.

Launching of PM's Tiger Force portal is a achievement of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, she said while talking to a private news channel. All the volunteers are registered with the national portal, while it is a force of the people who want to own their city, constitution and streets, she added. She said it is a non-political and non-remunerated force and it is an effective way to utilize the energetic and active youth in constructive activities.

It is also an opportunity for the youth to serve their country and masses too, she concluded. – APP

602 mln for electricity to sector I-11

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has allocated an amount of Rs 602 million for supply of electricity to Sector I-11. According to the handouts issued by CDA, the amount of 602 million rupees has been allocated to Mechanical Division of the authority for construction of Grid Station – Feeder Line in Sector I-11. The allocation of funds for supply of electricity to Sector I-11 has been made on directions of Chairman CDA as part of comprehensive strategy of CDA Administration to develop long neglected residential sectors and uplift infrastructure in Islamabad.

The authority has taken a number of steps for development of Sector I-11 in short period of time. CDA is working on construction of four box culverts in Sector I-11/2 in order to improve drainage system and pedestrian movement in the area. Similarly to CDA is working on Storm Management System in I-11 as well. Along with I-11, CDA is focusing on development of other long neglected residential sectors also. Development work in phase 1 of Park Enclave is about to complete due to efforts of incumbent CDA Administration while development work of phase-II of Park Enclave is about to start. Similarly development work at other long neglected sectors of Islamabad including I-12, I-15 and E-12 also was in progress.

Textile exports up 2.92% in Q1

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The exports of textile commodities witnessed an increase of 2.92 percent during the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year. The textile exports from the country were recorded at \$3469.585 million in July-September (2020-21) against the exports of \$3371.376 million in July-September (2019-20), showing growth of 2.92 percent, according to latest data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). The textile commodities that contributed in positive trade growth included knitwear, exports of which increased from \$779.293 million last year to \$860.758 million during the current year, showing growth of 10.46 percent. Likewise, exports of bed wear increased by 8.40 percent by growing from \$601.024 to \$651.487 while the exports of tents, canvas and tarpin grew by 78.71 percent, from \$15.771 to \$28.184, the PBS data revealed. The readymade garments' exports were recorded at \$701.442 million during the current year against the exports of \$666.157 million last year, showing an increase of 5.24 percent while exports of madeup articles (excluding towels and bedwear) increased by 16.58 percent from \$148.050 million to \$172.604 million. Meanwhile, the commodities that witnessed negative growth in traded included raw cotton, exports of which declined by 97.50 percent, from \$10.826 million to \$0.271 million while the exports of cotton yarn decreased by 42.65 percent, from \$297.237 to \$170.475. Exports of cotton cloth also decreased by 8.49 percent, from \$499.390 million to \$457.060, yarn (other than cotton yarn) by 22.77 percent, from \$7.230 million to \$0.931 million, art silk and synthetic textile by 2.93 percent from \$77.894 million to \$75.615 million whereas the exports of cotton (carded or combed) witnessed 100 percent decline during the period under review.

NATO convoy attack

SINCE the US invasion of Afghanistan, Pakistan has had to pay a heavy price both in terms of loss of life and damage to the economy worth billions of dollars. Pakistan, under General Pervez Musharraf, became party to the American 'War on Terror' resulting in a severe upsurge in domestic and cross border terrorism. It took years of subsequent military operations to clear our badlands of terrorists but this marked improvement in the security situation of the country is quite fragile.

Two days back parallel IED blasts claimed the lives of 20 security personnel. Yesterday a NATO convoy moving through Bara Tehsil of Khyber district in KP en route to Afghanistan came under attack by multiple armed men who stopped the two trailers carrying four Humvees and torched the vehicles. Although there was no loss of life, such an incident has taken place after more than a year indicates slippages in the intelligence apparatus of the country.

Not too long ago, Afghan-based Taliban were able to take over Swat and were fast advancing towards Islamabad, which is when necessary action was taken to stop them. Zia-era militancy and years of harboring the enemy notwithstanding, the delayed action against the Taliban plunged the country into an avoidable war resulting in thousands of innocent lives being lost. Pakistan simply cannot afford a repeat of the events that led it to being in the security quagmire that it was for over two decades.

This sudden uptick in the number of attacks is alarming and must be dealt with swiftly. As things stand, Pakistan is attempting to at least avoid the dreaded FATF black list and ideally be placed in the white list. Terrorist activity needs to be financed, which is exactly what Pakistan has been unable to stop leading to it being penalized by the FATF.

All agencies, be it security or intelligence, must ramp up efforts to preempt these events rather than acting after the fact.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

ABC CERTIFIED

Vol: 01 Issue: 176

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



Social responsibility

NEW developments have been made in the world of sports as 12 members, including 9 cricket players and 3 officials, violated the protocols that the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) put in place for the National T20 Cup. Threatening them with expulsion to prevent any future breaches, the PCB has made it clear that disregarding safety procedures, aimed at limiting virus transmission, is unacceptable. If players all across the world are able to adhere to the safety directives of their respective organisations, it should not be a tough ask locally as well.

Fortunately, all the 12 individuals involved in this breach have tested negative for the coronavirus. However, that does not excuse their irrational behaviour. With the second wave right around the corner, it is important for all sections of society to follow strict behavioural practices—sports players especially, considering the proximity within which they work together. This is the least they can do considering any violation on their part could result in the suspension of all activities within the industry, robbing them of their livelihood as well. Otherwise, not only is the integrity of the event, and consequently the body responsible for hosting it, is put into question but the lives of many could be subjected to unnecessary risk as well. All stakeholders need to understand that the bio-secure bubble was created for people's protection and if its efficacy is reduced through careless actions then all initiatives are rendered useless.

In other parts of the world, coaches are given a list of precautions that must be taken if practices and events are to resume. Encouraging players to stay at home when they are sick, bringing their own equipment, enforcing transparency in reporting any symptoms, increasing minimum distance between spectators, endorsing the use of masks and reducing the team size are some of the requirements that should be followed. If everyone is able to follow such prerequisites there then it should not be a big ask in Pakistan as well.

Regional geopolitical irritants

Abdul Wasay Ajmal

The Sino-India contestation in Asia for regional order i.e bipolar vs unipolar has also set in. However, the Chinese influence in the region is growing owing to its ever increasing economic and military prowess. China Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship of the Belt and Road Initiative, is on the track. Multi domain cooperation between China and Bangladesh; with China recently selling submarines to Bangladesh thereby increasing her dependence on China in military affairs. Nepal under Chinese influence is exerting autonomy vis-vis India. China-Sri Lanka economic cooperation is also on an ascendant path

THE relationship between India and China has seen sporadic turbulence throughout their shared history. After the partition, Nehru sought to establish cooperative relationship with China. Both countries, having aspirations to attain regional and great power status, sought to further their objectives through cooperation. This led to a series of high dignitaries' bilateral visits during the early 1950s in which mutual cooperation and economic development were the main themes.

Nehru's dream, however, was shattered when both countries went to war in 1962 over the disputed Himalayan border. A humiliating Indian defeat resulted in hiatus in the bonhomie. Post-Nehru, it was Rajiv Gandhi who picked up the baton and on his first visit to China in 1988, sought to reestablish friendly relations between the two countries.

The relationship, however, soured with border skirmishes occurring in Depsang in 2013 culminating in the Doklam Standoff in 2017. Recent Summits held in Wuhan and Mahabalipuram have been an attempt to deescalate the situation but the current standoff in Ladakh has raised tensions with no signs of reinstating status quo ante despite the Foreign Minister-level parleys. The fissures in this relationship are well entrenched having geopolitical, economic and military domains.

In the geopolitical domain, the World Order is in transition. Observers argue that the world is now moving towards a multipolar world with the US and China as the main poles. This transition process has further accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic. The US national security strategy stipulates China as the major strategic competitor, challenging its global hegemony in world affairs. In this context, the US is propping up India to counterbalance China.

The Sino-India contestation in Asia for regional order i.e bipolar vs unipolar has also set in. However, the Chinese influence in the region is growing owing to its ever increasing economic and military prowess. China Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship of the Belt and Road Initia-

tive, is on the track. Multi domain cooperation between China and Bangladesh; with China recently selling submarines to Bangladesh thereby increasing her dependence on China in military affairs. Nepal under Chinese influence is exerting autonomy vis-vis India. China-Sri Lanka economic cooperation is also on an ascendant path, Chinese company CHEC investing \$1.4 billion in expediting the port city of Colombo, a project which is estimated to bring in \$13bn worth investments and 80,000 jobs.

A proposed multi-billion strategic partnerships between China and Iran will further enhance China's influence in Iran vis-vis India. India views all these developments in its immediate neighborhood as steps undermining its influence in the region. Therefore, Indian policy allies itself with the US in order to counter the Chinese ambitions in South Asia. Upgrading the status of Quad, a strategic forum between Japan, India, Australia and US to ministerial level and India's active cooperation with US-likeminded countries in the Indo Pacific is to be seen in this context.

Economic Domain
Economic strength is considered to be one of the hard powers of any state. China's economic growth over the past 3 decades has been remarkable with average growth rate of over 6 percent. As of current statistics, China has a \$13 trillion economy with global economic initiatives such as the Belt and Road project connecting over 60 countries. India on the other hand has a smaller economy of \$2.179 trillion. Current Chinese trade with India is at a massive \$89.6bn.

While this trade is important for both the nations it is only 6 percent of China's total GDP, whereas, with India it is 13 percent thus making it important for India to maintain trade relations with China. India's trade deficit with China is \$56.8bn as of 2019 statistics. China continues to dominate the manufacturing sector, attracting major businesses around the world, promoting trade deals and mutual economic cooperation. This creates a major impediment for Indian policymakers as it undermines its potential as a lucrative investment destination.

Make in India, a flagship project launched with a vision to attract global investors could not flourish due to the dominating China market in the region. Economic prowess further poses a direct threat to India as increased Chinese military potential is a corollary of its economic strength.

In the military domain, the 1962 Sino-India war that resulted in a humiliating defeat to India is etched in the Indian memory. Both boast a massive military force with China being the third largest military power with a budget of \$178bn followed by fourth largest military force India with a military budget of \$61.5bn. As of 2019, China's military is 5 times bigger than India. Its superiority poses a direct threat to India as both share 3488 km contentious Line of Actual Control which is neither defined, delineated nor demarcated.

This has led to multiple skirmishes or standoffs across such as Depsang (2013), Chumar (2014), Doklam Standoff (2017) and the most recent one in Eastern Ladakh which has the probability to mutate into a limited war.

China is a nuclear power too with almost twice the number of nuclear stockpiles as compared to India. China's nuclear capability is the primary reason given by India for going nuclear in 1998. China is modernizing its military at a fast pace. According to defense analyst Pravin Sawhney, the Chinese capabilities in cyber, space and electromagnetic spectrum are unmatched by India.

The Sino-India power struggle is not a new phenomenon; under the prevailing global environment, the struggle for regional dominance between India and China will further complicate their relationship. China enjoys both military and economic dominance over India and continues to exert its influence.

Geopolitical, economic and military irritants are likely to increase the probability of conflict in the near future. Indian policymakers view China as the primary rival towards their regional and global ambitions thus making the Sino-India struggle for regional dominance an enduring one.

- The author is student at NDU

Pakistan's prospect for development of tourism

Munaza Kazmi



Along with the recent royal visit of Duchess and Duke of Cambridge from The UK, witnessing the charm of Kailash valley and mesmerizing mountains, afterwards the religious visit of Buddhist chief monk from Thailand, who launched the "Bell of Peace" at the city of Taxila, which is famous as one of the oldest cities of the subcontinent

PAKISTAN, a land naturally enriched, a heaven on earth for an international tourist, a magical bliss for the lover of nature, a colorful and diverse, blend of cultures and major religions, and a house of the most celebrated religious shrines.

From last few years, the country had pinned her hopes on the upcoming arrival of international tourism and is preparing for a healthy and warm welcome of its beloved guests, since in the last year 2019, Pakistan had topped the Conde Nast Traveler's list of best holiday destinations for 2020. Along with the recent royal visit of Duchess and Duke of Cambridge from The United Kingdom, witnessing the charm of Kailash valley and mesmerizing mountains, afterwards the religious visit of Buddhist chief monk from Thailand, who launched the "Bell of Peace" at the city of Taxila, which is famous as one of the oldest cities of the subcontinent, housing diverse history from the times of King Ashok and culture of several different civilizations. Pakistan, the country whose tourism was once thawed by the tales of

Taliban and extremism is once again in a warm spotlight as once she was in 70's or far beyond when the region was considered as "The Golden Sparrow". Seeing the travel dairies and recent publishing "In the Kingdom by the Sea" by Sara Macdonald 2019 a mesmerizing novel, in which the authoress praised of the serene hills of Margalla to the colored Mughal bazars, from the seashore to the mysterious deserts, and on top of everything the "hospitality" and friendship of Pakistani people. We can imagine of the tales of love and hospitality that must be filming in the minds of the people around the globe.

Moreover, the contemporary government of all favorite Prime Minister Imran Khan had done a lot for restructuring the industry, like making the arrival of international tourist comfortable and easy which includes relax visa policies, e-Visa, and visa on arrival facility. Likewise, the opening of Pakistan's borders for neighbor country; Hindustan, also known as the historic peace corridor "The Kartarpur Corridor" between India and Pakistan; allowing visa free vis-

it to the Indian pilgrims. These particulars are guarantee of the future prosperity.

Eyeing this we can say; the industry of tourism and hospitality is an emergent market in the economy of Pakistan. Rendering to Pakistan Hotel Association, Hotel sector alone contributes 3% to the GDP of the country and combined with tourism it contributes around 10.6% to the economy. Moreover, the market shows a lot of potential, seeing the projected report issued by World Travel and Tourism Council, that Pakistan possesses potential growth of \$39.8 billion within a decade. Which is a good sign in itself and hope for the upcoming prosperity of the region.

More to add, to my best knowledge, this all is not a mere a forecasting or a play of words, since the fruits of efforts had started to grow, as the upcoming projects of Luxury Hotels and Resorts have been launching in the near future besides some of them had been under construction in the metropolis and other major hubs of Pakistan.

In this context, a lot good can be coined by tourism and hospitality industry of Pakistan.

Briefs

Mosques
reopen in
virus-hit
Gaza Strip

DNA

GAZA CITY: Palestinian authorities reopened mosques in the Gaza Strip on Sunday after weeks of closure due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Ministry of Waqf and Religious Affairs, however, decided to keep mosques closed in areas categorized as "red zones," where high numbers of virus infections were recorded.

A ministry statement said dozens of mosques were disinfected before the reopening. In August, the ministry shut all mosques across the Palestinian territory following the detection of virus cases in the enclave.

Mosques, however, were partially reopened in Oct. 4 in some areas in the strip. The ministry said all preventive measures, including wearing masks, will be observed by worshippers while performing prayers at mosques.

Palestinian health authorities have recorded 4,645 virus cases, including 27 deaths, in the Gaza Strip since March. — APP

Iraq premier
vows to protect
civilians

BAGHDAD: Iraq's prime minister on Sunday pledged to provide protection to local residents in the northern Saladin province, a day after the killing of eight civilians by gunmen. "Our message to the people of Saladin is that the state will protect them," Mustafa al-Kadhimi said during a meeting with security and military officials in the province.

"Terrorism and all criminal acts will be prosecuted under the law," he said. On Saturday, gunmen abducted 12 civilians in the city of Balad and shot eight of them dead. Saladin's governor said the crime was committed by a group of people in military uniform. Following the incident, al-Kadhimi ordered an investigation of security officials' failure to provide security. The Iraqi Center for Documentation of War Crimes, an independent NGO, blamed the Shia Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq militia for the massacre, an accusation denied by the group. — APP

Malaysian
group slams
Armenian
attack on Ganja

MONITORING DESK

KUALA LAMPUR: A major Malaysian Islamic group on Sunday denounced Armenia's recent deadly attack on civilians in the Azerbaijani city of Ganja, as conflict in Upper Karabakh continues.

"This cannot be accepted as collateral damage of war as the attack is deliberate and targeted on civilians," Mohd Azmi Abdul Hamid, the head of the Malaysian Consultative Council for Islamic Organization, said in a statement.

At least 13 civilians were killed, including four women and three minors, and nearly 50 others injured, when Armenian missiles struck Azerbaijan's second-largest city on Saturday.

Olyntho
Vieira new
Brazil envoy
to Pakistan

From Page 01

In 1998 he was designated as head of the division of personnel. Between 2000 and 2004 he served in Permanent Representation of Brazil to the United Nations in Geneva as First Secretary and Counselor responsible for human rights, humanitarian and environmental affairs. Between 2015 and 2020 he was the Minister Counselor and Deputy Head of Mission at the Permanent Representation of Brazil to the Council of the United Nations International Civil Aviation Organization. In 2015 he presented a thesis titled International Refugees Protection: the use of resettlement in third countries as the least solution and burden sharing to the program of high studies at the Brazilian diplomatic academy.



LONDON: Harry Kane of Tottenham Hotspur celebrates after scoring a goal against West Ham United in Premier League game. — DNA

Belarusians march despite
police threat to open fire

We will stop only when every political prisoner walks free, when members of law enforcement begin to defend the people, and rule of law and honest elections return to Belarus," Tikhonovskaya said

DNA

MINSK: Thousands of Belarusians took to the streets of Minsk for a new protest against strongman Alexander Lukashenko on Sunday, in defiance of threats by authorities to open fire after weeks of demonstrations. The ex-Soviet nation has been gripped by historic protests after Lukashenko claimed victory in August 9 elections over Svetlana Tikhonovskaya, a popular opposition candidate. In a message ahead of Sunday's protest, Tikhonovskaya urged Belarusians to press ahead with their demands "peacefully but persistently". "We will stop only when every political prisoner walks free, when members of law enforcement be-

gin to defend the people, and rule of law and honest elections return to Belarus," she said. Tikhonovskaya, who was granted shelter in EU member Lithuania after the vote, has called on Lukashenko to quit power before October 25, warning he would otherwise face a crippling general strike. Earlier this week police claimed that protests were becoming more radicalised and warned that law enforcement would use lethal force "if necessary". Belarusian authorities deployed military trucks on Sunday and phone networks were heavily disrupted. Local operator MTS Belarus said it had been ordered to limit access to "ensure national security". Rights group Viasna said police had begun detaining demonstrators in Minsk and elsewhere.

In a break from previous protests when demonstrators gathered in the city centre, protesters on Sunday marched along Partisan Prospect, the main transport artery in southeast Minsk and home to a number of factories. "Descendants of glorious warriors" - The Nexta Live channel on social-media platform Telegram, which has coordinated protesters, urged Belarusians to express solidarity with workers during the protest, dubbed the "March of Partisans". "We, descendants of glorious warriors and partisans, are worthy of our forefathers who already defeated fascism once," the channel said in a message to its more than two million subscribers. During World War II, Nazi-occupied Belarus had Europe's largest partisan movement.

The protest movement has kept up a series of large-scale demonstrations for the past two months, with 100,000 people or more taking to the streets every Sunday. Tikhonovskaya, who maintains she won the August polls, says Lukashenko must also release political prisoners and halt "state terror" unleashed against peaceful protesters. Several people have died and thousands have been arrested in a post-election crackdown, with harrowing accounts emerging of abuse in jails. Many said they had been tortured, beaten and humiliated in detention. Police have acknowledged using water cannon and stun grenades against demonstrators but the use of live ammunition would mark a major escalation in the months-long standoff.

On Friday, a senior interior ministry official, Nikolai Karpenkov, said firearms would be used "in a humane manner" and selectively against protesters who put up resistance. Ahead of Sunday's march Ivan Tertel, head of the KGB security service, said provocations were being prepared to "destabilise the situation in our country". He did not say who was behind the alleged plot but said the organisers and their "foreign-based supervisors" planned to criticise law enforcement for tackling the provocations. Alexei Antonov, a regular at opposition rallies, said ahead of the march that his friends and acquaintances supported Tikhonovskaya's call for a general strike. "They are discussing it, and many are ready to join," Antonov told media.

Travelling to Norway amid corona

OSLO: Anyone arriving in Norway from abroad shall be in quarantine for 10 days, with the exception of specified countries in Europe with sufficiently low transmission. If you want to travel to Norway, note that you may have to stay in quarantine for 10 days after arrival. Exemptions are given upon arrival in Norway from areas in the Nordic countries and other EU/EEA/Schengen countries with sufficiently low transmission. Norway is not yet open for travellers from countries outside of the EU/EEA/Schengen area. On the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH)'s official website, you'll find a map and list of which countries and regions that are

exempt from quarantine. It also includes information for workers from Sweden and other countries in the EU/EEA/Schengen area that arrive in Norway. The page will be updated at least every second week.

If you are travelling to Norway, you may also get the opportunity to get tested for the coronavirus (for free) upon arrival, as test centres will be established at several airports, border crossings, and ports. When travelling in Norway, you are encouraged to pay with card instead of cash to help reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus. If you have a contactless-enabled card, this is the best thing to

use as it allows you to complete a purchase without touching the payment terminal at all. Note that some shops, restaurants and tour operators do not accept cash payments at the moment. Please notice that both national and local rules and regulations related to the coronavirus and travelling in Norway change frequently and on short notice. All travellers, both international and domestic, are therefore encouraged to seek out the most updated information by visiting the relevant websites. You should also follow precautionary guidelines, such as frequent hand-washing and social distancing, and respect regulations in place. — DNA

'May the independence
of Azerbaijan be eternal'

BAKU: First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva has made an Instagram post on the occasion of the State Independence Day. "These days, the entire world community is eye-witnessing the invincible will, resolve, determination, unity and solidarity of the Azerbaijani people, and their devotion to the Motherland. I am confident that these characteristics of our people will always help us to successfully cope with all the challenges ahead, as well as ensure the preservation of our independence. May the independence of Azerbaijan be eternal! May Almighty God bless our people and our Motherland!" Azerbaijan's First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva has said that Armenia's another missile attack on civilians in Azerbaijan's Ganja city is a crime against humanity and reflects the helplessness of the Armenian army. Mehriban Aliyeva made the remarks in her official Instagram page, a few hours after missile attacks on Ganja's residential area killed 13 civilians and injured 52 others.

"How one can be an insane beast to give another order on missile attack of civilian quarters of the sleeping city where there is no any military infrastructure? "Perfidious attack on Ganja done in the night is not only the evidence of fascist nature of the Armenian authorities and their lack of principles, but unveils also the total helplessness of the aggressor in front of the Azerbaijani Army. Targeted attacks against peaceful citizens are crime against humanity. And, to remain indifferent means to be the accomplice of this crime!" Aliyeva said. She further expressed her condolences to the families and beloved ones of those killed in the aftermath of the attack, and wished the soonest recovery to all injured ones. — DNA



BAKU: Ambassador Ali Asad Gillani presented credentials as new Pakistani ambassador to President of Azerbaijan Shavkat Mirziyoyev. He also conveyed warm wishes from Pakistani leadership. — DNA

Pak has great potential for development
of eco-tourism: Chinese Scholar

From the precipitous peaks of the Karakoram Range to the rich Indus Plain, Pakistan has incredible landscape, geography and biodiversity with many physiognomies such as plateau, plain, wetland and ocean

BEIJING: In the past few years, eco-tourism has been rising all over the world. Pakistan is rich in natural resources and has many favourable conditions for the development of eco-tourism. From the precipitous peaks of the Karakoram Range to the rich Indus Plain, Pakistan has incredible landscape, geography and biodiversity with many physiognomies such as plateau, plain, wetland and ocean, etc., providing a variety of choices for global eco-tourists, Cheng Xizhong, a visiting professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law said on Sunday. Prime Minister Imran Khan has recently put forward a very important concept on the development of tourism, that is, the promotion

of eco-friendly tourism. He strongly believe that Pakistan has great potential to develop eco-tourism, Cheng, also a senior fellow of the Charhar Institute commented in his article published by China Economic Net (CEN). According to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTTC), in 2019, the contribution rate of tourism industry to Pakistan's GDP was 5.9%, creating 3.9 million jobs. According to my calculation, if Pakistan's tourism industry develops to the level of China, its contribution rate to Pakistan's GDP will increase by 5.1% to 11%, and additional 2.37 million jobs will be created. He also believe that with development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), im-

provement of the infrastructure and the security situation, and especially when the novel coronavirus pneumonia is effectively controlled, Pakistan's eco-tourism will definitely develop greatly in the days to come, he said. As for how to further promote and develop eco-tourism, he offered three suggestions for consideration of our Pakistan friends: First, Pakistan's tourism industry is now at the participation stage of the development life cycle of tourist destinations, so a good job should be done in market segmentation and attraction of foreign adventure tourists. Second, Pakistan's security situation has gradually improved in recent years. The Pakistani government should consolidate

its achievements in fighting terrorism and maintaining stability. In particular, Pakistan's security agencies should further strengthen the security protection of foreign projects and personnel, so as to give foreign tourists a strong sense of safety. Third, resolute measures should be taken to control the spread of the second wave of COVID-19. Novel coronavirus pneumonia is a serious disaster in South Asia. Now, more than 7.45 million confirmed cases have been diagnosed in India, and the death toll has exceeded 110 thousand. The number of confirmed cases will soon surpass that of the United States and India will become the most serious pandemic country in the world. Obviously, India

has completely failed to control the pandemic. Bangladesh, with a population of 160 million, has more than 380,000 confirmed cases with nearly 6000 deaths. Nepal, with a population of only 27 million, has nearly 130,000 confirmed cases. By contrast, Pakistan's prevention and control measures are very strong and effective. Especially with the implementation of smart lockdown and standard operating procedures (SOP), Pakistan has successfully managed to control the spread of COVID-19. The pandemic has a fatal impact on the tourism industry. Therefore, the government of Pakistan should continue to take resolute and effective measures to prevent the new wave of pandemic spread. — APP

UN arms
embargo
ends against
Iran

MONITORING DESK

WASHINGTON: An arms embargo imposed since 2007 by the UN Security Council (UNSC) ended Sunday, according to Iran's foreign ministry. All restrictions on the transfer of arms, related activities and financial services to and from Iran, and all prohibitions regarding the entry into or transit through territories of the UN member states previously imposed on a number of Iranian citizens and military officials, are automatically terminated, the ministry said on its website. "As of today, the Islamic Republic of Iran may procure any necessary arms and equipment from any source without any legal restrictions and solely based on its defensive needs, and may also export defensive armaments based on its own policies," it said.

"Today is a momentous day for the international community, which in defiance of the U.S. regime's efforts, has protected UN Security Council Resolution 2231 and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)," it added, referring to the landmark nuclear deal Tehran signed with world powers.

The US upped the ante against Iran since withdrawing from the 2015 nuclear agreement in 2018, by re-installing sanctions. However, since the beginning of 2020, tensions have escalated alarmingly with the Trump administration announcing a "maximum pressure" campaign to choke Iran's financial channels. Last month, after a demand for an extension of the arms embargo was rejected by the Security Council, the US announced the reinstatement of all UN sanctions against Iran.

China
tops FDI in
Pakistan

From Page 01

Similarly, investment from United States during last five years was recorded at \$813 million, from United Arab Emirates \$425 million, Japan \$281 million, Hong Kong \$858.6 million, whereas Switzerland made investment worth of \$600.2 million. The biggest attraction for the FDI during the FY21 was power sector which received \$113.3m against \$32.3m in the same period last fiscal year.

Another attraction was financial business (banks) which received \$102.5m in the first quarter compared to \$30.7m in the same period of last fiscal.

Fahad Zubair, an economist said that FDI was separate from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor investments. As much as 22 CPEC projects worth nearly \$28 billion have been actualized. He said that some Western investors appeared reluctant because of the misperception that Chinese companies would be beneficiary of "exclusive advantages" and concessions that would not allow for an even playing field. "A perception has been cultivated that the Chinese are taking over. The fact of the matter is that this is not true," he added. He clarified "Pakistan's government has no ambiguity about it: It welcomes investors of all hues to come in and participate in building this economy - whether American, English or Japanese."

Pak slams
Armenian
PM's
statement

From Page 01

Of Pakistani special forces alongside Azerbaijani army in the ongoing conflict. It is regrettable that leadership of Armenia, to cover up its illegal actions against Azerbaijan, is resorting to irresponsible propaganda, which it must stop.

For our part, we wish to make clear that Pakistan has consistently extended diplomatic, moral and political support to Azerbaijan. Pakistan will continue to stand by the brotherly nation of Azerbaijan and support its right of self-defence against any aggression. We believe that long-term peace and normalization of relations between the two parties would depend on the complete and comprehensive implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azerbaijani territories.

Briefs

NZ victorious
Ardern vows
to deliver
reform

WELLINGTON: New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern vowed Sunday to "crack on" with delivering her vision following a landslide election victory, after a string of disasters frustrated reform in her first term. Ardern won a historic outright majority in Saturday's poll - the first since New Zealand adopted proportional voting in 1996 - allowing her to implement policies without support from minor parties. After facing criticism since winning office in 2017 for not delivering on key promises such as protecting the environment and reducing child poverty, Ardern said she now had a mandate for change. The charismatic leader said the scale of the victory, Labour's biggest since 1946, meant more voters were backing her centre-left party and its reformist agenda.

"I think they were endorsing the work we've done and the plan we have to go forward, and there are some areas we do want to crack on with," Ardern said. The 40-year-old, who has been hailed internationally as a standard-bearer for progressive politics, admitted the need to placate minor-party coalition partners "slowed down" reform in her first term. She also dealt with New Zealand's worst terrorist attack, a deadly volcanic eruption and the country's deepest recession in 30 years. In her victory speech late Saturday, Ardern flagged increased state housing, more renewable energy and other infrastructure investment. - APP

Australia's
second-biggest
city eases
lockdown

MELBOURNE: Officials announced a slight easing of lockdown restrictions in Australia's second-biggest city Sunday following a steady decline in new coronavirus cases, but they stopped short of ending a controversial "stay-at-home" rule. More than 100 days after the lockdown was imposed on Melbourne's five million residents to fight an out-of-control surge of Covid-19 cases, authorities lifted a two-hour limit on the time people could spend outside their homes for permitted activities.

They also extended to 25 kilometres (15 miles) the distance people could travel from their homes for those activities, which include exercise, shopping for essentials, socialising and work in essential professions. But Daniel Andrews, the premier of Victoria state which encompasses Melbourne, rejected growing calls for an end to all limits on people being able to leave their homes and for a broader reopening of restaurants and other retail businesses. - APP

Azerbaijan
downs another
Armenian SU-
25 fighter jet

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan on Sunday shot down another Armenian Su-25 fighter jet, according to the country's Defense Ministry - the second Su-25 to be downed in as many days.

In a statement, the ministry said the Su-25 attack aircraft was trying to launch airstrikes on Azerbaijani positions in the Jabrayil region when it was shot down, like its predecessor on Saturday. The jet was destroyed by Azerbaijani forces at around 12:30 p.m. (0830GMT), the ministry said. In a phone call, Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar congratulated Azerbaijan on shooting down the jets, said Turkey's Defense Ministry on Sunday. Earlier, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry announced that Armenian forces had already "grossly violated" a new humanitarian ceasefire only hours old, using large-caliber weapons, mortars and artillery. The ceasefire - the second since hostilities around Upper Karabakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) began on Sept. 27 - only went into effect at 12 midnight Saturday (2000GMT).

New Zealand: Jacinda Ardern
won a landslide victory

No party had managed to win an outright majority in New Zealand since it introduced a voting system known as Mixed Member Proportional representation (MMP) in 1996

DNA

AUKLAND: New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has won a landslide victory in the country's general election. With all votes tallied, Ms Ardern's centre-left Labour Party won 49.1%, bringing a projected 64 seats and a rare outright parliamentary majority. The opposition centre-right National Party won 26.8% in Saturday's poll - just 35 seats in the 120-seat assembly. The poll was originally to be held in September but was postponed by a month after a renewed Covid-19 outbreak.



Ahead of Saturday's vote, more than a million people cast ballots in early polling, which opened on 3 October. New Zealanders were also asked to vote in two referendums alongside the general election. The Electoral Commission's final tally also gave ACT New Zealand 8% of the vote (10 projected seats), the Greens 7.6% (10), the Maori Party 1% (1) and others 7.7% (0). Ms Ardern, 40, told her supporters after the victory: "New Zealand has shown the Labour Party its greatest support in almost 50 years. We will not take your support for granted. And I can promise you we will be a party that gov-

erns for every New Zealander." National Party (NAT) leader Judith Collins congratulated Ms Ardern and promised her party would be a "robust opposition". "Three years will be gone in the blink of an eye," she said, referring to the next scheduled election. "We will be back." No party had managed to win an outright majority in New Zealand since it introduced a voting system known as Mixed Member Proportional representation (MMP) in 1996. Ms Ardern, who dubbed the poll "the Covid election", pledged to instil more climate-friendly policies, boost funding for disadvantaged schools and raise income taxes on top earners.

NZ opposition dares
Ardern to deliver

WELLINGTON: New Zealand's opposition said Sunday Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's landslide election win means she no longer has any excuses for failing to deliver on her visionary promises. Ardern won a historic outright majority in Saturday's poll - the first since New Zealand adopted proportional voting in 1996 - meaning she can implement policies without support from minor parties. The charismatic leader was criticised during her first term for not accomplishing key promises such as protecting the environment and reducing child poverty. Opposition leader Judith Collins said Ardern's elec-

tion success meant she could no longer blame coalition partners for frustrating her progressive agenda because she now had a free hand to do as she pleased. "The government has got the mandate to do all the things that they've promised to do, so they can't blame anyone else for not delivering," she told reporters. Campaigning during the vote centred on the government's successful coronavirus response, with Ardern dubbing it the "Covid election", and crisis management has defined the centre-left leader's first term. In addition to the pandemic, she responded with compassion and decisive policy action after the March 2019

Christchurch mosques attack, when a white supremacist gunman killed 51 Muslim worshippers. She also comforted a shocked nation last December when a volcanic eruption at White Island, also known as Whakaari, killed 21 people and left dozens more with horrific burns. New Zealand has recorded only 25 coronavirus deaths in a population of five million, which Collins said boosted Ardern's standing in an electorate anxious about the pandemic. "It was a tough campaign against a formidable opponent, and an opponent who was also seen as the face of the Covid-19 (response)," the 61-year-old said. - APP

China passes export law
protecting national security

BEIJING: China has passed a new law restricting sensitive exports to protect national security, a move that adds to policy tools it could wield against the US as tensions - especially in technology - continue to rise. The law, which China's top legislature passed on Saturday, comes into effect on December 1 and allows Beijing to "take reciprocal measures" against countries that abuse export controls and pose a threat to national security. Technical data related to items covered will also be subject to export controls, according to the published text of the law. Beijing's latest measure gives it more room to

hit back in US President Donald Trump's war on Chinese tech firms, with the White House moving against popular platforms and major companies - including apps TikTok and WeChat, tech giant Huawei and chipmaker Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp. The new law, "formulated to safeguard national security and interests", adds to China's regulatory toolkit which also involves a restriction catalogue of tech exports and an unreliable entity list. "Where any country or region abuses export control measures to endanger the national security and interests of the People's Republic of China, (it) may take reciprocal

measures," the law states. It adds that Chinese authorities will formulate and adjust an export control list of items to be published in a "timely manner". Foreign individuals and groups can also be found liable for violating export control rules. The economic relationship between Beijing and Washington has been roiled by Trump's unprecedented campaign of tariffs, threats of bans and sanctions on Chinese tech firms. With Trump facing a tough re-election campaign ahead of polls next month, US officials have described measures against China as national security safeguards - prompting a backlash from Beijing. - APP

Azerbaijan marked
Independence Day

WEB DESK

BAKU: Azerbaijan on Sunday marked the 29th anniversary of its independence with both pride and sorrow, as it comes in the wake of deadly attacks on civilian settlements by neighboring Armenia and amid Azerbaijan's longstanding struggle to liberate occupied territories. Azerbaijan declared independence not once but twice in the 20th century, overcoming many challenges along the way. History proved to Azerbaijan that preserving its self-determination was far more difficult than first

gaining its independence. In 1918, with the fall of the Russian Czarist regime after the 1917 Russian Revolution, the newly founded Azerbaijani Democratic Republic blazed trails as the first secular and democratic parliamentary state in the Muslim East. "The flag once raised will never fall!" is an expression emblazoned in gold in Azerbaijan's national history by Mammad Amin Rasulzade, a statesman, prominent public figure, and the country's founder. But after barely two years of existence, the Azerbaijani Democratic Republic was toppled by the Soviet Union.

Egypt releases
satirical blogger

CAIRO: An Egyptian activist and satirist detained for more than two years has been released, his family has announced. Shady Abu Zeid was arrested in May 2018 and held in pre-trial detention over charges of "membership of a banned group" and "disseminating false news", according to rights group Amnesty International. "Shady was released under judicial supervision, and is now at home with us," his sister Rola Abu Zeid wrote on Facebook on Saturday. The Cairo-based Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression (AFTE) said a court specialising in terrorism made the decision on October 10. - APP

Yemen rebels
ready to swap
all prisoners

FOREIGN DESK

SANAA: Yemen's Houthi rebels said Sunday they are ready to exchange all prisoners with the Yemeni government, one day after a major prisoner swap between the two warring rivals. "We are ready to exchange all prisoners, including former Defense Minister Mahmoud al-Subaihi," rebel leader Mohamed Ali al-Houthi said on Twitter. Al-Subaihi was captured by the rebel group in March 2015.

Al-Houthi called for forming an independent commission to look into what he described as torture of prisoners held by the Yemeni government and the Saudi-led coalition. On Thursday and Friday, the Yemeni government and Houthi rebels swapped prisoners under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). On Sept. 27, a joint statement by the ICRC and the UN announced a deal in Geneva between the two warring rivals to exchange over 1,000 prisoners, including 15 Saudis and four Sudanese. Yemen has been beset by violence and chaos since 2014.

FEBR calls for
structural reforms

ISLAMABAD: The Friends of Business and Economic Reforms (FEBR) President Kashif Anwar has said the sustainable solution to Pakistan's problems lies in the structural reforms, as we can see very large inefficiencies in tax collection, which needs to be removed. So, the tax compliance must be improved and tax base be broadened, which cannot be achieved with a single policy change, but by a systemic approach. He said that only direct taxes can improve tax collection, as the existing tax system is heavily skewed toward indirect taxation. Kashif Anwar said the non-filers, who are outside the tax net, are not accounted for at all, which discourages businesses to come into the tax net, calling for legislations through parliament for protection of the rights of the existing taxpayers. Registered businesses are required to comply with various departments involving a lot of financial and time resources, whereas unregistered businesses are free from all such hassles, he maintained. Kashif Anwar said that in the past instead of focusing on controlling under-invoicing, curbing smuggling and expanding the tax net, the FEBR seems to be inclined to pressurize registered taxpayers, who are already suffering due to a high rate of sales tax, income tax, and custom duties by creating fictitious cases for recovery of outstanding dues to meet revenue target. He said that businesses are already in a complicated state-of-affairs, while anti-business actions against business community were not only adding to the miseries of the business community but are also promoting trust deficit between the government and the business community. He also emphasized that concentrating on import substitution is imperative to narrow import bills and certain imported products such as oil are of a fixed nature, therefore, the government needs to enhance focus on import substitution industries, as chemicals, agriculture and steel are potential industries. He said that undertaking structural reforms require political will. He said that the early signs from the government are positive and exhibit zero-tolerance against corruption. He said that enacting structural reforms, such as improvements in tax collection system, bureaucracy and ease of doing business requires major political will and strict implementation of policies, he added. - APP

5 soldiers
dead, 17
missing in
Vietnam

HANOI: Five soldiers are dead and a frantic search is under way for 18 others after a huge landslide hit central Vietnam on Sunday, as the country battles its worst flooding in years. Heavy rain has pounded the region for more than a week and at least 64 people have been killed in floods and landslides, according to Vietnam's disaster management authority, with concerns mounting that waters could rise further. Rocks rained down on the barracks of a military station in Quang Tri province, with 22 soldiers believed to have been buried underneath thick mud, according to the government's official website.

"From 2am, there have been four to five landslides, exploding like bombs and it feels like the whole mountain is about to collapse," said local official Ha Ngoc Duong, according to the VnExpress news site. Five bodies have been recovered so far, state media added. It comes just days after 13 members of a rescue team were found dead after a failed attempt to save workers from a hydro power plant engulfed by a landslide. The bodies of two employees at the plant have been found but 15 are still missing. River levels in Quang Tri had reached their highest in two decades, state media said. The disaster management authority raised its risk alert warning to the second highest level on Sunday, warning of further flooding and landslides. Vietnam is prone to natural disasters and regularly suffers more than a dozen storms each year, often bringing flooding and landslides. More than 130 people were reported dead or missing in natural disasters around the country last year, the General Statistics Office said. - APP

'Armenia,
after defeat,
attacking
civilians'

DNA

ANKARA: Armenia's aggressive policy, terrorist essence and war crimes are obvious, retired Turkish general Yucel Karauz told media. "On the one hand, Armenia is trying to create an image of the oppressed country, on the other hand, it oppresses the Azerbaijani civilians," he said. "However, the Azerbaijani people in no way succumb to Armenia's provocations," Karauz said. He stressed that the Armenian Armed Forces, which had a shameful defeat on the battlefield, attacked the Azerbaijani civilians to take revenge. "The attack on the civilians in Azerbaijan testifies to the barbarity and the fact that Armenia is guided by fascism," the retired general said. "In fact, there is nothing new here. In the same way, the occupying country usurped the Azerbaijani lands. Presently, Armenia is using these inhuman actions to defend its occupation policy." Karauz stressed that the shelling of the settlements in Azerbaijan's Ganja, Mingachevir, Goranboy, Aghjabedi, Naftalan cities and other settlements far from Nagorno-Karabakh region once again confirms that Armenia is governed by a criminal regime that does not recognize the law.

German
president in
quarantine

DNA

BERLIN: German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier was quarantining on Saturday after one of his bodyguards tested positive for the coronavirus, according to a spokeswoman for the president's office. The bodyguard is considered in a first-degree contact person. Steinmeier's first test came back negative, but he remains in quarantine, a spokesperson said. Further tests are planned in the coming days. Germany recorded 7,830 coronavirus infections in the last 24-hour period - the highest daily figure since the pandemic began, according to the Robert Koch Institute. Steinmeier was due to appear at the Frankfurt Book Fair on Sunday to attend an award ceremony, but those plans have now been canceled.

RCCI demands end of economic uncertainty

The business community in Corona has been the most affected. Special stimulus packages should be announced for all sectors and also urged government to lower cost of production

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Nasir Mirza has said that the government should provide a conducive environment for the development of the country's economy, end the uncertainty. Speaking at an interactive session with a delegation of the Economic Journalists Forum (EJF) at the Chamber House, he urged government to move forward with consensus and resolved issues amicably for political stability. The business community in Corona has been the most affected. Special stimulus packages should be announced for all sectors and also urged government to lower cost of production.

Additional funds should be released for development projects, he added. Former president and group leader and well-known industrialist Sohail Altaf said that the current political temperature has increased the uncertainty which is detrimental to the country's economy. He also recounted the recent meet-

ing of a group of industrialists with the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan in which they shared feedback on issues facing the business community, inflation, development projects, FBR tax system and the current political situation. He said that it was brought to the notice of the Prime Minister

that no mega project of any kind has been launched for the city of Rawalpindi in the last two years. I told the Prime Minister that the Ring Road project is an important project which also includes economic zones.

With the establishment of industrial zones, Rawalpindi could be-

come a hub for commercial activities. The Prime Minister should take personal interest and complete it on priority basis. On the occasion, Azhar Jatoi, President of the Economic Forum, said that the purpose of the forum was to enhance engagement with the business community and to advance the suggestions of stakeholders for the development of the country's economy so that the government could effectively formulate policy making. Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, executive members, Chairman regional trade Khurshid Barlas, President EJFE Azhar Jatoi, Vice President EJFE Riaz Taheem, Secretary General Tanveer Hashmi and members, among others, were also present on the occasion



Briefs

Delegation of diplomats visit Khanpur

PESHAWAR: The Department of Archaeology and Museums in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has resumed post Covid-19 activities to promote heritage tourism in the province.

A delegation consisting of Canadian High Commissioner, ambassadors of Holland, Denmark, Belgium and country heads of IMF and World Bank have visited world heritage sites of Jaulian and Bhamala in Khanpur valley here on Sunday.

The delegation took keen interest in historical and archeological sites in the province and appreciated steps taken by the government for promotion of tourism and preservation of historical sites. — APP

Nawaz's narrative will not sell: Asad Umar

STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: Planning Minister Asad Umar on Sunday lashed out at PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif for "selling India's narrative" and speaking against state institutions.

Addressing the media in Karachi, flanked by Maritime Affairs Minister Ali Zaidi, the PTI leader said that while the former premier criticises national institutions so openly, he has never raised his voice against human rights violations in India or spoken about Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav. "This Indian narrative that you are selling, this will not sell, neither in Pakistan nor across the world. You and India can level any allegation against state institutions you want," Umar said and asked why Indian premier Narendra Modi — who oversaw a massacre of Muslims in Indian Gujarat in 2005 when he was the chief minister — visited Nawaz's house.

Punjab reports 134 new cases of coronavirus

DNA

LAHORE: Punjab on Sunday reported 134 new cases of novel coronavirus and 10 deaths by the disease during last 24 hours. A spokesperson of Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare department said that the total number of COVID-19 cases in the province has reached to 101,559 with addition of 134 new cases in last 24 hours. The death count by COVID-19 in Punjab has reached to 2,298 as 10 more patients died by the disease in last 24 hours, the spokesperson said. In new cases, 77 reported from Lahore, 13 cases from Multan and 10 new cases from Rawalpindi, according to the spokesperson. Overall 97,219 patients of COVID-19 have recovered to health in Punjab. After a downward trend of the reported cases of coronavirus in Punjab, the number of cases has again started surging gradually.

Sindh warns of virus reinfection cases

ATHAR SUFI

KARACHI: Sindh Health Minister Azra Pechuho said the coronavirus reinfections were being reported at different public and private hospitals in Sindh — where people who had earlier tested positive for the coronavirus infection asymptotically were now experiencing severe infections, The News reported on Sunday. Advising people to strictly take precautionary measures even if they had contracted the disease earlier, the minister said: "Like in the rest of the world, reinfections with the coronavirus are being seen in Sindh too." She also said that a few days ago, a senior leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Rashid Rabbani, passed away after contracting the Coronavirus for the second time within six months.



ISLAMABAD: Newly arrived Ambassadors of Switzerland, Brazil, Italy, Sri Lanka, Greece, Hungary, Ukraine posing for a picture during a dinner hosted in their honor by the General Manager of Islamabad Marriott Hotel Maurizio Romani. — DNA

'Rs 6bn to be spent in KP, GB regions'

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change (SAPM) Malik Amin Aslam said that under the glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) project, six billion rupees would be spent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan regions.

In a statement issued on Sunday, he said, "The huge amount would be spent under the project to mitigate the GLOF risks and their impacts on the public infrastructure, lives and livelihoods of the mountain communities".

However, this hefty spending would benefit 24 GLOF-vulnerable mountain valleys of KPK and GB areas, SAPM Malik Amin added. He said that each vulnerable community in the 24 villages would also receive a revolving fund of USD 50,000 under the GLOF project, which would be utilized by the mountain village communities to respond to any unforeseen climate change-caused disaster including GLOF.

He further said that he had personally visited most of the vulnerable project areas recently and met both direct and indirect beneficiaries, which believe that empowerment of local institutions with the latest technology and technical know-how was of unprecedented importance for managing the GLOF risks.

"I am optimistic that models of the provision of DERC equipments, capacity building of the local mountain communities and enhanced awareness among them about the GLOF risks and their handling would be replicated to all other parts of the climate-vulnerable regions of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan regions," Malik Amin expressed his hope.

At least 16 killed in Skardu bus accident

DNA

SKARDU: At least 16 people were killed after a landslide forced a passenger coach to plunge into a deep ravine on Gilgit Road near Tungus, on Sunday. According to details, the bus was carrying 18 passengers when it was traveling from Rawalpindi to Skardu and fell into a ravine due to the landslide.

Rescue operations are underway as the injured are being evacuated and shifted to the nearby hospital for medical treatment. However, rescue officials fear the number of casualties may rise.

Two infected passengers off-loaded from flight

DNA

MULTAN: Two passengers were off-loaded from a Sharjah-bound flight from Multan International airport after they were confirmed infected with coronavirus. The passengers hailing from Dera Ghazi Khan (DG) Khan were flying to Sharjah, but were confirmed with the coronavirus and off-loaded, said the airport sources.

Earlier in May, a pilot and three flight attendants of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and three flight attendants were detected with coronavirus who had performed duties on a special flight operated between Australia's Melbourne to Lahore.

A pilot of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and three flight attendants tested positive for coronavirus after they returned from the Lahore-bound special flight from Australia one week ago.

The crew members of Pakistan International Airlines were waiting for their COVID-19 test results for one week and later they were shifted to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Lahore. The flight attendants include Waqar Farooqui, Sofia Shaikh and Ahmed Ammad and first officer Shakil Akram was also shifted to the CMH Lahore.

EU envoy praises Pak rural women struggle for rights

Androulla Kaminara said that you need to come out of the small box that has been assigned to you traditionally to explore and discover the opportunities and the world around you

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Acclaiming and understanding Pakistan rural women's struggle for their rights, Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Pakistan, Androulla Kaminara has said, "you have the power to bring change in your lives." The EU Ambassador was of the view that the rural women needed to adapt new viable and innovative techniques for their economic sustainability. She advised the participants to make networks and consortiums for being able to get funding in future. Briefing about a project that is underway, the EU Ambassador informed that the EU has allocated 6.6 million Euros for capacity build of civil society organization in Pakistan for which the participants were should explore online EU platforms for further information.

Ambassador said that you need to come out of the small box that has been assigned to you traditionally to explore and discover the opportunities and the world around you. Terming CNIC registration the foundation to get rights cherished by the citizens, the EU Ambassador said we have made it mandatory for the local organizations to help women to get their CNICs. "If you don't have your identity documents, it means neither you were born nor dead as no docu-



mentation means you were not meant to be counted in policies and decisions concerning to you." The EU Ambassador paid rich tribute to the rural women participants for their persistent, resilience and untiring efforts for their basic rights. "We are also changing the design of our projects to ensure visible and major participation of women to take decision concerning to them," the EU Ambassador Androulla Kaminara said. The Ambassador also highlighted the role of the EU for the plight of

the poor segments of the society and said that they have already allocated 150 million in COVID response efforts here in Pakistan. Three-day Annual Conference, by PODA-Pakistan, has concluded here on a consensus demand to pullout the rural women from the growing poverty caused by COVID-19 by ensuring opportunities to enhance their technical skills to connect with the markets and with their inclusion at all decision-making levels by enhancing their political participation. Through conference resolution, the partici-

pants demanded equal representation of women in upcoming local government elections. The theme set for the conference was "Rural Women's Leadership in Climate Change Adaptation, COVID-19 Response, Governance and Disaster Preparedness."

President PODA-Pakistan, Sameena Nazir said we need to alleviate women from poverty and for this economic independence is must for them to achieve as it would ensure their responsibility and rights in the society. The ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Pakistan, Androulla Kaminara distributed awards among the rural women and other persons who contributed to the achievements of PODA-Pakistan.

The rural women's gathering approved a comprehensive list of resolutions for the next year by raising their hands. They demanded that the rural women should be provided trainings in disaster preparedness to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the disasters and equip them with skills to work on community development during Rescue, Emergency Relief, Rehabilitation and reconstruction. They identified that the COVID-19 severely affected the livelihoods of the rural women and consequently the government must increase the coverage of COVID-19 relief package for the rural women to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19.

Pakistani students bag prizes at Silk Road Awards

The ceremony was attended by participants from more than 30 countries

WEB DESK

BEIJING: Pakistani students showcased their talent and won prizes in the speech, photography, music, singing and sand painting competitions during the annual 3rd Silk Road and Young Dreams Award Ceremony held here.

The ceremony hosted by Silk Road Cities Alliance, China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development, Beijing Belt and Road Cooperative Community and Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies of Renmin University was attended by participants from more than 30 countries. Deputy Head of Mission,

Pakistan Embassy Beijing, Ahmed Farooq graced the occasion and distributed prizes among the winners. Muhammad Ali Asad from Pakistan Embassy College Beijing (PECB) served as the judge of speech competition. The contestants from Pakistan, as usual, rocked and won hearts of the viewers of this platform through their speeches, singing, music and art work. The students from Pakistan Embassy College Beijing (PECB) managed to secure a few positions in different categories. In speech competition, Danish Yaqoob from Pakistan bagged the first prize while Abdul Rehman, a student from PECB secured third position.

Maaz Ali Nadeem, a student of PECB won the most popular award in photography competition while Areeba Ali and Thembekele, students from PECB secured the excellence of music and speech contest awards. Moreover, students from PECB were among the team which read the Health Declaration on the platform of Silk Road and Young Dreams. This year, all the competitions were held online in the wake of Covid-19 with a theme of Health — amidst this pandemic. The participants from across the world took part enthusiastically in the annual contest and spread colours with their enlightened thoughts and performance in all categories.

BBIT to setup offices in Karachi and Gwadar

ISLAMABAD: Balochistan Board of Investment and Trade (BBIT) has decided to expand its offices to Karachi and Gwadar to encourage the foreign and local investors from business friendly policies and opportunities of the provincial government. The investors would be provided up to date information about business opportunities in various sector of the province by setting up one-window facilitation center at the area, an official in the Balochistan government told APP. He added that the office would also facilitate the foreign business man in visa issues, security, NOC and registration. "The provincial government is providing all possible assistance to industrialists for promotion of business in the province. — APP

PPP has nothing to do with Nawaz's rhetoric: Aitzaz

LAHORE: Disassociating Pakistan People's Party (PPP) from the rhetoric of the Pakistan Muslim League-N leaders at the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) public meeting in Gujranwala, senior PPP leader Barister Aitzaz Ahsan said that the party had nothing to do with PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif's views about the country's establishment.

"The PPP does not believe in adventurism and has always maintained moderate views about the national institutions," Aitzaz said while speaking during a television talk show on Saturday night. He said though the PPP had many reservations regarding the role of the establishment in ending the PPP governments in the past, still it did not believe in maligning the national institutions.

About low attendance at the PDM first public meeting, the veteran PPP leader said the number of people did not matter, adding that sit-ins and protests were democratic right, but these could not topple governments. About Nawaz Sharif, he said: "Personally, I am disgusted by political ideas and past of the PML-N quaid Nawaz Sharif, who has been brought up in the lap of dictatorship, but he always forgets his past while speaking."

He said that Nawaz Sharif had no sense of time and space, adding that he served as the chief minister of Punjab during General Zia-ul-Haq martial law in 1985 and always used crutches to reach corridors of power. — APP

Pak keen to learn poverty alleviation from China

During the last four decades, more than 700 million people have been taken out of poverty in China, due to the active measures of the Chinese government and at the end of this year China would successfully complete the building of a moderately prosperous society, said Badar uz Zaman

DNA

BEIJING: The Chinese government and private institutions play a key role in poverty eradication, and have set an example for the entire World to follow while Pakistan is also carefully watching to learn from their experience. This was stated by Badar uz Zaman, Commercial Counsellor of Pakistan Embassy here, according to China Economic Net (CEN). During the last four decades, more than 700 million people have been taken out of poverty in China, due to the active measures of the Chinese government and at the end of this year China would successfully complete the building of a moder-

ately prosperous society in all aspect of life, said Badar uz Zaman. "It is estimated that around 100 million people worldwide could fall into extreme poverty again due to COVID-19" he added. He stated that in the far-flung areas, the Chinese government has provided strong support to the farmer's community, and now they have access to the e-commerce sites, they can sell their products through those websites and making much money. Similarly, there is a lot of emphasis on the skill development of the Chinese people from poor provinces like Guizhou, Tibet, and Xinjiang. "China is one of the fastest-growing nations. There has been increas-

ing in GDP on regular basis, and growing income is giving an opportunity to the middle class and the poor segment of the society, to get benefit from it", he told. Talking to CEN, the Commercial Counsellor said that there is a focus on the high-end industry, like Information Technology and cloud computing. And there is a built-up of infrastructure in those areas where there is a lot of investment going in and the people from those poor areas are getting employment opportunities. "First China has developed infrastructural even in small and the far-flung areas, then focused on agriculture by providing subsidies to farmers and the poor people across the country.

There is also one approach of urbanization They relocate the poor people to the cities, that increased the income level that is far higher than what they were getting in the villages" he stated. "By learning Chinese experience, Pakistan needs to focus on its GDP growth. We have been experiencing strong growth in the services sector in Pakistan. But still, there is a long way to go we need to focus on the supply chain, and more efficient services sector where more and more poor people can be employed. Pakistan needs to focus on their literacy, as well as the technical and vocational education that would help poverty eradication" Badar told CEN.

He mentioned that targeted subsidy programs like the Ehsaas Program and Benazir Income Support Program support the poorest of the poor. So basically, the Pakistani Ehsaas Support Program is being appreciated by all the multinational institutions and many developed countries. And this has also provided an opportunity to survive in this difficult time of COVID-19. Kamyab Jawan program provided an opportunity for youngsters to start new businesses. Badar stated that "45% of the Pakistani population is related to the agriculture sector, but the contribution of agriculture in Pakistani GDP is less than 20%. we see that there is surplus manpower.