





FAISALABAD: Punjab Minister for Public Prosecution Ch. Zaheer ud din addressing the Serat un Nabi Conference in connection with Ashra Shaan e Rehmatul lil Alameen (PBUH). – DNA

## AIIC sign MoU to establish trade cooperation

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Memorandum on Establishing Economic and Trade Cooperation between SCO demonstration area and Alama Iqbal Industrial City. In this regard MOU ceremony was held between the city Qingdao of the People's Republic of China and the city of Faisalabad of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the establishment of friendly cooperative relationship. The ceremony was inter-

linked between Faisalabad, Islamabad and China at the same time. Divisional Commissioner Zahid Hussain and CEO Faisalabad Industrial Estate Management Company (FIEDMC) Rana Yousaf signed the documents at Metropolitan Corporation Hall. Parliamentarians Shakil Shahid and Waris Aziz were also present. CCO MPC Zubair Hussain Nat, TOs Ilyas Shakir, Mujeer ur Rehman and other officers were present. Divisional Commissioner said that the purpose of MOU

is to further enhancing and developing friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He informed that both parties will share experiences and information and will cooperate in the field of economy, trade, tourism, Science and Technology, culture, agriculture, education and other areas on the basis of equality, reciprocity, sincerity and loyalty. Commissioner thanked the authorities and said that it was a great honor for me to sign the MOU as administrator of Metropolitan Corporation.



## KP Govt to develop 4 ITZ to bolster tourism

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government has decided to develop four integrated tourism zones (ITZ) in Malakand and Hazara divisions to reduce tourists' loads on existing destinations and open-up remote scenic areas for eco-tourists, trekkers, mountaineers and adventure sports lovers. A master plan for development of four integrated tourism zones at Mankial Swat, Thandiani Abbottabad, Ganol Manshera and Madaklasht Lower Chitral have been developed and would soon be presented to the World Bank for implementation. A renowned Malaysian firm under the auspices of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Integrated Tourism Development Project (KITE) has presented the master plan for development of four integrated tourism zones to KP Government. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, Mahmood Khan has principally agreed to the master plan which would soon be presented to the World Bank for implementation. – APP

## 12-day anti measles drive from Nov 15

PESHAWAR: The Health department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would launch a special 12-day anti-vaccination drive against measles and Rubella viral infections from November 15 to November 27 across the province. During the campaign jabs of anti-measles and Rubella vaccines would be administered to children from the age of 9 months to 15 years to protect them from the two viral diseases, said an official of the Health department. Explaining Rubella infection, he said that it was a contagious disease caused by a virus known as Rubella. It could cause a miscarriage or serious birth defects in a developing baby if a woman was infected while she was pregnant. Most people who get rubella usually have a mild illness, with symptoms that could include a low-grade fever, sore throat, and a rash that started on the face and spreads to the rest of the body. – APP

## UAD organizes breast cancer awareness seminar

Dr. Ghazala Ali said that early detection and treatment of the disease can save many lives

DNA

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Breast cancer awareness seminar was organized at university of agriculture Dera Ismail Khan where experts delivered speeches to raise awareness regarding the causes, symptoms and early treatment of the breast cancer. The program was jointly organized by university of agriculture Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan Scientific and technological information center and Dinar Cancer Hospital Dera Ismail Khan. While talking on occasion, Director Pakistan Scientific and technological information center, Dr. Ghazala Ali Khan said that early detection and treatment of the disease can save many precious lives. She further added that co-operation of men in this regard is very crucial and other awareness seminars

will be organized to reach to the mass audience. Director Dinar Cancer Hospital Dr. Nabila Said that unluckily, this issue was considered as taboo for many years but now the situation has changed and every effort shall be made for early detection and treatment of the breast cancer. Chief guest of the program, Vice Chancellor of Agriculture University, Prof. Dr. Masroor Elahi (TI) said that such programs bring positive changes to the society and Agriculture university will always be part of such initiatives. Director Department of Food Sciences and Nutrition, UAD, Dr. Sadaf Javaaria, Coordinator Forestry Department Syed Abdul Wahid Shah, Director Finance Johar Zaman and others were present at the occasion. Vice Chancellor distributed certificates among the participants at the end of the program.

## US CG, Faysal visit Karachi Expo Center

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ISLAMABAD: US Consul General Mark Stroh and actor Faysal Qureshi visited one of Pakistan's largest vaccination facilities at the Karachi Expo Center as part of the United States and Sindh government's on-going immunization awareness campaign, 'Fizaaoon se Falaah Tak'. The campaign is encouraging Pakistani citizens to get vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus and save lives. Consul General Mark Stroh observed U.S. Pfizer vaccine inoculations first-hand, thanked health care workers, and congratulated Pakistanis receiving Pfizer vaccines.

"The United States stands with the people of Pakistan in the fight against this global pandemic. Since July 2021, the American people have sent 15.8 million life-saving COVID-19 vaccine doses to the people of Pakistan, and another 9.6 million Pfizer doses will be arriving this month, in October," said Consul General Mark Stroh, while interacting with people getting Pfizer vaccines at the Karachi Expo Center. These Pfizer vaccines are part of 500 million Pfizer doses the United States purchased this summer to deliver to 92 countries worldwide, including Pakistan, to fulfill President Joseph R. Biden's commitment to provide safe and effective vaccines around the world and supercharge the global fight against the pandemic.

## KPFSA observes Food Day

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority (KPFSA&HFA) Friday organized an event in connection with 'World Food Day' to create awareness among people about safe and hygienic food in the province. Theme of Day, is 'our actions are our future, better production, better nutrition, a better environment and better life'. The event formally inaugurated the newly formed Volunteer Task Force with cake cutting ceremony. While addressing to the event, Director General KP Food Safety Authority, Shahrukh Ali Khan said around 1300 hundred applications were received for the Volunteer Task Force; in which 150 were selected for Peshawar after their interviews. – APP

# Following Sunnah key to success

He said that deep love and teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is required to include in our lives which are the guarantors of peace and security and mutual love

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Provincial Minister for Public Prosecution Ch. Zaheerud-Din has said that the solution to our problems lies in sincere adherence to Uswa-e-Hasana of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He said this while participating the Serat un Nabi (SAW) Conference under Ashra Shaan Rematulil Alameen celebrations here at Metropolitan Corporation Hall. Additional Commissioner General Muhammad

Khalid, AC City Sahibzada Muhammad Yousaf, CEO DEA Ali Ahmad Siyan, Mohammad Sadiq, Akhtar Butt, Maulana Mohammad Riaz Kharal, Dr. Ifikhar Naqvi and other scholars, teachers and members of civil society were also present. The Provincial Minister for Public Prosecution said that the entire life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is in fact an interpretation of the Holy Quran by which we can improve our lives by getting enlightenment. He said that the guiding

principles of trust and truthfulness for us. He said that deep love for the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is required to include in our lives the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) which are the guarantors of peace and security, mutual love and brotherhood and solidarity. He said that patience, forbearance, tolerance and respect for humanity is the hallmark of Islamic society which should learn lessons from Islamic teachings for its development. Maulana

Muhammad Rian Kharal and others praised the Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). Explaining the glory of Mustafa (peace be upon him) they said that there is an urgent need to follow teachings of Hazrat Muhammad. They said that by following the pattern of beauty, patience and endurance should be nurtured. During the conference, Naat reciters presented Naats and prayers were offered for the development and prosperity of the country and the nation.

## Encouraging women entrepreneurs is top priority: Shehla Raza



NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Women's Development and former Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly Shehla Raza has said that encouraging women businessmen and industrialists is among the priorities of the PPP government.

The Sindh government is providing all possible opportunities to women entrepreneurs in the fields of trade and industry and the difficulties and obstacles faced in this regard will be removed. She said this while addressing the meeting with the Standing Committee of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) and a delegation of Entrepreneurs,

Karachi Women Chambers of Commerce & Industry Malir (KWCCI) led by its founder president Nazli Abid Nisar. Shehla Raza appreciated the services of Nazli Abid Nisar, former VP FPCCI and Convener Standing Committee Women Entrepreneur Sindh Region for 2021, Founder President Karachi Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry Malir (KWCCI) in encouraging women entrepreneurs and promoting women's development. She also congratulated the establishment of Karachi Women's Chamber of Commerce & Industry Malir (KWCCI). The delegation included SVP KWCCI Malir, Afzala Shaheen, VP Yasmeen Arif, KWCCI East's Mehreen Elahi, Deputy Convener

FPCCI Standing Committee Women Entrepreneur Sindh Region Farah Sadiq Khan and Dr. Tobia. Women entrepreneurs visited the 1094 helpline, call centre, day care center, play area and other support measures set up to help women. Delegation appreciated the efforts of the Sindh government for Women's Development. Shehla Raza said, "women are an important part of the society so they should get their due place and rights. The Ministry of Women's Development has taken important steps to help women, including the Helpline 1094, which not only provides full support and safety to women, but also makes every effort to address the issues facing them", she added.

## WAPDA to add 9000MW power by 2029

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) is committed to the water, food and energy security of the country. At present, it has been constructing as many as 10 projects in water and hydropower sectors under 'Decade of Dams', to be completed in a phased manner from 2023 to 2029. Chairman WAPDA Lt Gen Muzammil Hussain (Retd) expressed these views while addressing the students and the faculty members at University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. The Chairman said that WAPDA has been tremendously contributing as a vibrant organization towards national development by harnessing the vital resource of water. The under construction WAPDA projects include five dams, three hydropower projects, one canal and one water supply scheme. Diamer Basha Dam, Mohmand Dam, Dasu Hydropower Project, Nai Gaj Dam, Kachhi Canal Extension, Sindh Barrage and K-IV Project are to name a few. With completion of 10 under construction WAPDA projects, the gross water storage capacity in Pakistan will increase from 13 million acre feet (MAF) to more than 24 MAF with an addition of 11.7 MAF, sufficient to irrigate another 1.6 Million Acres of land. In addition, 950 million gallons water per day would also be made available for drinking purpose to Karachi and Peshawar. The installed hydel generation capacity will be doubled to cross 18000 MW with an addition of 9000 MW on completion of these projects. The under construction WAPDA projects will also provide about 35,000 job opportunities during the construction, he further said.

## Zero gas pressure, Site industries come to a halt

DNA

KARACHI: President SITE Association of Industry, Abdul Rasheed has demanded the government to direct SSGC to provide gas to industries of SITE with required pressure to complete export orders without disruption. In a statement issued here, the SITE President protested over zero gas pressure in the SITE area, and said that it is impossible to run industry. Industrial production has come to a halt and shipping export orders on time is also not possible. He added that the SITE area is hurt the most as compared to other industrial areas of Karachi. Expressing dismay over the prevailing situation, SAI President said that despite increasing prices and promises by the government, the gas pressure has come down to zero which is nullifying the government's own claim of facilitating the foreign exchange earning export sector. Abdul Rasheed demanded the government to accord first priority to industries over all other sectors and ensure that the SSGC supplies gas to Industries with required pressure on an emergent basis.

# Campaign launched to promote eco-friendly lifestyle

Henrik Persson, Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan, welcomed the participants and said "Let's start a more sustainable and smarter lifestyle together"

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The seven-day Challenge – Eat, Move, and Live Sustainably was launched by the Embassy of Sweden in Pakistan, together with WWF-Pakistan. According to a press release issued here on Friday, the aim of the campaign is to promote eco-friendly lifestyle choices and create awareness about their impact on the environment. The campaign is challenging Pakistanis to live, eat and move smart for seven days. It will highlight small yet sustainable changes that individuals can make in their daily routines. As the number of participants grows, the challenge will contribute to a greater public awareness about climate change and reducing individual carbon footprints. To ensure that the challenge receives much-needed public attention, climate activists, influencers, and policy makers will participate and actively promote the challenge through their social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. H.E. Henrik Persson, Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan, welcomed the partic-

ipants and said "Let's start a more sustainable and smarter lifestyle together today! It can be as simple as saying no to single use of plastic products or using a bicycle whenever you can to reduce your carbon footprint. WWF-Pakistan's Director General, Hammad Naqi Khan said, "We are witnessing the im-

pact of human activities on the environment; including droughts, heat waves and floods. As the world embarks on the UN decade for ecosystem restoration, Pakistan is well-positioned to take advantage of a wide window of opportunities. The government, private sector and non-profit organizations are all aligned towards the pres-

ervation of natural resources. Despite this, plastics account for 65 per cent of the total waste in Pakistan and 36 million tonnes of food go to waste every year. This campaign with the Embassy of Sweden is an effort to create awareness around this issue and address the missing link, by encouraging individuals to step up and make eco-friendly choices for a sustainable future." During the event a panel of experts, including Swedish Company representatives from Tetra Pak Pakistan, Tundra Founder AB, and H&M Hennes & Mauritz AB, shared their business strategies to address climate change. Another panel featured the Chair of Islamabad Wildlife Management Board and experts from WWF-Pakistan and Saaf Suthra Sheher talked about rethinking lifestyle choices and discussed some of the easiest and most impactful habits on the individual level. The event was attended by partners of Sweden and WWF-Pakistan from different spheres of the society including high-level officials from government, diplomatic missions, private sector, Swedish alumni, media, and the civil society.





## Briefs

## PAL to organize Int'l naatia mushaira

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) would organize an online international naatia mushaira on October 22 in connection with Eid Milad-un-Nab (saw). Eminent scholars Tabish Alwari, Jalil Aali, Hamid Aravi, Jamshed Masroor and Sadiq Jamil would preside over the Mushaira. Chairman Islamic Ideology Qibla Ayaz, renowned scholar Ayub Khawar, Naseem Sahar, Nasir Ali Syed, Dr. Akhtar Shumar, Ijaz Kanwar Raja, Musarat Jabeen Zehra and Shaukat Ali Naz would be chief guests on the occasion. Eminent scholar Zakiya Ghazal, Dr. Nasreen Haseeb Anbar, Dr. Father Abbas, Qaiser Wajidi, Iqbal Naveed, Sabir Raza, Dr. Anbar Abid and Yadullah Haider would be guests of honour in Mushaira. Chairman PAL Dr. Yousaf Khushk said that eminent poets would recite their fresh Naatia Kalam in mushaira. He said that naat connects younger generations with rich traditions of Islamic culture. He said that PAL would organize international Naatia Mushaira to pay tributes to the Holy Prophet (PBUH). - APP

## Fawad, Qadri chair meeting regarding Eid Milad

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain and Minister for Religious Affairs Pir Noor-ul-Haq Qadri jointly chaired a meeting to review arrangements for various events of Eid Milad-un-Nabi on 12th Rabi-ul-Awal. The ministers said according to the directives of the Prime Minister, Eid Milad-un-Nabi would be celebrated in a grand manner. The meeting reviewed the arrangements for holding the functions on the auspicious occasion of Eid Milad. In the meeting, preparations for Eid Milad-un-Nabi and Rehmat-ul-Alamin Scholarships were discussed in detail. The meeting was informed that there would be two major events on 12th Rabi-ul-Awal, one at the Presidency and the other at the Convention Center where the Prime Minister would address. Chaudhry Fawad said the name of the Holy Prophet (SAW) was the message of the truth, in the light of which the nation would move forward. By creating awareness among the people about the "Paigham-e Pakistan" on the occasion of the "Ashra Rehmat-ul-Alamin" celebrations, formation of a society based on tolerance and peaceful coexistence was being made possible. He said life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW) were a practical example for the whole society, and the nation should follow his teachings in practical lives. The ministers termed announcement of the establishment of Rehmat-ul-Alamin Authority a welcome step. Through this authority, the young generation would be made aware of the history of Muslims and aspects of the Islamic Revolution. - APP

## NIFTH opens door for new talent

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage-NIFTH (Lok-Virsa) is providing an opportunity to young talent every Thursday at Hill Top open stage. "Open stage is an event which takes place every Thursday in which various artists perform and they do not often find a place to do so can perform", an official of NIFTH said. NIFTH started this open stage for young artists to explore their talent, write new songs, meet new artists, perform live at stage and improve their craft in the process, told APP. He said the new talent would perform under the guidance of seniors musicians to improve their skills. - APP

## Women moot ends on a pledge to enhance women's resilience

The session was focused on, "Importance of Rural Women in Electoral Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in Democracy during & post COVID-19 World"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The speakers at the concluding policy session of the 14th Annual Rural Women Conference were of the view that the shift in women's political role promises their economic freedom. 3-Day Annual Rural Women Conference organized by PODA-Pakistan concluded here at Lok Virsa, Islamabad today (Friday) on a resolution passed by the rural women who were representing 109 district of the country. The session was focused on, "Importance of Rural Women in Electoral Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in Democracy during & post COVID-19 World." The focus of the policy session was on Importance of Rural Women in Electoral Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in Democracy during & post COVID-19 World. To celebrate International Rural Women Day that is being observed every year on 15th of October, PODA-Pakistan organized the 3-day conference to voice rural women's concerns which were translated in to the conference resolution. The conference participants urged the government to ensure women's equal participation who are vastly underrepresented in local and national assemblies. Tariq Malik, Chairperson of National Data Base and Registration (NADRA) identified that there was an inherent unofficial bias of the implementers in the system to compel married women to adopt their husband's names after marriage. "There is no such binding in the law that requires women to adopt a certain name. It is upto women to adopt their maiden names or



change their names after marriage. We are all set to remove this algorithmic gender bias," he added. The chairperson also lauded efforts of Qamar Bano who supported NADRA to register 5000 Hindu women in Jacobabad, Sindh. He also informed the audience that they have also taken measures to register minorities comprised of Hindus, Jews, Christian, Sikh, and Dalits. "ID card is just not mere a plastic card, it protects not only human rights of women, but also empowers them to be beneficial from the governments' policies and steps. After my joining, within 100 days

we have reduced the existing registration gap between women and men from 14 percent to 10 percent. We have taken revolutionary steps to increase women's registration to empower them and protect their rights. To ensure this, an inclusive registration unit has been set up that is working rigorously to increase women registration. The unit is reviewing all policies to enhance women registration whether it is linked with awareness or outreach. Also, within few months, approximately 40 million households have validated their family members through our ded-

icated service 8009. Through this service a stranger can be identified in your family," Tariq Malik added. The organizations who supported the Conference were: European Union (EU), United Nation' Development Fund (UNDP)-USAID, UN Women, GAIN, Oxfam, International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES)-Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Food and Agriculture -Pakistan, National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), University of Veterinary and Animal Science (UVAS), CIMMYT, Department of Agriculture Information Punjab, and Iyzil

App (1st security App for Women). Luke Myers, Head of Aid, Canada High Commission in Pakistan stressed on the point to avoid token representation and participation of women and urged the guests to replace it with genuine commitment to resolve their issue with pragmatic gendersensitive policies. "The upcoming local governments' elections provide women an opportunity to women to take active role both as candidates and voters to have a strong voice and agency in shaping their communities with concrete and substantive actions," he added.

## Govt initiated hand hygiene awareness: Ezdi

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change Senator Seemi Ezdi on Friday said the government initiated hand hygiene awareness through proper hand washing facilities at the entrance of Panagahs during the testing times of pandemic. She was addressing the Global Hand Washing Day celebration organized by the German International Development Agency (GIZ), German Embassy, UNICEF Pakistan, WaterAid and partnered by the Ministry of Climate Change and Sanitation for Millions. Senator Ezdi said at least five panagahs or shelter homes were established in the federal capital where proper water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities specifically hand washing sinks were set up at the entrances. "It has helped in reducing disease spread among the people staying at the Panagahs and also promoted education and awareness on hand hygiene among the marginalized strata of the society," she said. The Senate body chair also mentioned that hand washing, sanitation and social distancing became a new normal that would stay in the public life style for some years. She suggested that hand washing stations should be established at the schools to inculcate hand washing among the children for mobilization of younger cohorts to adopt best hygiene practices. She underscored that Islam as a religion put huge emphasis on hygiene and cleanliness of an individual as it declared that cleanliness was half of the faith. - APP



RAWALPINDI: Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar along with minister for interior Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed unveiling the plaque of the up gradation of Vihar un Nisa Women College Rawalpindi to the status of a University. - DNA

## Remove all encroachments in Islamabad: IHC

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court has instructed the Capital Development Authority to immediately remove encroachments across Islamabad. The Islamabad High Court has instructed the Capital Development Authority to immediately remove encroachments across Islamabad. At a hearing on Friday, the court ordered the authorities to demolish all buildings constructed outside the allotted plot line. "Demolish houses and buildings constructed around nullahs," Justice Athar Minallah instructed. "Build a boundary wall around the Korang Nullah and crack down on people living around it." The court ordered the CDA to act as per the law "without any discrimination". Justice Minallah added that all stay orders on encroachment operations on government land should be declared null and void. The court has also summoned a report on Islamabad's katchi abadis and the provision of basic facilities for its residents from the authority. The hearing has been adjourned for two weeks. - DNA

## Capital to get 100 mgd water from Ghazi Barotha reservoir

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Capital Development Authority (CDA) Affairs, Ali Nawaz Awan said the government has started a project, in collaboration with FWO, to bring 100 million gallons per day (MGD) water from Ghazi Barotha reservoir to fulfill the needs of people living in the federal capital. "The government is working on long and short term initiatives to meet water requirements of the federal capital. We have also worked on efficient water management as a short-term measure. A lot of

## PHA plants over 300,000 saplings

RAWALPINDI: Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi has planted over 300,000 saplings under Clean and Green Pakistan programme in Rawalpindi city while solid steps are being taken to beautify several areas, renovate historical sites and eliminate encroachments. Director General (DG) PHA, Zaheer Anwar Jappa said all available resources were utilized to achieve the plantation target set for monsoon plantation campaign 2021 which help reduce environmental pollution. He said PHA, in collaboration with the departments concerned under the Glori-

ous Rawalpindi project, was also taking solid steps for the betterment and beautification of the city, he told APP. PHA was striving to renovate public parks of the city besides carrying out plantation, he said adding, more facilities were being provided to the citizens at all parks. PHA had come up with a tree plantation plan on the banks of Nullah Leh, adding, seeds of locally grown plants in over 50,000 soil balls were planted along the banks. The soil balls were thrown over a stretch of 14 kms and the tree-planting process was also extended to Soan River. - APP

## Farewell visit of Brigadier Kiani to Rwp Cantt Board

RAWALPINDI: A farewell function was held in the lawn of Cantt Office yesterday in honor of Brigadier Ijaz Qamar Kayani, Commander Cantonment Board Rawalpindi. Addressing the function, Additional CEO Naveed Nawaz said that the board headed by Brigadier Ijaz Qamar Kayani and CEO Muhammad Omar Farooq Ali Malik has made significant progress and financial difficulties have been overcome. In his address, the CEO said that Kent Board Rawalpindi had been facing various problems till recently, the biggest of which were water, revenue collection, enforcement and so on. These issues were resolved with the tireless efforts and full cooperation of Brigadier Ijaz Qamar Kayani. According to the Prime Minister's Green and Clean Vision, we have set up "Quran Gardens" in different areas where there used to be piles of rubbish. In this regard, our Horticulture Branch Mehr Gul, in-charge of the department, has worked tirelessly to plant lush trees and shrubs which are mentioned in the "Holy Quran". The installation work ended very well. - APP

## NHMP adopts mechanism to control traffic accidents

ISLAMABAD: National Highway and Motorway Police (NHMP) has adopted contemporary gadgetry mechanisms to control traffic accidents and save precious lives through the use of modern technology on motorways and highways. Performance Audit Automation System (PAAS) - a web based real time performance evaluation and assessment application - was recently launched to further improve the of Motorway Police, said a NHMP statement. Due to various steps, NHMP showed remarkable results in reducing road accidents by 46 percent, both fatal and non-fatal. The use of modern technology was need of the time. The new system evaluation has been introduced across the country to check the performance of Beat level in a short period. The National Highways and Motorway Police is at the forefront of providing all possible assistance to the public. To promote safety on motorways and highways through effective enforcement and provision of assistance to road users by applying highest standards of courtesy, integrity and professionalism is our mission. - APP

## UNDP, TCCF join hands for awareness about vaccination

Close to 3,000 young healthcare workers will be trained on effective vaccine administration and side effects management

DNA

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and The Coca-Cola Foundation (TCCF) have designed a Stop the Spread of COVID-19 project to increase awareness about Covid vaccinations. The \$20 million TCCF's global support under Stop the Spread initiative will work with nonprofit organizations in response to the pandemic, said a press release. Commenting on the initiative, Saadia Madsbjerg, President of TCCF, said, "We are proud to use our resources to fund initiatives to help curb the spread of COVID-19 around the world, including this grant to support the important work of UNDP Pakistan". The signing agreement for the project was announced at UNDP's Islamabad Head Quarters. Laura Sheridan, Programme Manager, Youth Empowerment Programme at UNDP said, "We



have worked together with TCCF to design the project on international best practices. We are aiming to impact thousands of people

by the end of this campaign to not just get vaccinated but also actively guide others to follow the NCOC registration process

till the point citizens have their vaccination certificates." To reduce exposure of participants, the event was live

streamed with leading behavioural change scientists, digital media specialists, journalists and health experts who participated in a discussion on how to meet the pandemics fast-changing landscape. Stop The Spread project will involve training of youth volunteers facilitation of local hospitals to conduct mobile vaccination drives as well as coordination with the Government for vaccination registration drives for greater vaccine coverage in Pakistan, particularly in areas with little access to medical support. Close to 3,000 young healthcare workers will be trained on effective vaccine administration and side effects management. The project also includes distribution of personal protective equipment for health care workers and volunteers. It will also engage at least 2 million people digitally with support from Google Ads and social media marketing for greater impact.

## Cutting losses

2020 was a terrible year for Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). After several controversies and incriminating revelations, receiving a ban imposed by the European Union, and incurring a loss of Rs36.5 billion in the financial year, in 2021 PIA has been on a path of recovery, exploring several options to cut its losses and get back on the international stage again.

Some of these initiatives include some very difficult and harsh decisions with regard to human resources. PIA's institutional mismanagement and over the hiring of employees had been a major contention with the national flag carrier for many years; yet changing the hiring process and practices elicited a strong reaction for the institution's employees. However, the series of failures the airline faced in 2020, leading to it reaching the threat of privatisation, has forced it to induct some ground-breaking changes. Some of these changes included a voluntary separation scheme (VSS) for its employees, a one-time opportunity aimed at restructuring the airline in a way that the workers would not face heavy losses. More recently, along the same line of thought, the PIA has fired over 1,500 employees recruited on forged documents.

While these measures may seem harsh, it is imperative to remember that PIA's loss-making has been going into the billions for years. The PIA had suffered Rs67.4 billion losses in 2018. Only after addressing the root of the problem, which has been severe mismanagement in its human resource departments, has the PIA been able to mitigate its losses somewhat, cutting them down to the loss of Rs25 billion in the half-year ended June 30, 2021.

This is still a large number, yet amounts to half of the losses the airline incurred in previous years. However, it signifies that there is still a significant burden that the national flag carrier has to handle before it can actually be turned into a venture that can be privatised.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 139

Email: [dailyisbpost@gmail.com](mailto:dailyisbpost@gmail.com)

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## New protection centre

THE inauguration of the country's first Transgender Protection Centre in Islamabad is a big step forward by the government. The Human Rights Minister has stated that this is only the first of many, which is positive to hear. The transgender community is and always has been a very fundamental part of Pakistani society. But in recent times, little in the way of protection has been offered by the state. This community is exposed to all the worst sort of violence. The lack of employment opportunities all but ensure that sexual violence, assault, blackmail and having to contend with the criminal world become a significant threat for all members of the community.

With families often ostracising transgender persons, this initiative is extremely helpful. The new protection centre will look to offer basic health facilities, legal aid, psychological counselling and temporary shelter. This will help transgender persons under threat look to the state for protection, as it should be. The state has a responsibility to protect all citizens equally, and an efficient mechanism can ensure that the government stands by the community.

It is hoped that the government fulfils its promise of this being only the first centre of many; transgender persons are present all over the country and as such, we need more than one functioning centre in every district for this strategy to be effective. Moving forward, it is important for the government to also work on making society more inclusive, and this can only take place if the state prioritises on protecting vulnerable communities such as transgender persons and makes sure that no violence against them is tolerated. The centre is a good project, but its nature is still reactionary. Only victims will be able to approach the state for recourse under this model. After this the government must offer a more proactive means for the transgender community to thrive in Pakistan. This is only possible by safeguarding their physical and economic welfare and allowing for the community to step into the mainstream and vocalise its problems itself.

## Uzbekistan's chairmanship in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

Vladimir Norov



“Central Asia should continue to be one of the priorities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization,” said the head of Uzbekistan at the Bishkek SCO Summit in 2019. Indeed, due to its geopolitical and geostrategic significance, Central Asia is the core of the SCO and remains the focus of the Organization's attention. At the SCO summits in 2018-2021, the leaders of the G8 expressed support for the efforts of the Central Asian countries to intensify cooperation in the political, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres.

FOLLOWING the results of the jubilee Dushanbe meeting of the Council of Heads of SCO Member States, held on September 17, 2021, the chairmanship of the Organization passed to the Uzbek side. Having accepted this responsible mission, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev outlined at the summit its main priorities aimed at the further development of the SCO.

Uzbekistan, as a founding state of the SCO, attaches particular importance to strengthening multilateral cooperation within the Organization in the system of its foreign policy priorities, and also considers it a significant platform for open and constructive dialogue, an important tool for cooperation in ensuring regional security, promoting mutually beneficial economic ties, partnership in social, cultural and humanitarian spheres.

Since Shavkat Mirziyoyev was elected President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2016, more than 40 initiatives have been put forward within the framework of the SCO summits aimed at strengthening diverse cooperation in the Organization's space, increasing its role and authority in the world. At the same time, one of the key factors in achieving the SCO's main goals and solving the tasks facing it was identified by the Uzbek side as ensuring the stability and prosperity of Central Asia, where in a short time, thanks to the efforts of the head of Uzbekistan and the countries of the region, it was possible to make significant progress in constructively solving acute regional problems, including issues of borders, trade, transport and water use. This creates favorable conditions and unique opportunities for ensuring security, broad cooperation, and promoting the most important region-

al investment and infrastructure projects throughout the Organization.

“Central Asia should continue to be one of the priorities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization,” said the head of Uzbekistan at the Bishkek SCO Summit in 2019. Indeed, due to its geopolitical and geostrategic significance, Central Asia is the core of the SCO and remains the focus of the Organization's attention. At the SCO summits in 2018-2021, the leaders of the G8 expressed support for the efforts of the Central Asian countries to intensify cooperation in the political, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres. They welcome the holding of Consultative Meetings of the Heads of Central Asian States on a regular basis and advocate for the active role of the SCO in further strengthening the stability and socio-economic development of this region.

The challenges faced by the Central Asian countries are common to the entire SCO space. One of the factors of the manifestation of international terrorism in this region is the unstable situation in Afghanistan. Uzbekistan is well aware that the restoration of a peaceful Afghanistan, free from terrorism and drug crime, is impossible without the implementation of adequate economic measures. It is important to note that Tashkent considers Afghanistan not as a source of threats to peace and stability, but as a unique strategic opportunity, as a country, the establishment of peace and stability, in which it can give a fundamentally new impetus to the activation of trans-regional cooperation throughout the Eurasian space.

In this regard, Uzbekistan is taking effective steps in this direction and is becoming an active participant in international efforts to restore peaceful life in Afghanistan. In particular, in 2017, at the suggestion of the Uzbek side, the work of the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group was resumed in a new capacity, the level of representation in it was raised to deputy foreign ministers.

The high-level international conference on Afghanistan held in Tashkent in 2018 brought the international community's understanding of the need for regional cooperation for the peace process and development in this country to a new level. The main outcome of the International Conference was a consolidated appeal to all parties to the conflict to start peace talks as soon as possible without preconditions. Uzbekistan is actively involving Afghanistan in major railway and energy infrastructure projects necessary to strengthen regional interconnectedness between Central and South Asia and in the SCO space as a whole. The results of the international conference held on July 15-16, 2021 in Tashkent on the topic “Central and South Asia: regional interconnectedness. Challenges and Opportunities” showed the importance of Afghanistan's role as a “regional bridge” to connect the two regions and support the economic development of this country through the implementation of common regional projects. Afghanistan can play a key role in increasing the transit potential of Central Asia by creating transport corridors for geographically closed countries of the region to enter the markets of East and Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the ports of the Mediterranean Sea. In this regard, great importance is attached to the construction of high-speed highways and railways through the Afghan territory, including along the Mazar-I-Sharif-Herat and Mazar-I-Sharif-Peshawar routes, which will form a new transit corridor with access to Iranian, Pakistani and Indian railways, as well as to the seaports of Chahbahar and Gwadar.

At the SCO summit in Dushanbe, the President of Uzbekistan positively assessed the joint achievements of people's diplomacy and proposed to establish the institution of the “SCO Goodwill Amba-

sador”. Indeed, in recent years, the role of people's diplomacy in strengthening mutual trust and good-neighborliness, interethnic and interfaith harmony, and inter-civilizational dialogue between the Organization's member states has been noticeably increasing within the SCO. People's diplomacy is gaining key importance with its inherent openness and impartiality. Unlike traditional diplomacy and official state channels, scientists, artists and cultural figures, businessmen, religious figures, youth, tourism and sports organizations take part in it without political and legal restrictions. In this context, it is important to note the activities of institutions of people's diplomacy, such as the Chinese Committee for Good Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation, the SCO People's Diplomacy Center in Tashkent and the SCO Friendship and Cooperation Center in Dushanbe.

At the Dushanbe Summit, one of the key topics was undoubtedly the development of joint measures to overcome the consequences of the crisis caused by COVID-19. The Heads of State approved a corresponding Plan of joint advisory measures. At the same time, the Uzbek side put forward an initiative to develop and adopt a roadmap for establishing partnerships between the leading medical centers of the SCO space in the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, post-ovarian rehabilitation and mutual recognition of vaccination certificates. The aim of the initiative is to further enhance the effectiveness of cooperation between the SCO member states in preventing, identifying and jointly responding to situations during epidemiological threats. It is focused on the development of preventive measures to improve the epidemiological situation in the SCO space, the exchange of information, knowledge and experience in the field of prevention and treatment of infectious diseases. According to experts, the implementation of this initiative will contribute to the formation of uniform conditions for citizens of the SCO countries when crossing borders and will provide greater opportunities for free movement. The unified system will also create a system for monitoring the results of analyses and certificates issued at the interstate level.

In his speeches at the SCO summits, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev also pays great attention to issues of environmental protection, preservation of ecological balance, as well as mitigation of the consequences of the ecological disaster caused by the drying up of the Aral Sea. This tragedy is one of the most acute problems of the Central Asian region, entailing irreparable consequences for the gene pool and health, conditions and quality of life of the population of the Aral Sea region, the diversity of its flora and fauna. The world community has recognized that it is unfortunately impossible to restore the Aral Sea. Therefore, the task of mitigating the destructive impact of this crisis on the environment and the livelihoods of the population of the Aral Sea region comes to the fore.

The third chairmanship of Uzbekistan fell on the 15th anniversary of the SCO. During the SCO summit in Tashkent in 2016, memoranda of obligations of the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan were signed in order to obtain the status of SCO member states. Memoranda on granting the status of the SCO dialogue partner to the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Kingdom of Cambodia and Nepal have been signed. Another of the main outcomes of the summit was the approval of the Action Plan for 2016-2020 for the implementation of the SCO Development Strategy until 2025, which brought the SCO to a qualitatively new level of cooperation, characterized by increased efficiency of interaction in all areas of the Organization's activities.

## Geopolitical reality of super power

Dr. M Akram Zaheer



The other aspect is related to technological development. In this regard, in the field of cyberspace, the absence of an international regulatory framework facilitates the understanding of the threats to States and the people are exposed. This situation leads to activities involving identity theft, financial crime or the handling of weapons of mass destruction

THE current geopolitical reality imposes new challenges and opportunities to resolve conflicts of interest through international cooperation, while maintaining a strategic vision or calling into question the balance of power. However, uncertainty is constant, as are circumstances and actors. In this constant concern for improvement, we cannot fail to evoke two kinds of strategic ideas. First from a real political point of view (The enemy of my enemy is my friend), which facilitates the formation of alliances. Second, by following a strategic and confrontational approach (The success or achievement of my opponent's goals affects my accomplishment), it is therefore important that the opponent does not achieve his goals. Despite the complexity of the strategic environment, it has been observed that countries are increasingly interconnected and interdependent due to the global nature of the threats and the common aspects of their development. Currently, there are very competitive regional blocs, where robotics, electronics, communications, biotechnology, as well as their military capabilities and levels of interoperability are measured. All this, marked by a common aspect: defending their interests. In this context, everything indicates that in the 21st century the following aspects will mark geopolitics: the impact of an economy in a market that has neither flag nor nationality, technology is a certain variable, hostility to alternative cooperation, sustainable development within the framework of a supernatural policy of environmental protection and the promotion of democracy with security as a key element of development and welfare. Regarding these aspects, it described a free market as the most important economic model in the world, with the exception of certain activities considered appropriate for the state, such as laws, public order, rehabilitation or national defense, etc. In this sense, when we refer to

the free market, we consider that these economic activities and transactions depend exclusively on the free initiative of individuals. This interaction creates an environment in which individuals are free to achieve their goals and maximize their profits without state intervention. However, there are contradictions between these activities, which one way or another, the state should control, and which should be an independent initiative. Therefore, the production of wealth without any control, through the exploitation of the resources necessary for the life and development of a state, is complex and controversial from a nationalist and conservative point of view. In this regard, a look back at Peru at the beginning of the 20th century shows that the influx of foreign capital introduced an economic export policy which benefited a particular group. However, this situation has not made it possible to increase national power and capacity, as these power groups have a brief idea of what homeland and state mean. In many cases, these ideas are not just in your imagination. There is a question, how can we estimate the power of a state? To answer this question, econometric models make it easier to determine national strength and capacity for which a state owner considers the number of square kilometers as the basic variable. That is, the larger the area, the greater the power.

The other aspect is related to technological development. In this regard, in the field of cyberspace, the absence of an international regulatory framework facilitates the understanding of the threats to States and the people are exposed. This situation leads to activities involving identity theft, financial crime or the handling of weapons of mass destruction. These scenarios allow us to analyze how an increase in technology and mechanization can have a fundamental impact on global production models, as well as on production costs and labor costs. Under this approach, countries that dominate the technology will set standards in electricity generation and national potential.

The third aspect explains how animosity between two states resolves regional disputes by force of arms. Moreover, if the two states fail to implement this concept of war, they have their own consequences, but through the interests of third parties. At present, however, international cooperation and various organizations, such as the United Nations (UN) is setting the tone for dialogue and building new spaces for trade. The fourth aspect of sustainable development, as the basis for the development of new generations, is the commitment not only to the people of the country but also to the people of the world. The country that depends on the export of raw materials, it is necessary to set the goals and objectives of public and private institutions to achieve sustainable economic, political, social and environmental development. A responsible country is therefore a country recognized and integrated into the international community.

And the new perspective on politics takes multilateral relations of interest and global security to a new level. Likewise, strategic planning in which countries make internal national goals at all levels of government and adapt to international contexts facilitates the development of a state. On the other hand, the possibility for states to join supranational organizations and foreign trade opportunities builds national capacity and strength. Furthermore, it is important to remember that in the international context, States are not friends, but have common interests where the instruments of national power complement each other for weight and negotiating capacity. Therefore, one must understand the method of studying geopolitics that allows important pieces of a state to be strategically transferred to the Grand International Council.





