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Uzbekistan to assist citizens working abroad, says Shavkat Mirziyoyev

FM Qureshi to undertake visit to Beijing



Current account deficit lowered: Hafeez Shaikh



Briefs

'Current account deficit lowered'



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Highlighting the performance of the finance ministry, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance Abdul Hafeez Shaikh said that Pakistan was faced with a mountain of challenges when the government came to power. He stated that Pakistan was faced with a huge current account deficit which the incumbent government had reduced drastically due to its sound fiscal policies. The finance adviser said that the government of Pakistan, civil and military leadership both, had reduced their budgets in its bid to practice austerity in times of crisis. Shaikh said that the government had not borrowed from the State Bank of Pakistan throughout the current year. "The biggest point of the prime minister's package was that cash was given to ordinary people who were impacted [by the coronavirus]," he said, referring to the Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme. Shaikh said that for the first time in Pakistan's history, Rs250bn were provided to the people of Pakistan "in every city and goth". "This money was provided to 100 million people," he said.

617 more test positive, 15 die in 24 hours

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday reported 617 new coronavirus cases during the past 24 hours, taking the total number of reported cases to 289,832. According to the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), 15 people died due to coronavirus-related complications during this period, raising the death toll from the disease in the country to 6,190. The number of active coronavirus cases has dropped to 13,633, while the number of recovered patients stands at 270,009. During past 24 hours, as many as 17612 more samples were tested, taking the total number of tests conducted across the country thus far to 289832. Thus far, 126,182 cases have been detected in Sindh, 95,447 in Punjab, 35,215 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 12,295 in Balochistan, 15,390 in Islamabad, 2,184 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and 2,502 in Gilgit Baltistan. Pakistan has begun phase III of the clinical trial of a COVID-19 vaccine candidate in the country after Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) approved the process. A spokesman for the National Institute of Health (NIH) Islamabad said that the vaccine under trial is the one being prepared by Chinese biotech firm, CanSino Biologics, and Beijing Institute of Biotechnology.

Govt unfurls two-year performance

The narrative has shifted on Kashmir and that the people of the occupied territory will get the right to self-determination

SAIFULLAH / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Members of the cabinet addressed the media Tuesday to highlight the government's achievement as the PTI government marked two years since it took over the reins of the country. Speaking after information minister Shibli Faraz, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the Indian government had failed to isolate Pakistan internationally, adding that the "narrative has shifted on Kashmir" and that the people of the occupied territory will get the right to self-determination. The foreign minister pointed out how Prime Minister Imran Khan, in his first speech as Pakistan's premier, had highlighted the issue of occupied Kashmir. "You can compare the speeches of Nawaz Sharif and before that, Asif Zardari at the UN and see for yourself how often the word Kashmir was used in their speeches," he said. Highlighting the performance of the finance ministry, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance Abdul Hafeez Shaikh said that Pakistan was faced with a mountain of challenges

Opp slams Govt report

ISLAMABAD: The PML-N and PPP on Tuesday criticised the PTI government's performance in its two years of power, with the former terming it an "unmitigated disaster". PML-N chief and Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif tweeted that "Imran Khan's mismanagement of national affairs has increased the woes of the masses manifold". "People continue to pay heavy price for this failed experiment in political engineering," he added. - DNA

when the government came to power. He stated that Pakistan was faced with a huge current account deficit which the incumbent government had reduced drastically due to its sound fiscal policies. The finance adviser said that the government of Pakistan, civil and military leadership both, had reduced their budgets in its bid to practice austerity in times of crisis. Shaikh said that the government had not borrowed from the State Bank of Pakistan throughout the current year.

French Embassy lauds Islamabad police

ISLAMABAD: The office of Police Attache, on behalf of the French Embassy, has lauded Islamabad police for foiling a robbery attempt with wife of Deputy Police Attache on August 1, 2020 in front of her house in sector F-7/2, a police spokesman said. In a letter, the office of Police Attache presented its compliments to Islamabad Inspector General of Police (IGP) Muhammad Amir Zulfiqar and officers of the Kohsar police station. According to details, Isabelle Hilaire, wife of the deputy police attache Jean

Christophe Hilaire, was chased by a motorcyclist who treated her with gun in front of her house in sector F-7/2 and tried to snatch mobile and other valuables. Hilaire, a police officer, kept her calm, the man at bay and called her husband. Together, they chased the man but lost him in Margallah road. Following this incident, Hilaire called his contact at Police Line, SSP Irfan Tarik, who immediately advised SP Omar Khan, head of Kohsar police Station, to investigate into the matter. The SP visited the site, met

with the complainant and started investigation. A special team headed by ASP Aqeela Naqi including SHO Shabbir Ahmed Tanoli and other officials investigated the matter and succeeded to arrest the perpetrator of this act with the help of safe city cameras and modern technology with police. Police team also recovered the bike and weapons from the accused and further investigation is underway from him. Police Attache of French Embassy has lauded this performance of Islamabad police officials. - APP

DRAP approves trial of corona vaccine

It is a multi-country multi-centre clinical trial which CanSinoBio is already conducting in China, Russia, Chile, Argentina and will shortly start in Saudi Arabia

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Health (NIH) has obtained approval from the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) for Phase III clinical trial of coronavirus vaccine. The NIH said in a statement that it has obtained "the formal approval from DRAP for Phase III Clinical Trial of Recombinant Novel Coronavirus Vaccine Adenovirus Type 5 vector (Ad5-nCoV) developed by CanSinoBio and Beijing Institute of Biotechnology China [BIB]."

"This will be the first ever phase III clinical trial for any vaccine in Pakistan," the statement said. It is a multi-country multi-centre clinical trial which CanSinoBio is already

conducting in China, Russia, Chile, Argentina and will shortly start in Saudi Arabia. The principal investigator of the multi-centre clinical trial in Pakistan is NIH executive director Maj Gen Aamer Ikram. "AJM Pharma CEO Adnan Hussain signed an agreement with the NIH last month for collaborating on the phase-III clinical trial of CanSinoBio Ad5-nCoV in Pakistan. The study will be conducted in prestigious medical research centres in the country - Aga Khan Medical University, Karachi; In- dhus Hospital, Karachi; Shaikat Khanum Memorial Hospital, Lahore; Shifa International Hospital, Islamabad, and UHS Lahore." - DNA



RIYADH: Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa meeting with Saudi Deputy Minister of Defense, Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz. - DNA

AJK President calls for holding India accountable

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan has said if our current world order, impartially and non-selectively, pursued international rule of law, instead of realpolitik, Indian officials responsible for crimes against humanity would be in the dock in an international tribunal like the Nazi officials were after World War-II. "There is a long list of India's crimes against humanity in IIOJ&K, but the most despicable and culpable amongst them are genocide, systemic ethnic cleansing, war crimes against non-combatants, and the use of excessive force without respecting the principles of distinction, precaution and proportionality, under the false pretext of fighting terrorism," he said. Masood Khan stated this in an article published in a monthly magazine. He said that whatever the Indian government has done to the Kashmiris especially in the past year (and before) is a flagrant violation of international law, the Fourth Geneva Convention, international humanitarian law in general, and the UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir in particular.

NLCC declares Punjab, KP locust free

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been declared locust free by National Locust Control Centre (NLCC). In a statement, NLCC said that locust is now only present in Lasbella, Balochistan and Tharparkar, Sindh. The statement further said anti-locust survey and control operations are in progress and 232800 hectares area was surveyed in a day.

COAS meets Saudi Dy Defence minister

Gen Bajwa was received by Saudi Arabia's Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces General Fayyad Al-Ruwaili upon his arrival at the defence ministry

DNA

RIYADH: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Tuesday met Saudi Arabia's Deputy Minister of Defence Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz to discuss matters of mutual interest, a statement from Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. "Matters of mutual interest including bilateral defence, security cooperation and regional security were discussed," the ISPR added. The army chief arrived in Riyadh on Monday and met

the Saudi military leadership to discuss "military to military ties including training exchanges" according to the military's media wing. "Gen Bajwa was received by Saudi Arabia's Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces General Fayyad Al-Ruwaili upon his arrival at the defence ministry," the ISPR had said. Gen Bajwa had also met Lieutenant General (Staff) Fahad bin Turki Al Saud, Commander Joint Forces, Saudi Arabia. Shortly after the meeting, the Saudi deputy defense minister tweeted: "Met today with

my brother, H.E. General Qamar Bajwa, Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff. We discussed bilateral relations, military cooperation, and our common vision for preserving regional security." "During the meeting, prospects for military cooperation and ways to support and boost it were reviewed, in addition to matters of common concern," the Saudi government had said in a statement. The army chief is accompanied by Director-General Inter-Services Intelligence Lt Gen. Faiz Hameed on his trip to Saudi Arabia.

Court rejects sugar mill owners' plea

A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court rejected the intra-court appeal by sugar mill owners against the formation of the Sugar Inquiry Commission, whose report made startling revelations about the scandal. The SIC report released last month had laid bare startling revelations about how the prices of sugar are fixed, how exports of the commodity are faked to avail rebates on sales taxes, and how billions of rupees are overcharged by sugar mills owners. The court announced its verdict in the case today (Tuesday) which it had reserved on July 24. Justice Mian Gul Hasan Aurangzeb and Justice Lubna Saleem Pervez, in the verdict, rejected the appeal by the owners, upholding the earlier decision of the single bench. On July 25, the IHC reserved its judgment on an appeal of the Sugar Mills Association against the constitution of the sugar inquiry commission. The petitioners had called for the sugar inquiry report

released on May 21 to be declared void and the actions ordered by the prime minister in this regard suspended. The plea, filed by Advocate Salman Akram Raja, stated: "The scope of the Impugned report clearly exceeds the constitutional mandate and limitations of a Federal Commission of Inquiry constituted under the 2017 Act, as it trespasses into matters within the exclusive legislative and executive domains of the Provinces. The entire inquiry has been carried out in a completely illegal, unlawful, opaque, biased and discriminatory manner." "It has been conducted in complete contravention to the requirements of the 2017 Act and the relevant terms of reference. The principle of natural justice as well as the Fundamental Rights of the petitioners including the right to due process, fair trial and non-discrimination have been violated," read the petition. It was filed after the government's announcement that it is forwarding cases to the National Accountability Bureau, FIA and other federal agencies to take punitive actions against those involved in the scandal.

FM Qureshi to undertake visit to Beijing

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ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi will undertake a day-long visit to China on August 20. He will hold meetings with China's top leadership during his Beijing visit, the sources said, adding issues of mutual interest, bilateral cooperation, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, Ladakh, and regional security will come under discussion in these meetings. Shah Mahmood Qureshi will also deliberate Chinese President Xi Jinping's likely visit to Islamabad in meetings with Chinese leaders, they said. Earlier, diplomatic sources had said that dates are being finalised for Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan. It is expected that the Chinese president will make announcements for further investment plans for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, said the sources, adding that he is also likely to address the parliament during his visit.

WHO urges nations to join vaccine bid

GENEVA: The WHO wrote to every country on Tuesday urging them to quickly join its global shared vaccine programme and spelled out who would get its eventual coronavirus jabs first. The WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that without vaccinating the highest-risk populations around the world all at the same time, it would be impossible to rebuild the global economy. And he said the most exposed 20 percent of each country's population - including front-line health workers, adults over 65 and those with pre-existing conditions - would be targeted in the first wave of vaccinations, once the WHO-spearheaded and shared facility can roll out a proven safe and effective vaccine. - APP

SCO environmental cooperation discussed

During the webinar, discussions were held as part of three sessions on the coordination of efforts to prevent and control the coronavirus epidemic, as well as environmental protection

APP / DNA

BEIJING: The webinar on prospects for Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Environmental Cooperation in the post epidemic era took place. It was organized by the China Centre for SCO Environmental Cooperation. Taking part in the webinar were representatives from the relevant ministries and departments of a number of SCO member states, business and scientific

communities of China that specialise in environmental issues and the media. Speaking at the opening, Deputy Secretary-General Yerik Ashimov voiced an address by SCO Secretary-General Vladimir Norov, in which he stressed on the importance of coordinating the actions of the SCO member states in cooperating in environmental protection, environmental policy and stimulating the exchange of information, as well as promoting the en-



vironmentally sustainable development of the region. In this context, the concept for Cooperation in Environmental Protection and the relevant Plan of Action,

adopted following the SCO summits in Qingdao and Bishkek in 2018 and 2019, respectively, serve as an effective stimulus to the further promotion and deepening of partnership between the relevant state bodies, as well as the scientific and business communities in the SCO member states in environmental matters. The importance of creating effective channels for information exchange, and improving the technical level of monitoring and personnel training is highlighted in the address. The attention of experts is drawn to the need to develop practical steps to adapt to climate change and create favourable

conditions for the transfer of technologies in the field of waste management. During the webinar, discussions were held as part of three sessions on the coordination of efforts to prevent and control the coronavirus epidemic, as well as environmental protection. A ceremony of signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the China Centre for SCO Environmental Cooperation and the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia was also held.

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Briefs

DG PNCA greets award recipients

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Fouzia Saeed, Director General, Pakistan National Council of the Arts congratulated all the recipients of civil awards. In her message coupled with bouquet from Pakistan National Council of the Arts to the laureates, Dr. Fouzia paid rich tributes to the legendary artists of Pakistan and hailed their services and contributions. She declared these artists as true ambassadors of Pakistan. She highly appreciated the services of these artists which have been acknowledged worldwide. Artists are the ones who present the true image of a society and earn a good name for their country. They play a very positive role in elevating and improving the mental approach of the people towards life by inspiring them through their art. Their lifelong services in the field have been recognized and acknowledged for their sheer commitment. She wished them prosperous and bright future. These awards were announced by the President of Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan's 74th Independence Day.

3 killed in bus accident on M-1

ISLAMABAD: Three passengers were killed in a bus accident near Pabi on Peshawar-Islamabad Motorway (M-1) on Tuesday. According to details, the driver of bus number LES 388 going from Lahore to Peshawar could not control the vehicle due to drowsiness and slippery road near Pabi, Peshawar and the bus overturned on the side of the road, said a press release issued here. A total of 12 people were in the bus. The accident was so severe that three persons were died on the spot whereas three were seriously injured. Motorway police reached the spot and rescue operation was underway. The dead and injured have been shifted to hospital. — APP

Daraz launches dBills

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Expanding its e-commerce footprint and propelling digitization in the country, Daraz, the leading online shopping platform in Pakistan for mobile phones, laptops & everything, be it local or international brands has focused on innovative answers that will not only propel digitization in the country but also offer millions convenience in fulfilling routine tasks. The platform has launched dBills - a channel dedicated to the payment of electricity, water, telephone-internet and gas bills which will eliminate the need for Pakistanis to step outside of their houses to clear their dues.



ISLAMABAD: Newly arrived Ambassador of Switzerland in a meeting with Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rabei. — DNA

Member FBR assures to address key issues of business community

FIYAZ CHAUDHARY

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) along with Malik Sohail Hussain, former Senior Vice President ICCI and Chief Coordinator UBG FPCCI held a meeting with Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq Ahmed, Member (Inland Revenue-Operations), FBR in his office and discussed with him tax related issues of business community for redress. Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq Ahmed, Member (IR-Operations), FBR said that business community was playing important role in

the economic development of the country and efforts would be made to address their key issues in order to facilitate them in business promotion. He lauded the role of ICCI in facilitating the growth of business activities as it was acting as a bridge between the government and the private sector. He was of the view that the close liaison and smooth working relations between FBR and ICCI were important to resolve issues and generate more economic activity in the region. He also shared the various initiatives being taken by the government to further improve the taxation system for promoting the economy.



Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Ahmed Waheed, President ICCI said that FBR should focus on complete automation of income tax, sales tax and customs duty refunds for timely payment of all refunds that would address the liquidity issues of business community and help in promoting exports. He also discussed the issue of Sec-8B of Sales Tax Act that allowed adjustment of input tax amount of only 90 percent of the output tax for a period and emphasized that FBR should allow adjustment of input tax amount of the 100 percent of output tax to facilitate the business community in these tough times. He said a facilitation desk of

Pakistan Customs has been setup in ICCI that would help in resolving customs related issues and further strengthen the relations between both sides. He discussed many options with Member (IR-Ops) FBR for broadening the tax base in order to further enhance the tax revenue of the country. Malik Sohail Hussain former Senior Vice President ICCI and Chief Coordinator UBG FPCCI expressing his views said that a taxation system characterised by low compliance cost and low tax rates would be instrumental in promoting tax culture and improving tax revenue of Pakistan and stressed that FBR should work on these lines.

'Tahafuz', 'Taleemi Wazaif' to be launched, says Dr. Sania

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Sania Nishtar Tuesday disclosed that Pakistan's first shock-oriented precision safety net, "Tahafuz" to cover heavy medical expenditures for the deserving and "Taleemi Wazaif" to benefit five million primary school going children in 148 districts through conditional cash transfers would be launched in the coming months under the umbrella of Ehsaas. Addressing a news briefing held here to highlight 15-month long journey of Ehsaas program, she said fighting poverty has always been one of the top priorities of the Prime Minister Imran Khan. Based on principles of Islamic ideology similar to those put in place by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in Madina, the Ehsaas journey began with its formal launch by the Prime Minister on March 27, 2019. Ehsaas' poverty reduction strategy currently embodies more than 140 programmes, policies and initiatives. Listing some initiatives under Ehsaas, Dr. Nishtar highlighted that Kafaalat is an unconditional cash-transfer programme that provides monthly pay-

ments of Rs. 2,000 and bank accounts for seven million disadvantaged households (100% women) across the country. Under the Rs. 42.65 billion interest free loans programme 80,000 loans are disbursed every month in 100 districts. So far, 844,000 interest free loans (45% women) have been disbursed for small enterprises to graduate the poor out of poverty and set them on the course of economic prosperity. As part of Mazdoor ka Ehsaas, the Ehsaas Langar scheme has been introduced under an innovative public-private partnership with Saylani Trust feeding more than 600 laborers daily. To date, 12 Langar facilities have been opened nationwide and work on the remaining is quickly underway, she said. About Ehsaas undergraduate scholar-



ship programme, Dr. Nishtar briefed that Rs 20 billion were allocated for 200,000 scholarships over 4 years to support needy students. This represented a paradigm shift in the government's scholarship policy. About the recently launched Ehsaas Nashonuma, Dr. Nishtar said the nutrition conditional cash transfer programme for mothers and children aims to address stunting in children under two years of age. In response to COVID-19 induced economic shutdown, Dr. Nishtar said the government allocated Rs. 203 billion within just 10 days of shutdown to deliver one-time emergency cash assistance to 16.9 million families at risk of extreme poverty. Given family size, this represents nearly 109 million people or half the country's population, representing the largest and most extensive social protection intervention ever in the history of the country. During the course of the last 15 months, Ehsaas has been richly praised worldwide. Also, World Economic Forum, Telegraph, World Bank, World Food Programme (WFP) and UNSGSA have all engaged with and deeply appreciated Ehsaas, she added. — APP

Govt launching new strategy against polio, says Nausheen

The present government is committed to making all-out efforts to ensure all children receive the essential vaccine

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for National Health Services, Dr. Nausheen Hamid on Monday said that the government will implement a new strategy and an emergency action plan to prevent and control Polio disease with a view to reducing the burden of disability and death rates in country. Talking to a private news channel she said the federal government was quick in taking policy level decisions to eradicate polio and expected the same brisk response from the provinces, adding, the government has been focusing on super high-risk polio-endemic union councils to ensure better availability of health

services to people while tackling the polio epidemic. She reiterated that government was committed to eradicating the poliovirus and called upon the international community to be considerate towards Pakistan and extend all possible cooperation in this regard so that the country would work to eliminate the crippling disease without any problems. Pakistan is currently facing a challenging situation of polio eradication. However, the present government is committed to making all-out efforts to ensure all children receive the essential vaccine. It is a topmost priority of the government to make country polio-free. — APP

15 outlaws held; stolen dumper and weapons recovered

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have arrested 15 outlaws from various area of the city and recovered stolen dumper worth Rs 85,000,000, besides mobile phone, wine and weapons from them, a police spokesman said. Following orders of IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan, he said that DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Syed has categorically directed all police officers to accelerate their efforts against drug dealers and smugglers to root out them from the federal capital. Following these directions, SP (Rural) Farooq Amjad Butter constituted special team under supervision of DSP Rukhsar Mehdi including SHO Sihala police station along with others that successfully accomplished the given tasks. Furthermore, Bhara kahu police arrested accused Adil and recovered one 30 bore pistol from him. Tarol police arrested accused Usman Qadir and recovered one 30 bore pistol from him.

DC for escalating surveillance to control dengue

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner Capt (R) Anwar Ul Haq haudary has directed the officials of district health authority and other departments for expediting surveillance activities to trace out larva and measures for its eradication. Chairing a meeting to review anti-dengue arrangements, the DC directed officials to remove stagnant water in outdoor and household settings to stop mosquitoes from breeding after rain and submerged water. The DC said that nothing precious than human lives adding that zero tolerance policy should be adopted in dengue control activities. He said that necessary medicines along with latest equipment have been provided to health department to control dengue. — APP

Ulema evolve consensus on SOPs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The religious scholars of various schools of thought and government have evolved consensus on standard operating procedures (SOPs) to curb the spread of COVID-19 during Muharram-ul-Haram processions and gatherings. The consensus was reached in a consultative meeting, chaired by Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sahibzada Noor-ul-Haq Qadri in Islamabad. According to the SOPs, only licensed and traditional processions will be allowed and wearing of masks and use of hand sanitizers will be mandatory. Pir Noor-ul-Haq Qadri told the Ulema present in the meeting that the enemies are busy fanning sectarian bigotry in country to cause unrest and urged them to frustrate the designs of such elements.

Selfless dedication key to effective accomplishment of PAF's mission: Air Chief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "A close look at the historic accounts of PAF's role during wars stands testimony to the fact that a better-trained professional force with high morale can offset the limitations of numbers and equipment", said the Air Chief while addressing the graduation ceremony of No 53 Combat Commanders' Course held at Airpower Centre of Excellence (ACE), today, Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Addressing at the occasion, the Air Chief said, "Combat training in PAF can be

maintained at the highest pedestal of realism and responsiveness, only if we are cognizant of the contemporary challenges and ready

with evolved tactics and strategies." He further said, "along with tactics and professional skills, selfless dedication combined with high

sense of discipline and comradeship are the key to effective and safe accomplishment of PAF's mission."



The Air Chief also awarded certificates and trophies to the graduating officers who underwent a strenuous and professionally demanding course. The Chief of the Air Staff Trophy for overall best performance amongst combat pilots was awarded to Squadron Leader Muhammad Shafaat, while Air Officer Commanding Air Defence Trophy for overall best performance amongst combat controllers was awarded to Squadron Leader Julius Joseph. The ceremony was attended by Principal Staff Officers and field commanders of Pakistan Air Force.

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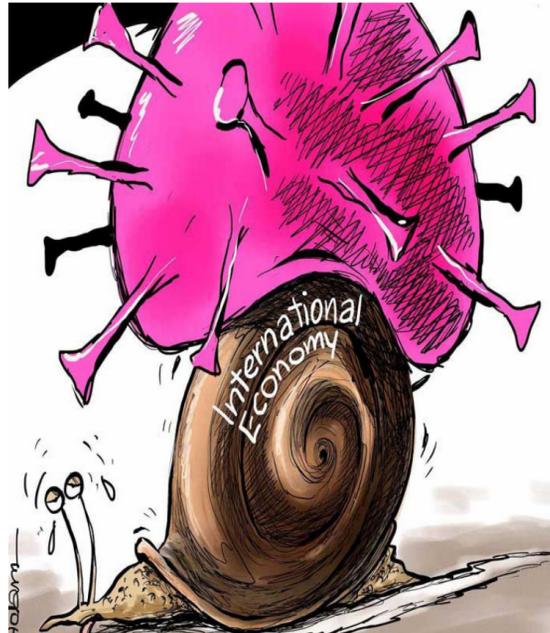
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Exam chaos

AFTER almost two weeks of protests and threats of legal action by anguished students and their parents, the British exams regulator Ofqual is again reviewing its guidance on how to appeal against A-Level and GCSE grades using mock exam results hours after publishing it. On Saturday Ofqual, under heavy attack from around the world, had constituted a mock exam system for students appealing A-Levels results in England. But it has now suspended its criteria and promised information soon. The confusion simply highlights the huge mess created by the method used by Ofqual and the algorithm it developed to determine grades for pupils who did not sit formal exams this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. There has been criticism from around the world that the process was unequal and that almost 40 percent of A-Levels grades were marked down from teachers' predictions by the Ofqual algorithm.

The problem is a global one, with CIE exams taken in 160 countries of the world and in thousands of schools. Pakistan's Education Minister Shafiqat Mahmood had also announced several days ago that Pakistan had made an appeal against the exam results to the UK High Commission, the British Council and CIE. He said he was confident that Pakistani students, like others, would be compensated. The whole system put into action by CIE and the British government essentially created massive chaos. In London and other places, there have been protests by students, teachers and parents worried about the future of their children. The British government has faced huge pressure over the mishandling of the exams and the accusations that students at private schools were far less likely to be downgraded. Leaders of the Labour Party have said the problem needs to be fixed and that students must receive correct results which are transparent and can be easily understood by the students as being fair in their assessment and not so far wide off the mark set by the teachers. Let's hope there is some resolution to this problem. The pandemic has caused enough problems; let it not ruin completely the future of our children.



UAE-Israel relations

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

THE United Arab Emirates, in a shocking move, has announced to normalize its ties with Israel. It is not a matter of when and not if, as signaled by the US President Donald Trump. Speculations are growing with each passing day about which Arab or Muslim country will normalize its ties with Israel. After the UAE-Israel alliance, Iran issued a warning to launch an attack against the UAE. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has called the UAE's decisions a "huge mistake." He also termed it as a betrayal. The daily newspaper of Iran, Kayhan, in its editorial states, "The UAE's great betrayal of the Palestinian people ... will turn this small, rich country, which is heavily dependent on security, into a legitimate and easy target." UAE's APEX National Investment company has also signed a strategic commercial agreement with Tera Group of Israel. They will collaborate on research and development related to Covid-19. According to APEX's chairman Khalifa Yousef Khoury, "The deal is considered the first business [deal] to inaugurate trade, economy and effective partnerships between the Emirati and Israeli business sectors, for the benefit of serving humanity by strengthening research and studies on the novel coronavirus." Moreover, the United States of America views UAE-Israel ties with satisfaction. US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman during a National Public Radio interview said, "The more the Emirates become a friend of Israel, become a partner of Israel, become a regional ally of the United States, I think obviously that alters the threat assessment and could work out to the Emirates' benefit on future weapons sales." Only time will tell how the countries of the Middle East, the Arab world, and the Muslim countries will react to the UAE-Israel partnership. Until now, it seems the UAE has stepped into the zone of no return. It is yet to be seen if the partnership will continue with the same force as it was manifested into a reality in the first place.

Modi-led Anti-Muslim chauvinism takes dangerous turn

Sajjad Shaukat



Premier Modi had got a land sliding victory in the Indian elections of 2014 and 2019 on the basis of anti-Muslim and anti-Pakistan slogans. Therefore, since Modi came to power, he has been implementing anti-Muslim and anti-Pakistan agenda. Besides persecution of Indian Muslims, Modi has also accelerated war-hysteria against Pakistan and instructed Indian forces to continue shelling across the Line of Control (LoC), which has killed many innocent civilians inside Pakistani side of Kashmir. In fact, Modi is promoting religious fanaticism and the ideology of Hindutva (Hindu nationalism) particularly against Muslims

WITHOUT bothering for the reaction of the international community, Indian extremist Prime Minister Narendra Modi-the leader of the ruling party BJP has continued anti-Muslim Chauvinism in India by leading Hindu terrorism against the religious minorities especially Muslims.

In the recent past, while addressing the Nation and the Indian Parliament about the tensions with minorities in India in passing [Citizenship Amendment Act 2019] CAA, Prime Minister Modi said: "In India, live like Indian Hindu. Any minority, from anywhere, if they want to live in India, to work and eat in India, they should speak an Indian language like Hindi Gujarati, Punjabi, Bengali...If they prefer Sharia Law, and live the life of Muslim's then we advise them to go to those places where that's the state law...India does not need Muslim minorities...we will not grant them special privileges...no matter how loud they yell "discrimination... The Indian customs and traditions are not compatible with the lack of culture or the primitive ways of Sharia Law and Muslims....When this honorable legislative body thinks of creating new laws, it should have in mind the Indian national interest first, observing that the Muslims minorities are not Indians".

Premier Modi had got a land sliding victory in the Indian elections of 2014 and 2019 on the basis of anti-Muslim and anti-Pakistan slogans. Therefore, since Modi came to power, he has been implementing anti-Muslim and anti-Pakistan agenda. Besides persecution of Indian Muslims, Modi has also accelerated war-hysteria against Pakistan and instructed Indian forces to continue shelling across the Line of Control (LoC), which has killed many innocent civilians inside Pakistani side of Kashmir. In fact, Modi is promoting religious fanaticism and the ideology of Hindutva (Hindu nationalism) particularly against Muslims.

In this regard, Indian extremist rulers' various moves such as abrogation of the special status of the Jammu and Kashmir by revoking articles 35A and 370 of the Constitution on August 5, 2019 to turn Muslim majority into minority in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK), continued lockdown in the IOK, issuance of domicile certificates to 40000 non-Kashmiris to bring demographic changes in the Muslim-majority area, martyrdom of thousands of the Kashmiris there, blaming Indian Muslims and Pakistan for spreading coronavirus in India and IOK and targeting Muslims etc. are notable.

As regards the Indian Held Kashmir, reports suggest that due to lack of medical treatment and food, hundreds of the Muslims have already been died—military lockdown of more than one year and deployment of larger number of security forces have martyred many Kashmiris, including women and children through extrajudicial killings, while they have stopped journalist's entry in that region. More people might have also been died owing to the coronavirus pandemic there.

In this respect, BBC pointed out: "Unprecedented restrictions have put Kashmir into a state of lockdown... In one village the residents said...Two brothers were woken up and taken to an outside area...They kicked us...gave us electric shocks, beat us with cables...we screamed, they sealed our mouth with mud...We told them we are innocent...I told them don't beat us, just shoot us. I was asking God to take me, because the torture was unbearable."

Encouraged by the Premier Modi's bigotry, Hindu extremist outfits such as BJP, RSS VHP, Bajrang Dal and Shiv Sena, including other similar parties have been promoting religious and ethnic chauvinism against the Indian Muslims.

In this connection, in the aftermath of the Indian elections 2019, news reports have highlighted different cases in which especially Muslims were violently targeted by the radical Hindus. In respect, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat stated on October 8, 2019: "Bharat is Hindu Rashtra and all Bharatiyas are Hindus."

Western media reported: "Indian authorities had linked cases of COVID-19 to the Muslims...Muslims have been beaten up, nearly lynched, run out of their neighborhoods or attacked in mosques...Hindu extremists are scapegoating the country's entire Muslim population for deliberately spreading the virus through "corona jihad, Indian hospitals segregates Muslim and Hindu coronavirus patients...In what many are calling a case of "apartheid" during a global pandemic...made separate wards for Hindu and Muslim patients. It is a decision of the government".

Al Jazeera wrote: "Did those who commit crimes against Muslims in India...think that Muslims will remain silent and do not move politically, legally and economically against them? a statement by the general secretariat of the Kuwait Council of Ministers said...people in the Gulf countries felt outraged over the way Indian Muslims were being blamed for the coronavirus pandemic...the assault by the RSS—the BJP's parent body—on Muslims is unacceptable and have labelled it a "terrorist" group that should be banned in the Gulf...Kuwait has appealed to the OIC to intervene in India to tackle anti-Muslim sentiment in the country".

The reality is that under the guise of COVID-19, Indian fanatic entities are pushing Indian Muslims out of informal sector jobs. Muslims are facing a new form of concerted-deliberate economic marginalisation. These zealots are instructing the Hindus not to buy anything from Muslims' shops.

Besides, the Indian Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 (CAA), passed by the Indian Parliament further exposed the discriminatory policies of the Modi regime. The CAA coupled with the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is mainly against the Muslim immigrants particularly from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Since last year, daily mass protests continued across every state in India against the CAA and the NRC. Despite criticism of the rights groups, foreign leaders, the UNO and moderate Hindus in wake of violent protests which killed and injured hundreds of persons—mostly Muslims by the police and prejudiced Hindus, Modi's government has not withdrawn the CAA/NRC. In this context, a government-appointed-the Delhi Minorities Commission said in its report on July 16, 2020: "At least 53 people, mostly Muslims, were killed and more than 200 were injured in the worst communal violence in the Indian capital Delhi...against a new citizenship law [CAA] in February, this year...laying out the path to citizenship for six religious groups from neighbouring countries except Muslims. Critics said the law was discriminatory and flouted India's secular constitution...Muslim homes, shops and vehicles...mosques were selectively targeted during the rioting...broke out across the country...Seemingly, to crush the protests, with support of the administration and police, a retaliatory plan of pro-CAA protesters was worked out to trigger violence at a large scale...Some senior BJP leaders like former member of Delhi legislative assembly Kapil Mishra of fuelling the Feb 23 violence".

In its recently released annual report, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) recommended that the State Depart-

ment should designate India as Country of Particular Concern—pushed for imposing targeted sanctions on Indian government agencies and officials responsible for severe violations of religious freedom by freezing those individuals' assets and/or barring their entry into the US under human rights-related financial and visa authorities.

The USCIRF report said: "In December 2019, parliament passed the CAA...for non-Muslim migrants already in India from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan by treating them as refugees fleeing religious persecution...The CAA...in conjunction with NRC...is a goal outlined in the BJP's manifesto...this potentially exposes millions of Muslims to detention, deportation and statelessness...cow protection had been promoted by the BJP and the RSS...Lynch mobs...have attacked minorities—including Muslims...Since the BJP came to power in 2014, there have been over 100 attacks...often with the police's complicity".

Notably, 5th August (2020) was the first anniversary of India's revocation of the special status of the state of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K). On this very day, Kashmiris living on both sides of the LoC and their brethren in Pakistan, including rest of the world celebrated the day as the Black Day, while Pakistan, especially observed August 5 as "Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir" (Day of Exploitation in occupied Kashmir/Kashmir Military Siege Day).

People protested against India, its lockdown in the IOK and brutal treatment of the Kashmiris by the Indian forces, while reminding the internal community regarding the right of self-determination of the Kashmiris as recognized by the UNO-related resolutions. In many Western countries, Kashmiris, Pakistanis and human rights activists conducted demonstrations and rallies.

Modi's anti-anti Muslim chauvinism took a dangerous turn on August 5, this year when he laid the foundation stone for the Hindu Ram temple at bhoomi puja ceremony at the site of the 16th-century Babri Mosque in Ayodhya. The Babri Masjid mosque was destroyed by Hindu zealots with pickaxes and crowbars in December 1992, sparking massive Hindu-Muslim violence that left some 2,000 people dead, most of them Muslims. Even, in its biased verdict, Indian Supreme Court allowed a temple to be built in place of the demolished mosque.

On the same day, in a statement, the Foreign Office (FO) of Pakistan said: "The flawed judgment of the Indian Supreme Court paving the way for the construction of the temple reflected preponderance of faith over justice in India, where minorities, particularly Muslims and their places of worship are increasingly under attack...A temple built on the site of a historic mosque will remain a blot on the face of the so-called Indian democracy...The international community, the United Nations and relevant international organisations should play their part in saving the Islamic heritage sites in India from the 'Hindutva' regime and ensure protection and religious rights of minorities in India".

It is owing to inaction of the US and some major Western countries that Modi is leading the racist Hindutva supremacists against the Muslims in the occupied Kashmir and across India. So, Modi's under declared war against the Indian Muslims will not stop.

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Like cigarettes, the Indian media is injurious to your health

Swati Chaturvedi

The endless glory of Modi in Ayodhya for the brick laying ceremony of the Ram mandir. The channels went to town reporting that Modi had been in office now longer than any non-Congress prime minister. They forgot to mention that he is the longest serving prime minister of India, who has refused to address a press conference during both his terms

INDIAN "news channels" should now carry a mandatory health warning: 'Watching this content is injurious to you and the participants' health'.

The "normal" content of these channels is usually bigotry, majoritarianism, sensationalism (a pretend autopsy was carried out on the late Sushant Singh Rajput), shouty fake debates with the "anchor" hectoring his "panel" and uncritical Narendra Modi worship.

If this hate mongering content were not bad enough, a Congress party spokesperson Rajiv Tyagi suffered a heart attack minutes after he was called a "traitor" by BJP party spokesman Sambit Patra last week in a "show". His broken young wife sobbed post the funeral and said Tyagi's last words were: "In logno nei mujhey maar diya" (these people have killed me). Tragically, Tyagi's final debate was on a show that calls itself "Dangal," which when literally translated means a wrestling match.

As a print and broadcast journalist with over two decades of experience, I can only say any media organisation which claims that a wrestling match is remotely akin to journalism is making an epic fool of the viewer.

These alleged "news channels" have a broken business model where they pass off shouting as "news" and garbage as content. One Hindi channel not so long ago used to claim that gods would be coming to blows. Another has the dubious distinction of having an editor and chief executive officer who went to jail for alleged extortion.

Both these "editors" were honoured guests at the Government of India banquet held by Indian Prime Minister

Narendra Modi for visiting United States President Donald Trump. The reason I share this with you, faithful reader of SWAT analysis, is that this is the real nexus. All these channels amply funded and licensed by the Government of India exist as propaganda weapons for the government.

The hate they peddle and spin as news is weaponised on the what's app groups run by the ruling BJP. Guileless viewers, who still believe they are consumers of "news," are in reality, victims of fake news and propaganda.

Before every election, the channels run ridiculous debates where they rant about "anti-nationals". No real journalist would spin pure hate the way they do. Hours are devoted to lies about an actor's death, masjid versus mandir and attacking the Opposition.

The government is never asked any questions. One female anchor actually laughed along with BJP leader Ram Madhav and echoed him as he said on air: "We have Amit Shah" about toppling an Opposition government. The same senior journalist actually went public after the death of Arun Jaitley, BJP leader, saying: "Who will I talk to every morning?" in her tribute to Jaitley. Incidentally, Jaitley was called "Bureau Chief" by the media in a tribute to his media management. Another female editor, who runs a partisan wire service, incredibly said on television: "Operation Kamal was not successful in Rajasthan this time. But, at no point in time one should assume the party would give up." "Operation Kamal" is the benign name that the uncritical media has given the BJP's attempts at toppling democratically elected state governments. The "editor" is unabashed

about her allegiance to the BJP and the joke of a wire service is given hugely lucrative contracts by the government. In Modi's second term, things have come to such a pass that his office decides the "run order" (how news bulletins are shown) of some Panna Pramukh channels. The editor sends the news list and gets approval.

These are criminal acts of subversion by the media, possibly worse than what they did during Indira Gandhi's emergency. At that time LK Advani, founder BJP president, had memorably said: "The media was asked to bend, it crawled." Now most of the Indian media is prostrate at Modi's feet.

The imploding economy, the wonky implementation of the Goods and Services Tax, the Chinese aggression and occupation of India's territory, the migrant workers reduced to starvation, the alarming spread of the pandemic COVID-19 and the lackadaisical government response - none of this is reported or debated by the news channels.

So what is "news" for them?

The endless glory of Modi in Ayodhya for the brick laying ceremony of the Ram mandir. The channels went to town reporting that Modi had been in office now longer than any non-Congress prime minister. They forgot to mention that he is the longest serving prime minister of India, who has refused to address a press conference during both his terms.

That's not "news". Cigarettes are injurious to your health, but Indian news channels practically kill and dismantle minds.

— Courtesy: Gulf News

Briefs

Pandemic to hit hard 220 mln workers in Asia-Pacific: ADB

MANILA: The COVID-19 pandemic will hit hard nearly 220 million young workers aged 15 to 24 in Asia-Pacific region, according to a report released by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Tuesday. The report titled "tackling the COVID-19 youth employment crisis in Asia and the Pacific" said the pandemic has triggered a massive disruption of labor markets that has had disproportionate impacts on youth employment.

"Through lockdowns and travel restrictions, demand has slumped and many businesses have been forced to close or cut back operations, with serious impacts on workers," the report says. The report, a co-publication of the ADB and the International Labour Organization (ILO), said that nearly 220 million young workers in the region are particularly vulnerable given their short tenure on the job, their employment in especially hard-hit sectors, and their tendency to earn livelihoods in unsecured informal jobs.

"Youth will be hit harder than adults in the immediate crisis and also will bear higher longer-term economic and social costs," the study warns. To address the youth employment crisis, the study urges governments to urgently adopt large-scale and targeted responses centered on comprehensive labor market policies, including wage subsidies and public employment programs to minimize the impacts on young students of disrupting their education and training. — APP

'Easing lockdown restrictions increases responsibility'

DNA

TASHKENT: Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a meeting on measures to create decent conditions for citizens of Uzbekistan working abroad and systemic work with them. The situation related to the pandemic in the country was analyzed. It was noted that the number of people who recovered from the disease increased significantly as a result of a sharp increase in work to counter the coronavirus in July and August. In particular, those who recovered over the past 5 days increased from 77 to 87 percent. The number of people receiving treatment dropped from 7 thousand to 4 thousand. This is undoubtedly thanks to the selfless work of our doctors. "I repeat again: the health and life of every citizen is very important for us. We are doing everything possible to protect our people from the threat of coronavirus, we are introducing the world's most advanced treatment experience", the Head of the state said.

China defends detention of Uighur model

DNA

XINJIANG: A Uighur fashion model who filmed himself handcuffed to a bed in an epidemic prevention centre in Xinjiang was lawfully detained, Chinese officials have said. Merdan Ghappar sent video of himself, and a series of accompanying text messages, to his family in February. The messages offered a rare, detailed account from inside Xinjiang's highly secure and secretive detention system. In his account, Mr Ghappar described 18 days spent shackled and hooded with over 50 others in a jail. He said he was then isolated in an epidemic prevention centre, where he filmed the video. A response has come in the form of a written statement by the Xinjiang government press office.



ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Ambassador of Indonesia Iwan S Amri places his picture along with other ambassadors who served in Pakistan. Ambassador Amri is leaving Pakistan next month after finishing his tenure. — DNA

Dawood Wind Power brings good effects to Pakistan: Chinese Scholar

DNA

BEIJING: Ruichen Hong, a scholar of Green BRI Centre said that, Dawood Wind Power Station not only can improve energy situation in Pakistan, but also brings benefits to Pakistani society. Gwadar Pro on Tuesday quoted Hong as having said that many countries of BRI are among the world's major energy producing and consuming countries. Meanwhile, they are mostly developing countries, with the requirement to continue expanding its energy markets. Power shortages have been a major constraint on the entire Pakistani economy. Pakistan's power gap is between 4 and 6 gigawatts. The electricity structure dependent on fossil fuels brings a variety of problems to the local government.

Hong explained, in Pakistan, for every 1% increase in the use of fossil fuel, the total carbon emissions will increase 0.226%, which has a significant negative impact on the climate and environment, and is not conducive to sustainable development. Dawood wind power station, one of 14 Priority Energy Projects under CPEC, is located on 1,720 acres of tidal flats 70 km east of Karachi. "Pakistan government hopes to boost hydropower and other renewable energy sources to increase the whole energy supply and optimize the structure of electricity," Hong said, "Sindh province is rich in wind energy reserves. Its southern wind field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers. The potential of wind energy development is about 11,000 megawatts, and the wind direction is

stable, the wind speed is up to 7 meters/second. That means, if properly developed, it can meet 5%-10% of the national power demand." Dawood wind power project brings Significant climate and social effects.

Hong said, "This project provided 200 new jobs for residents during its construction. After completed, the project will generate 130 million kilowatt-hours of electricity a year, which can meet 100,000 Pakistani

homes' need and ease the country's electricity shortage." "At the same time, compared with thermal power generation, the renewable electricity produced by wind power station has no

direct greenhouse gas emission, while promoting sustainable development." The electric power industry is an important area which affects the national energy security and economy, so it is highly valued by the government. In order to improve the power structure, the Pakistani government has released a series of supporting policies to stimulate and regulate the renewable energy market.

"During the construction of Dawood project, business operator has made full use of support from local government. On the one hand, it ensures that the government has the right to speak and capable to control the power resources. On the other hand, it stabilizes national economic development, and results in a win-win situation between enterprises and the country," said Hong.



UNA Media Forum to host MWL Secretary General next Thursday

JEDDAH: The Union of OIC News Agencies (UNA) will host Secretary-General of the Muslim World League (MWL), Dr. Muhammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, on Thursday, via videoconference in the second edition of a series of media forums organized by UNA. The Forum will be held in the presence of representatives of the Union's member national news agencies and senior officials of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and its various organs, as well as ministers and stakeholders from the Islamic world. Sheikh Al-Issa will talk about coexistence among followers of religions and cultures. He will also highlight the MWL's efforts to support and consolidate dialogue and coexistence, in addition to improving the stereotypes of Islam and Muslims. The Forum will feature an open debate to answer the most common questions about coexistence and intercultural dialogue. — DNA



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Govt allows export of N-95, surgical masks: Fawad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal government on Tuesday allowed export of N-95 and surgical masks from the country, Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry said. The federal minister took to Twitter to announce the development and said that it was the last item under the personal protective equipment (PPE) that was not allowed by the federal cabinet today to be exported from the country. When COVID-19 pandemic hit the country on February 26, we were importing the PPE equipment, Fawad Chaudhry said adding that currently, the country has become one of the biggest exporters of the coronavirus material.

E&P made 26 oil, gas discoveries in two years

ISLAMABAD: Exploration and Production (E&P) companies, operating in different hydrocarbon potential areas of the country, have made 26 oil and gas discoveries during first two years of the PTI government. "As many as 26 discoveries with initial flow of 6,799 Barrels per Day (BPD) oil and 234 Million Cubic Feet per Day (MMCFD) gas have been announced," according to the two-year performance report of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government issued by Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz along with members of the federal cabinet here at a press conference. The 204-page report, compiled by the Ministry of Information and Broadcast-

ing, contained the government's achievements and reforms in diverse fields during a period from August 18, 2018 to August 18 2020. The E&P companies, during the period, have added 9,444 BPD (Barrels per Day) oil and 218 MMCFD (Million Cubic Feet per Day) gas was added in the national pool against the depletion of 9611 BPD oil and 279 MMCFD gas from the operational wells. While, the companies had acquired around 5,110 2D Line-Kilometer and 2,693 Square-Kilometer seismic data to assess potential of hydrocarbon deposits in different pockets. Till May 21, 2020, the government had collected Rs142.977 billion from different E&P companies, out of

which Rs 51.196 billion were received on account of crude oil and Rs 91.781 billion for natural gas extraction. During the period, the government granted 10 licenses and extended 124, granted 15 leases and extended 48, drilled 142 wells including 50 exploratory and 92 appraisal/development, approved 404 well notices, commenced 140 wells and the number of miscellaneous wells stood at 264. Keeping in view the country's existing and future needs, the Petroleum Division has devised a prudent strategy to achieve self-sufficiency in oil and gas sector by introducing ease-of-doing-business and radical measures to ensure a level-playing field for all competitors. — APP

Zartaj criticizes PPP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Climate Change Zartaj Gul Tuesday criticized that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) did not improve poor condition of the Sindh province in spite of the fact that it had been ruling the province for the past 12 years. While talking to a private news channel, she said the people of Sindh was suffering irreparable losses due to the Sindh government's anti-people decisions and PPP leadership had given nothing to the province except for corruption and plunder over many years. Zartaj Gul said that 'untimely and baseless' criticism from the Sindh government is spoiling the whole environment adding, doing corruption and later hiding it under mudslinging is the old tactics of Pakistan People's Party. She said that some PPP leaders in their statements used inappropriate language against our federal government. PPP should see its own faults before criticizing others, she added. She said the interest of the country should be looked at instead of the benefit of a specific political party and the Pakistan Peoples Party received billions of rupees in terms of the NFC.

MKF brings home 1900 expatriates from UAE

DNA

ISLAMABAD: More than 1900 Pakistani workers struck in United Arab Emirates have been brought back by Memon Khidmat Forum (MKF). "After outbreak of Covid-19 thousands of Pakistanis, who lost their jobs in UAE, were helped to fly home under the spirit of service to humanity", said Chairman of the organization Haji Masood Parekh. He said MKF received thousands of messages from stranded expatriates seeking to return home and we managed a special charter flight to bring them back immediately and the remaining were brought via ordinary flights. These were the expatriates who had lost jobs due to outbreak of corona virus and they were unable to purchase tickets and live there anymore. On return to Karachi airport all these people were given candies, blankets, chocolates, ladies suits and five thousand cash as well so they could not be ashamed in front of their family members. He said on this occasion we are also grateful to Chaudhry Nisar of Alamgir Welfare Trust for his cooperation in making this work possible. Haji Masood Parekh said that the Saudi authorities gave permission and we are also taking steps to bring back the Pakistanis stranded in Saudi Arabia soon. He also thanked his team members Arif Punjabi, AK Memon, Amin Sharif, Haji Arif and Amin Manda who worked day and night to make this operation successful.

Uzbekistan to assist citizens working abroad

The Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of August 11, 2020 defines measures to train population in professions in demand on the labor market, the basics of entrepreneurship and foreign languages. Practical aspects of implementation of this document were discussed at the meeting

DNA

TASHKENT: On August 17, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev chaired a videoconference on creating decent conditions for citizens working abroad and working systematically with them. It should be noted that this issue is being discussed in this format for the first time in the history of Uzbekistan. Every year, 600-700 thousand people enter the labor market of Uzbekistan. As a result of measures taken to develop economic sectors and regions, up to 500 thousand jobs are created per year. Consequently, employment of almost 200 thousand people has to be provided by external labor migration. This is a natural process that all developing countries go through. Where labor migration is organized properly, there is an increase in employment and family income, and an increase in the

skilled labor force. In recent years, much attention has been paid to protecting the rights and improving the living conditions of our compatriots abroad. International agreements on labor migration have been concluded with Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Japan and the United Arab Emirates. A Fund has been created to support citizens working abroad and more than 100 billion UZS have been allocated for this purpose. At the same time, the position of the Advisor to the Prime Minister on External Labor Migration has been introduced. Despite this, there are enough problems waiting to be solved in this system. Issues of social, legal, material and cultural support for our fellow citizens working abroad were discussed at the meeting. The Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations, the Ministry of Supporting Mahalla and Family and khokimiyats were instructed to assist compatriots who returned

from abroad in employment, taking into account their profession, qualifications and future plans. The importance of expanding cooperation with major employers was noted, so that Uzbekistan citizens abroad could work in decent conditions. To do this, first of all, it is necessary to train qualified specialists in accordance with the

requirements of these enterprises. In this regard, it is planned to introduce a new system. The authority of territorial branches of the Agency for External Labor Migration will be expanded with the right to conclude direct contracts with foreign employers and negotiate with migration services. The branch manager will be considered an as-

sistant to the regional khokim. The Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of August 11, 2020 defines measures to train population in professions in demand on the labor market, the basics of entrepreneurship and foreign languages. Practical aspects of implementation of this document were discussed at the meeting. The Head of the state instructed to attract funds from the Fund for Supporting and Protection of the Rights and Interests of Citizens engaged in working abroad for life and health insurance of migrant workers. Instructions were given on simplifying exit procedures and open representative offices of the Agency for External Labor Migration in the cities with a large number of our compatriots. The task was set to strengthen the legal protection of citizens abroad, create an online platform and a call center for this purpose and attract qualified lawyers.

