



Islamabad POST

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Pakistan miraculously beats virus, says Chinese envoy Yao Jing

Shibli to participate in Ahmad Faraz's Fateha Khawani

Saudi Arabia never asked for loan return



CHINESE AMBASSADOR SAYS..

Pakistan has miraculously beat virus

The United States was trying to the hilt to crate problems in Hong Kong and Xinjiang province. China shall resist all such moves with full force: Yao Jing

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of People's Republic of China Yao Jing has said Pakistan has miraculously overcome COVID-19 adding Pakistan govt led by Prime Minister Imran Khan needs full credit for this. The Chinese ambassador made these remarks while speaking as chief guest at a tree plantation ceremony organized by Pakistan-China Friendship Association, at the KPK House. Yosuf Ayub President and Ali Nawaz Gillani Secretary General of the Pakistan-China Friendship Association organized the tree plantation. Spokesman of KPK Government Kamran Bangash also attended the ceremony along with Members of KP Assembly, Qibla Ayaz and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He declared that the Chinese government will participate in the ongoing efforts of promoting the concept of 'Green Pakistan'. The Ambassador further said COVID 19 pandemic has affected all and sundry all over the world adding China tried its best to help Pakistan effectively deal with the issue. Ambassador Yao Jing noted with satisfaction that virus cases in Pakistan had dropped significantly and that was the reason he was able to make his first ever public appearance ever since break out of COVID 19. The ambassador also talked about CPEC and termed it a project of peace and prosperity adding KPK holds utmost importance in terms of CPEC.

He noted that Prime Minister Imran Khan has taken categorical position developing CPEC, as a foundation of prosperity and development not only for Pakistan but the entire region. China, he added, attached high importance to promoting leading role of Pakistan for regional's connectivity and socio-economic progress. China will remain a strong partner of Pakistan on its way to socio-economic uplift in all sphere of life, he added. The ambassador said he would extend maximum possible support to the KPK government in its tree plantation drive. He also shared his experience of planting a tree in his embassy. The ambassador later talking informally to media people said the United States was trying to the hilt to crate problems in Hong Kong and Xinjiang province. He said China shall resist all such moves with full force. The ambassador lauded services of the Pakistani-China Friendship Association for promoting bilateral relations. He especially mentioned role of Secretary General Syed Ali Nawaz Gillani in this regard. Kamran Khan Bangash thanked the ambassador for his country's consistent support for the progress and well-being of the people across the board. China-Pakistan friendship is deep-rooted in the hearts of the people and stood the test of the time. About the CPEC, he said this game-change mega project was contributing a lot for the country's bright future. In the end the ambassador gave away souvenirs to MPs and media people also.

SINO-PAK TREE PLANTATION



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of People's Republic of China Jao Jing planting a tree during a function organised by Pakistan-China Friendship Association, at KPK House, Islamabad. – DNA

Buzdar assured of PM's trust

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar has said the government was not bothered by the Opposition even if they took to the streets or bazaar. The Punjab chief minister while speaking private news channel said all the institutions were working per the law and the Constitution. – DNA

PM announces \$424mn current account surplus

After current account balance posted deficit of \$613 mn in July 2019 and a deficit of \$100 mn in June 2020, in July 2020 current account balance swung upwards to a surplus of \$424 mn

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan stated that Pakistan's economy "is on the right track", announcing that the country's current account balance swung upwards to a surplus of \$424 million in July. "After current account balance posted deficit of \$613 mn in July 2019 and a deficit of \$100 mn in June 2020, in July 2020 current account balance swung upwards to a surplus of \$424 mn," the prime minister tweeted on Monday. "This strong turnaround is a result of continuing recovery in exports, which rose 20% compared to June 2020 and record remittances," he wrote. The current account balance improved by 244% in July as compared to the current account deficit of \$613 million in same month a year ago, according to a data released by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Monday. This is the fourth monthly surplus since last October, the Central Bank said in a statement. Strong turnaround is due to a continued recovery in exports and record-high remittances, with support from several policy and administrative initiatives by SBP and government, it added. In July the overseas Pakistanis transferred record remittances worth of \$2.768 billion in the corresponding month which is the highest ever amount for the country in a single month while in same month of last year the remittances were recorded at \$2.028 billion. According to the data, the Current Account Balance without official transfers also witnessed a surplus of \$401 million in July as compared to the deficit of \$716 million in same month of last year. Balance of trade in goods plunged by 11.78 percent from \$1.968 billion in July 2019 to \$1.736 billion in July this year.

Briefs

'India misinterprets China-Pak dialogue'

DNA
BEIJING: Against the backdrop of China-India border tensions, and days after the first anniversary of India's revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, India may see the dialogue between China and Pakistan as a strategic alliance. Based on its current stance in South Asia, China hopes to deal with its frictions with India bilaterally. There is no need for China to build such an "alliance." China has sufficient capability, and leverage to deal with India on its own. It was pointed out in an article published by Global Times while reacting to Indian External Affairs Ministry's spokesperson remarks against the joint press release issued after second round of China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue in South China's Hainan Province. In terms of Kashmir, the Chinese side reiterated that "the Kashmir issue is a dispute, left over from history between India and Pakistan, and China opposes any unilateral actions that complicate the situation." In response to China's stance, Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesperson said it was tantamount to interference in India's internal affairs.

Afghan Taliban delegation in Pakistan for talks

DNA
ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the Afghan Taliban led by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar has arrived in Islamabad on (Monday). According to details, the delegation has reached Pakistan from Doha. As per the statement issued, Foreign Office spokesman Zahid Hafeez Chaudhry said that the Afghan Taliban delegation is coming to Pakistan at the invitation of Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi. The delegation will hold talks with the Pakistani leadership on the Afghan reconciliation process. Taliban spokesman Sohail Shaheen took to the twitter to confirm the visit and said that Mullah Baradar would lead the delegation to Pakistan at the invitation of the Pakistani Foreign Ministry. He wrote in the tweet that the officials of the Islamic Emirate regularly visit other countries of the world as part of the political strategy of the organization to present their views on the peace process.



ISLAMABAD: Hamad Obaid Alzaabi, the UAE Ambassador in Pakistan, meets H.E. Mohammad Ebrahim Abdelqadar, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrian and discusses bilateral relations between the two countries. – DNA

PIA to file appeal for resumption of flights

STAFF REPORT
RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) is likely to lodge an appeal with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) on Thursday against suspension of its flight operations to and from European Union member states for six months. The decision to suspend the PIA's flight operations – in the wake of Aviation Minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan's disclosure during a speech in the National Assembly about the grounding of 262 pilots whose commercial flying licences were found 'suspicious' – was enforced on July 1.

Nawaz will go straight to prison upon return: Fawad

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry said on Monday that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif went to London for treatment from prison and will return to it the moment he lands in Pakistan. The federal minister, in a statement, said that the court has changed the surety in the case, but it needs to summon Shehbaz Sharif to discuss Nawaz's return. "First of all, Nawaz was serving jail time so when he returns, he will go back to jail. Secondly, Nawaz will do plea bargain and return the money [he allegedly looted]," said the minister. Chaudhry stated that Nawaz had been disqualified by the apex court and cannot contest elections. PML-N leader Rana Sanjiv reacted to Chaudhry's statement, and said that Nawaz went abroad due to illness, adding that there are relevant statements on the matter by the medical board and government officials. He further said that the "incompetent lot" is contradicting its own statements. "If Nawaz went abroad because of a deal then who allowed it?" wondered the former Punjab law minister. He continued that Nawaz will return on his own will, and the time he wishes to return upon completion of his treatment.

Punjab cancels doctors' leaves

DNA
LAHORE: Punjab health department has declared an alert for the government hospitals during the month of Muharram. In a circular, the health department has cancelled leaves of doctors, nurses, paramedics and other staff of government hospitals. Provincial health authorities have also directed teaching hospitals' administrations to take necessary steps to meet any emergency situation and ensure availability of life-saving medicines and keeping operation theaters in working condition. The staff of hospitals' emergency departments has been directed to remain alert until 10th of Muharram (Yom-e-Ashur). The hospitals have also been instructed to keep additional staff on duty in emergency departments on 9th and 10th of Muharram.

Saudi Arabia never asked for loan return

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have the same stance on [normalising relations with] Israel," he said, adding that Pakistan's stance has not wavered

SAIFULLAH / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Rejecting speculation that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia's ties have deteriorated over the past few weeks, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Monday that the Kingdom has neither asked Islamabad to return its loan nor has it suspended oil supply to Pakistan. "Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have the same stance on [normalising relations with] Israel," he said, adding that Pakistan's stance has not wavered. He said that Saudi Arabia has also not changed its stance on occupied Kashmir. The foreign minister spoke about Chinese President Xi Jinping's up-

coming visit to Pakistan, describing it as one of "utmost importance", adding that China is also supporting the peace process in Afghanistan. The foreign minister said that a discussion will be held with the Taliban on Tuesday which will focus on the intra-Afghan peace discussions. Referring to the possible instability in Afghanistan, the foreign minister said that "there is a group in Afghanistan that is causing a rift [to develop and hinder peace talks]". Speaking on Pakistan-China ties, the foreign minister said that Islamabad and Beijing will collectively act to safeguard integrity and peace in the region. Qureshi said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will ben-



efit the entire region and despite India's statements, the project will go ahead. "India can keep on saying whatever it wants to say. The project will continue," he said. The foreign minister revealed that during his recent visit to China, the issue of Indian occupied Kashmir also came up, where Beijing

dismissed Indian claims over the valley. FM Qureshi said that China had rejected India's August 5 move and termed it 'unilateral', thanking Beijing for its clear stance on the Kashmir issue. Speaking on Indian atrocities, the minister said that India has failed to project the impression that things are improving in occupied Kashmir. "The International Crisis Group called the situation in the valley a resistance movement, and has demanded that India rescind its August 5 decision," he said. FM Qureshi said that Prime Minister Imran Khan raised the matter of IoK before the United Nations, adding that India is running away from the matter and lying to

the global community. The Kashmiri struggle of the right to self-determination which had started since 1989 has now gained new political momentum and the joint-declaration was the first testimony to this fact, he said. Qureshi said that New Delhi's August 5 move had made matters worse for the people of the occupied territory. He said that anger and frustration are on the rise in the region due to restrictions and a communications blackout imposed by authorities. The foreign minister said that India's move had crippled occupied Kashmir's economy, wondering how investment could thrive with so many armed personnel holding the local population hostage.

Pak condemns attacks towards Saudi Arabia

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has strongly condemned recent missile and drone attacks towards the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by Houthi militia. Pakistan appreciates the successful interception of the missile and drone, which prevented the loss of innocent lives. We call for immediate cessation of such attacks. Pakistan reiterates its full support and solidarity with Saudi Arabia against any threats to its security and territorial integrity.

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Mayor, Brig. Ijaz Kiani discuss issues of mutual interest

Diplomats call for strong links between Chabahar, Gwadar port – Page 04

Briefs

Anti-dengue drive starts in Pindi

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The district administration launched an anti-dengue drive after three days of rainfall to eliminate dengue larvae to avoid the spread of the virus in the district. "We have sped up the drive in the district to prevent the spread of the deadly mosquito-borne disease," said Deputy Commissioner retired Capt Anwarul Haq. He said that all departments had been engaged in the campaign and teams were visiting houses in their respective areas to clear places of stagnant water. He said that the health authority teams would inspect water tanks, tyre shops and domestic pots and would report to the respective supervisors if they found dengue larva anywhere. "We expect fewer dengue cases in the district during the current year compared to previous years due to early launch of the campaign," he said.

PNCA gives prizes to short film contest winners

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts organized an open contest of short films. The contestants from all across Pakistan sent short videos reflecting the various aspects of the diverse Pakistani culture. This contest was aimed to motivate young generation towards celebration of Independence day during these critical times and creating innovative stuff in this regard. To appreciate the position holders and pay them a little token of appreciation from PNCA a program was organized at PNCA under hosting of renowned anchor persons Mr Sehbaz Khan and Ms. Shiza Hashmi.

In this show famous Pakistani celebrity Mr Farooq Qaiser and Director General PNCA Dr Fouzia Saeed were the guest of honour along with famous film maker/critic Mr Aijaz Gul and Programme Coordinator PNCA Mr Umer Zaka accompanied by the three winners of PNCA short film contest.

IESCO issues power schedule

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Monday issued power suspension schedule for Tuesday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to the IESCO spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 04:30am to 08:30am, F-11, Fateh Jang, Bahter More, Ahmedal, Basal, Jand and F-6. 05:00am to 09:00am, Sector-4, Radio Pakistan feeders and surrounding areas. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Gabriela Cuevas Barron, President of Inter-Parliamentary Union recording her comments on guest book at Senate of Pakistan. - DNA

Pak desires strong linkages with IPU, says Sanjrani

IPU President said that the challenges faced today do not need any permission to cross the borders and a collective response of the democracies across the world is the appropriate option to face the current challenges

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani has said that parliaments and parliamentarians have a crucial role in the promotion of peace democracy and development and in this regard Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) has made significant contribution through increased institutional linkages and cooperation. Chairman Senate expressed these in a meeting with President of the IPU Gabriela Cuevas Barron here at the Parliament House on Monday. Senator-in-waiting Mirza Muhammad Afridi was also present during the meeting. Chairman Senate observed that

IPU has grown into a vibrant global entity helping parliaments and representatives to become more effective by sharing best practices and identifying avenues for action. During the meeting Chairman Senate expressed his satisfaction on the excellent collaboration between IPU and Parliament of Pakistan. He said that both these institutions have historically cherished the ideas of democracy, peace and development. Chairman Senate underlined the need for institutional linkages between Senate and IPU Secretariat. He observed that Pakistan desires strong linkages with IPU as parliamentary diplomacy plays significant role in strengthening rela-

tions between nations and people. He said that Pakistan is keen to strengthening bilateral and multilateral ties through dialogue and mutual respect. "In line with IPU objective of peace building and protection of human rights, Pakistan has always highlighted Kashmir cause and the atrocities of Indian government in occupied valley from time to time on every international fora including IPU", Chairman Senate said. Sadiq Sanjrani further said that COVID-19 pandemic posed challenges, however, Pakistan Senate reached out to all parliaments of the world for greater collaboration amongst the nations to learn from their experiences in containing this pandemic and collaborate

with them effectively. He said that the pandemic is an unprecedented global challenge that has affected every one especially the poor and the marginalized. President of the IPU, earlier upon reaching the parliament was warmly welcomed by Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani. She expressed her gratitude for warm reception at parliament. The IPU President said that Pakistan is an active and vocal member of the IPU. She said that IPU paces its relations with Parliament of Pakistan at high esteem and values relations between two institutions. She said that huge scope for mutual collaboration at bilateral and multilateral level to promote democratic values, peace

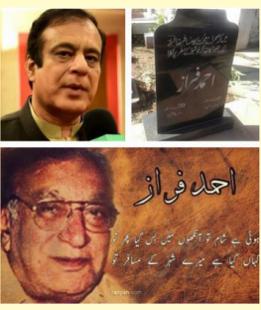
and development. Later on the IPU President also interacted with Pakistan's parliamentary delegation to IPU. Members of the Parliament highlighted the human rights violations in Indian occupied Kashmir and plight of Kashmiri people under Indian occupation and curfew. They also called for adopting in uniform response for sustainable development and coping with the challenges posed by pandemic. IPU President said that the challenges faced today do not need any permission to cross the borders and a collective response of the democracies across the world is the appropriate option to face the current challenges.

Shibli to participate in Ahmad Faraz's Fateha Khawani

The officers of the PAL headed by Dr. Yousuf Khushk, Chairman PAL, will lay a wreath and offer Fateha at the grave of Ahmad Faraz

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shibli Faraz will participate in Fateha Khawani in the graveyard and prayer session in the Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) on the occasion of 12th anniversary of Ahmad Faraz under the auspices of PAL. On the occasion of the 12th anniversary of Ahmad Faraz, the first head of the PAL, and a renowned poet of Pakistan, on Tuesday, August 25, 2020, at 10:00 AM, the officers of the PAL headed by Dr. Yousuf Khushk, Chairman, PAL accompanied by staff members and local writers, the PAL will lay a wreath and offer Fateha at the H-8/1 graveyard at Ahmad Faraz's grave. Later, a short prayer session for Ahmad Faraz will be held in the conference hall of the PAL in which writers and others will participate. - DNA



Five women arrested for looting houses

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have arrested eight persons including five women allegedly involved in looting houses and also recovered 20 tola gold ornaments and other valuables from their possession, a police spokesman said. IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan and DIG (Operations) Waqar Uddin Sye directed all police officials to ensure effective policing measures in the city and trace those involved in theft case. Following their directions, SP (Investigation) Malik Naem Iqbal constituted a team under the supervision of DSP CIA Hakim Khan which included ASI Rana Tasneem and others. This team worked hard and arrested a gang of eight persons including five females looting houses in guise of house maids. Police recovered stolen valuables including 20 tola gold ornaments and other valuables from their possession.

15,000 security personnel for Muharram gatherings

FAIAZ CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: As many as 15,000 personnel of Islamabad Police, Pakistan Rangers and FC would perform security duties during Muharram ul Haram and to maintain high vigilance to thwart any untoward incident, said Deputy Inspector General of Police (Operations) Islamabad Waqar Uddin Syed on Monday. In his video message, DIG (Operations) said that Islamabad Police have finalized comprehensive security arrangements for the processions, religious gatherings during Muharram ul Haram and to ensure implementation on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the government. He said that officials of Islamabad police, District administration have conducted meeting with the organizers of various gatherings and processions. He said that elaborate security plan would be in

place for Muharram. Flag march are being conducted in various areas to make security more effective and strict vigilance would be maintained like previous years to maintain law and order in the city. As per directions of IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar, Islamabad Police headed by Additional SP Farhat Abbass Kazmi conducted flag march with an objective to maintain peace and tranquility in the city during Muharram ul Haram. The flag march was participated by SDPOs, SHO of police stations, personnel of Islamabad Traffic Police, bravo vehicles, Police Commandoes, Rescue 15 police officials and police patrolling officials. Flag march started from Pakistan Sports Complex and culminated at the same point after passing through various areas of the Saddar police Zone. According to police spokesperson, all SPs have been

asked to maintain close liaison with peace committees and organizers of Majalis and processions. He said that cooperation of organizers would be ensured with the police and law enforcing officials. The DIG (Operations) has directed all SDPOs and SHO for strict security arrangements on these occasions and special checking of participants. He said that it should be ensured to make arrangements for checking of participants thorough using metal detectors. Strict vigilance should be maintained to ensure that security measures are in place by the police as well as peace committees. He said that it would be ensured that processions to pass through the fixed routes and timings of processions to be observed strictly. He said that DIG (Operations) has also directed for effective patrolling and use commando vehicles for the purpose.

DIG Hazara directs to prepare survey reports

ABBOTTABAD: Deputy Inspector General Police (DIG) Police Hazara Qazi Jael ur Rehman Monday while taking a daring step to provide easy access to the masses for the concerned police station ordered all District Police Officers (DPOs) for new demarcation of existing Police stations in their respective areas.

The DIG also directed to prepare survey reports of Police Chowkis those would be upgraded into police stations and submit it as soon as possible, upgradation of Police Chowkis would reduce crime rates, adding he said.

Qazi Jameel ur Rehman stated that many police stations of Hazara are situated in far-flung areas which creates problems for the people to reach the police station and register their complaint and moreover in case of the emergency police force also face difficulty in reaching any crime scene.

All DPOs should be sent new demarcation of existing police stations and Police Chowkis till September 15 after which establishment of new police stations would be announced which would enable masses to reach police in case of any emergency as soon as possible, DIG Hazara said. - APP

Islamabad Police conduct flag march

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police on Monday conducted flag march with an objective to maintain peace and tranquility in the city during Muharram ul Haram.

The flag march was conducted under the supervision of Additional SP Farhat Abbas Kazmi and participated by SDPOs, SHO of all police stations, personnel of Islamabad Traffic Police, Police Commandoes, Rescue 15 police officials and police patrolling officials.

Flag march started from Pakistan Sports Complex and culminated at the same point after passing through various areas of the Saddar Zone. IGP Islamabad Muhammad Aamir Zulfiqar Khan has said that Islamabad police have ensured detailed security arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram. - APP

OPF plants 22,000 saplings

ISLAMABAD: The Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) has planted around 22,000 saplings of multiple species at its attached departments, educational institutions and housing schemes during the last two years. The initiative was taken under Prime Minister Imran Khan's 'Clean and Green Pakistan' Campaign also known as 'Plant for Pakistan', said an official of OPF on Monday.

Talking to APP, he said around 10,000 and 12,000 were planted in autumn 2018 and spring 2019, respectively. He said the present management was committed to implement the prime minister's clean and green initiative by carrying out plantation drive at its regional offices, schools, colleges, housing societies and head office at large scale in coming days. - APP

NAB consider fight against corruption as national duty, says Chairman NAB

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Justice (RETD) Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB has said that NAB is absolutely committed to root out corruption where fight against corruption is being taken as a national duty. He said that NAB was established to rid the nation from corruption and corrupt practices. He said that "NAB's faith is Corruption free Pakistan". He said that the hard work, commitment, dedication and merit being put in by NAB officers are being appreciated by national and international reputed organizations from time to time.

He said that NAB officers should double their efforts in nabbing corrupt elements and recover from them the hard earned looted money of the innocent citizens of Pakistan. He said that NAB has introduced a "Combined Investigation Team" (CIT) system where two investigation officers and a legal consultant, financial expert, forensic expert under the supervision of Additional Director/Case officer and concerned Director are working as a team for a fair, transparent and unbiased, inquiry/ investigations. He said that the quality of inquiry and investigation of NAB must have further

improve due to establishment of NAB's first Forensic Science Lab (FSL) in Islamabad which has all facilities of Digital Forensics, Questioned Documents and Fingerprint Analysis which will help in lending quality and solid evidence in conduct of inquiries and investigations. He said that NAB has devised Monitoring & Evaluation System (MES) in order to monitor NAB performance of NAB and all Regional Bureaus in qualitative and quantitative terms which has proved He said that NAB is the Chairman of SAARC Anti-Corruption Forum. This was a reorganization of NAB's excellent work.

He said that NAB is absolutely committed to nab corrupt elements and our overall conviction ration is about 68.8% in Accountability Courts. He said that NAB Ordinance 1999's preamble emphasizes on recovery of looted money. Due to this reason, NAB has recovered Rs. 466 billion since its inception. He said that since its inception, NAB had adopted the Enforcement based approach in its fight against corruption. Special focus is now being given to Awareness and Prevention activities besides Enforcement to aware people about the ill effects of corruption as corruption is the mother of all evils.

AUGUST 2020

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Second wave

THE coronavirus has now killed more than 800,000 people worldwide, but while Covid-19 has not finished taking the world in its grip in its first wave, the second wave is already upon us, earlier than predicted, as the number of infections in those countries where it had gone down begins to rise. Infections are already beginning to rise to levels unseen for months in Italy, France and Germany, even before the onset of autumn, when cold weather was expected to bring a revival in the infection. It might be a cause for jubilation in Pakistan that the worst is behind us, and that with just over 6,200 deaths, the country has got off lightly, but it should not be a cause of relaxation. The first wave is not yet over, and cases are still registering a disturbing uptick in neighboring India, which now has the third highest number of infections, as well as deaths. There is also a north-south pattern, which probably has more to do with the weather than anything else. While it not yet autumn in Europe, summer has lost some of its intensity, and there is nip in the air which the coronavirus probably finds encouraging, even if human beings do not notice it as yet. That means it is probably inevitable that a second wave will strike us again in the coming weeks, if not days. In turn, that might mean that the re-opening of the economy that has been witnessed of late, might prove to be premature. That has been the case in the USA, where re-openings were quickly followed by revivals of the infection, and the re-imposition of lockdowns. The most immediate challenge ahead is that of Ashura. It is only by sticking persistently to the SOPs that the challenge it presents can be overcome. It should not be forgotten that Pakistan experienced a fresh outbreak after Eidul Fitr, when SOPs and social distancing were thrown to the winds with predictable consequences afterwards. It is not going to be over with Ashura. The next big challenge will be the re-opening of educational institutions. All resources necessary must be doted to meeting it.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Vol: 01 Issue: 130

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Back to Nawaz

AFTER a long wait, the federal government appears to have decided to do everything it can to bring PML-N head Mian Nawaz Sharif back to the country. Nawaz Sharif had left the country late last year after suffering serious sickness, which a panel of doctors set up by the government agreed could only be treated overseas. Many months later the government is however now stating that Nawaz must face ongoing accountability cases against him, that he has violated the conditions of his exit by not undergoing any medical treatment in London and that he has failed to send back reports on his condition requested by the government. This development arises amidst news that Nawaz has initiated contacts with key opposition leaders including Maulana Fazalur Rehman and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Maryam Nawaz has also delivered a fiery speech after being summoned by NAB a few days ago. Adviser to the Prime Minister on Accountability and Interior Shahzad Akbar has strongly denied that there is any possibility of an NRO being reached or ever having been reached – at least by the present government. There have been rumours that such a deal could be worked out. With Shahbaz Sharif keeping a relatively low profile, it seems Nawaz Sharif is back in the picture. The PML-N insists there is no rift between the brothers and that they will continue to act as a team. The government had itself paved the way for Nawaz to leave the country with doctors, including from Shaikat Khanum Memorial Hospital, stating this was necessary. It is unclear what has changed. But we have a scenario in which the opposition setup is looking clearer and clearer. The PML-N points out that Nawaz Sharif had returned voluntarily to the country with his daughter while his wife lay on her deathbed. Maryam Nawaz has meanwhile said she is being held hostage by being denied permission to be alongside her father. The controversy involving Judge Arshad Malik has further muddied the waters. Prime Minister Imran Khan is adamant that he will agree to no negotiated settlement. The final scenario in this drama is then awaited as the scenes continue to play out in Islamabad, London and other places.

Digital health technologies vital in COVID-19 fight

Sara Al-Mulla



Taiwan has also managed to successfully control the pandemic using digital health technologies. With a population of 23 million, it has kept COVID-19 cases to fewer than 500 and recorded just seven deaths. When China first reported the outbreak, Taiwan swiftly imposed health checks for incoming travelers from Wuhan, bringing together data from immigration checkpoints with its health insurance system

IN 2015, South Korea was taken by surprise with an outbreak of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-related coronavirus. At the time, it was deemed the largest outbreak outside of the Middle East, totaling 186 cases and 38 deaths. Since then, the Seoul government has grown more vigilant and has reformed its health system to handle outbreaks, using digital health technology that works seamlessly between different strategic institutions. Experts believe it is this shift to digital preparedness that has allowed South Korea to successfully manage the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Although it was one of the first countries to detect COVID-19 cases, it has managed to keep infection and death rates low without shutting down businesses or enforcing widespread lockdowns. At the onset of the pandemic, the government swiftly and decisively activated a holistic system of surveillance, case identification, contact tracing, and quarantine measures using the best of digital health technologies. In a report published by the South Korean government in April, titled "Flattening the curve on COVID-19: How Korea responded to a pandemic using ICT," we learn about a number of these innovative initiatives that have reduced the menacing impacts of the virus in the country. One example includes a university student who developed a "Coronavirus Map" app that alerts users on patients' movements in their vicinity, fetching data from the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and essentially providing a map of infection hot spots. Another app, Cobaek, notifies users whenever they are within 100 meters of a confirmed coronavirus patient. The government has also imposed a 14-day quarantine rule for all inbound local and foreign travelers. To monitor any breaches, the government has created the "Self-quarantine Safety Protection App," which must be downloaded by all arrivals. This app enables users to monitor their health condition using a checklist of possible coronavirus symptoms. Authorities are also immediately notified if someone

attempts to venture outside their designated quarantine area. Furthermore, epidemiological investigators developed a digital system that allows them to immediately identify the transmission routes of coronavirus patients using data from telecommunications companies, credit card companies, and the police. Such real-time data enables the government to alert local citizens about emerging hot spots, test or quarantine people who have been in contact with confirmed patients, and manage health care services in infected areas. Today, governments are navigating unknown terrain, with every decision being a double-edged sword of trying to save people's lives while potentially destroying their livelihoods. However, digital health technologies are proving to be an essential navigational compass in the battle against COVID-19. During this pandemic, for example, governments have harnessed the powers of digital technology to respond in a reliable, timely and effective manner. Countries are using it to review real-time data on transmission and death rates according to demographics and geographical locations, survey population movements using GPS on mobile phones, manage health care resources and medical equipment, communicate with the public, enforce quarantine measures, and evaluate the effectiveness of intervention strategies. For example, online health dashboards, such as those run by the World Health Organization and the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, are helping policymakers, health care professionals and citizens monitor how the virus is spreading. This detailed data set can then be garnered to identify emerging clusters of infections and to prepare health care systems accordingly. Like South Korea, Singapore has also kept its COVID-19 infection and death rates low by using an array of digital tools. "Ask Jamie" is a virtual assistant that can answer citizens' queries on the virus and can be accessed across 70 government agency websites. It has also been enhanced to address business queries, including providing information on how the

government is supporting businesses during this crisis. Citizens may also subscribe to the official government WhatsApp account to receive timely and credible updates on the COVID-19 situation in four languages. In Singapore, people have their temperature checked at high-traffic entry points such as schools, workplaces and on public transport. "VigilantGantry" has been developed as a fully automated, contactless temperature screening tool that can detect abnormal temperatures without the need for staff. The data from the system and facial recognition technology is used by the authorities for contact tracing and to detect emerging hot spots of the disease. Additionally, the government has developed the "TraceTogether" app, which exchanges Bluetooth signals when people are in close proximity to one another. These records are stored for 21 days in each user's phone. Should an individual be diagnosed with COVID-19, the Ministry of Health can easily access this data to identify those who were in close contact with the patient and test or quarantine them accordingly. Taiwan has also managed to successfully control the pandemic using digital health technologies. With a population of 23 million, it has kept COVID-19 cases to fewer than 500 and recorded just seven deaths. When China first reported the outbreak, Taiwan swiftly imposed health checks for incoming travelers from Wuhan, bringing together data from immigration checkpoints with its health insurance system. This allowed health care workers to access patients' travel histories and initiate testing, contact tracing or quarantining as needed. Furthermore, home-quarantined individuals were monitored electronically by government-issued mobile phones and, in the case of breaches, authorities were alerted and individuals issued fines. Digital health technologies have played a crucial part in quelling the pandemic in countries with low infection and death rates. It seems, then, that we can help steer the course of this pandemic by capitalizing on these digital solutions.

Courtesy: Arab News

What the Iran-China partnership means for the region

Abdul Basit



Despite Washington's prodding, New Delhi has been ambivalent about entering into dialogue with the Taliban. China, on the other hand, has long been engaging both with the Kabul government and the Taliban in an effort to not only secure its economic investments and interests in Afghanistan in the aftermath of US withdrawal, but also undercut those of India

IN early July, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif announced that Tehran is close to entering into a long-term strategic partnership agreement with Beijing. A few weeks later, Indian media reported that Tehran has "dropped New Delhi" from a key rail project along its border with Afghanistan after "it showed reluctance in investing fearing American sanctions". Despite occupying headlines around the same time, the news of Iran's newly formed strategic alliance with China and its alleged cold-shouldering of India were not directly related. Nevertheless, viewed together in the context of the growing tensions between the US and China and the Himalayan border dispute between China and India, these two developments provide valuable insights into the new geopolitical realignments in Asia. It seems the Trump administration's "maximum pressure" policy against Iran has pushed the country into the arms of China and caused a significant strategic disadvantage to its long-term ally India. According to a July 11 report by the New York Times, the not yet finalised agreement between Beijing and Tehran will see China invest a total of \$400bn in banking, transport and development sectors in Iran. In exchange, Beijing expects to receive a regular, and heavily discounted, supply of Iranian oil over the next 25 years. The deal is part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that aims to extend his country's economic and strategic influence across Eurasia. Just a few days after the details of the proposed China-Iran deal were made public, on July 14, Indian daily The Hindu reported that Iran decided to exclude India from an extensive rail project that will connect the Iranian port city of Chabahar to Zahedan, a city near its border with Afghanistan. Indian consultancy IRCON had pledged to provide all services and funding for the project, estimated at about \$1.6bn, according to The Hindu report. The Iranian government swiftly denied the Indian newspaper's report, claiming it did not drop New Delhi from the project, as it had "not inked any deal with India regarding the Zahedan-Chabahar railway" in the first place. Despite Tehran's denial, however, many viewed In-

dia's apparent removal from the railway project - which will eventually stretch to Zaranj on the Afghan side of the border - as a major setback to its plans to create an alternative trade route to Afghanistan and Central Asia that bypasses Pakistan's Chinese-operated Gwadar port. Chabahar is pivotal to the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), a 7,200-kilometre (4,473-mile) freight route connecting Mumbai to Moscow. For years, India had been enthusiastically promoting the project, which aims to increase connectivity in Eurasia, partially because it believed it could help keep Iran outside China's BRI, and cool down any cooperation attempts between Tehran and its primary regional rival, Islamabad. Over the past 20 years, Iran had been supportive of India's plans to establish new trade routes and signed several deals to advance these initiatives. Last year, however, as New Delhi stopped purchasing oil from Iran to please Washington and further strengthened its military-strategic ties with its arch foe, Israel, Tehran's attitude towards New Delhi's regional connectivity project started to change. The news of New Delhi's interest in participating in the Israeli-led "Trans-Arabian Corridor" (TAP), which aims to connect India to Eurasia through Israel and several Arab states hostile to Iran, further encouraged Tehran to seek other regional alliances. Iran's new partnership deal with China is indicative of its drift away from India. And this budding partnership between the two countries is likely to have significant consequences for New Delhi. The new deal between Beijing and Tehran includes plans for China to develop several ports in Iran, such as the Bandar-e-Jask port which is strategically situated to the east of the Strait of Hormoz. This is significant as it gives Beijing control over one of the seven key maritime chokepoints in the world. This can potentially undermine the US naval dominance in the Middle East, as having a foothold in Bandar-e-Jask would not only allow China to monitor the US Navy's Fifth Fleet based in Bahrain, but together with a presence in Gwadar and Djibouti ports, it would also augment Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean Region. All this could cause India to lose the leverage its close

ties to the US provides against China. Iran's inclusion into the BRI framework is also likely to cause India to lose ground against China in Afghanistan. After 9/11, Indian political and economic influence grew in Afghanistan under the US security umbrella. Since the February deal between the US and the Taliban in Doha, however, India's influence over the country has been shrinking. India was neither part of the US-Taliban deal, nor it has any significant role in the intra-Afghan peace process. After the US withdrawal, India's influence over the country will minimise further. Despite Washington's prodding, New Delhi has been ambivalent about entering into dialogue with the Taliban. China, on the other hand, has long been engaging both with the Kabul government and the Taliban in an effort to not only secure its economic investments and interests in Afghanistan in the aftermath of US withdrawal, but also undercut those of India. This also gives China an edge to potentially connect the post-US Afghanistan in the BRI framework. China's growing ties to Iran - a country that has significant clout over and ties with Afghanistan - is likely to help it achieve this goal. This new realignment in Asia provides new opportunities not only for China, but also for Pakistan. First, China's involvement in Iran would weaken Pakistan's main rival India, and open up strategic space for Islamabad to efficiently deal with political and security threats it is currently facing. Second, after fully integrating Iran into the BRI framework, Beijing could help Islamabad improve its relations with Tehran and assist the two countries in pacifying the ethno-separatist armed uprising in Balochistan. Third, Chinese presence in Iran would mean the Iranian port city of Chabahar would not compete with Pakistan's Gwadar, whose port is operated by China. Finally, India's ouster from Iran would mean the transit trade from Afghanistan and Central Asia would continue through Pakistani ports. However, Pakistan will have to overcome its internal governance and security challenges to benefit from what is appearing to be a new, more favourable geopolitical environment.

Courtesy: Al-Jazeera

Briefs

'Govt will complete five years' tenure'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rasheed Monday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government will not spare those elements who were involved in corruption cases and Prime Minister Imran Khan will complete his five years' tenure. Talking to a private news channel, Minister said that there was no difficulty for the government ahead, however, the corrupt elements will not be spared anywhere. Sheikh said that many leaders of the PML-N and the PPP would be disqualified in the near future as they are facing serious corruption cases filed by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and September 1 would be an important day for former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. He said all opposition parties are not on the same page, their ideology and agendas are different, adding weak opposition cannot harm Prime Minister Imran Khan's government. The federal minister said that case of PML-N president Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shehbaz was serious. Maulana Fazal was doing politics of 'Tuck shops' and he has become rolling stone these days and joined other small political parties instead of joining PML-N and PPP politics. PML-N leaders were raising hue and cry nowadays because they knew the fact that the government had found evidences of corruption against them, he added. - APP

Remarkable success in foreign policy, says Babar

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Babar Awan has said the government has achieved remarkable successes in foreign policy under the dynamic leadership of Imran Khan. Talking to a private TV channel, he said 140 billion rupees have been disbursed under the Ehsas Programme among the poor and needy people during the COVID-19 pandemic and it was the vision of the Prime Minister to protect lives of the people from coronavirus and livelihood at the same time. Replying to a question, he said that as per law, the government wants to bring Nawaz Sharif back where he has to face the other cases which were registered against him.

Nine die due to COVID-19 in last 24 hours

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan recorded nine deaths due to COVID-19 in the past 24 hours, all of which were reported from Sindh, while no coronavirus patient was on ventilator in Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), and Balochistan. National Command and Operation Centre (NCO) on Monday issued latest statistics of COVID-19 deaths, positive cases and recovered patients. All the nine patients, who lost their lives due to COVID-19 during the last 24 hours, were in hospitals till August 23. Almost 115 ventilators were occupied across the country out of 1920 ventilators allocated for COVID-19, it was learnt. During the last 24 hours, 496 people tested coronavirus positive, whereas the total active coronavirus patients in Pakistan were 10,188 on August 24. As many as 23,655 tests were conducted on August 23 across the country. Around 276,829 patients have recovered so far across the country, showing a significant 93.8 percent recovery. Since the pandemic broke out a total of 293,261 cases were detected so far. Since the contagion spread across the country around 6244 deaths were recorded. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, President of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) called on President, Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

Diplomats call for strong links between Chabahar, Gwadar port

The diplomats and experts expressed their views during the Webinar "Iran-Pakistan Economic Partnership in the Post-Corona era" hosted by Golden Ring Economic Federation (GREF) with the cooperation of the embassy of Iran

DNA
ISLAMABAD: The cooperation between Iran's Chabahar and Pakistan's Gwadar ports would enhance ties between the two countries, a group of diplomats and experts on foreign relations from Pakistan and Iran said. According to a report published by Gwadar Pro, they stressed the use of capacities of regional economic organizations to strengthen bilateral and multilateral relations. The diplomats and experts expressed the views during the Webinar "Iran-Pakistan Economic Partnership in the Post-Corona

era" hosted by Golden Ring Economic Federation (GREF) in Lahore with the cooperation of the embassy of Iran. At the webinar, Mashallah Shakeri, Advisor to the Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran and former Ambassador to Pakistan, and Madoud Mohammad Zamani, Senior Expert from Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS), gave a wide view of bilateral cooperation between the two neighboring countries through video link. Other speakers at the webinar were Hasanin Reza Mirza, director of the Golden Ring Economic Research Institute, Defence Analyst Lieutenant General Sikander

Afzal (ret'd), Aref Kamal, and San-aulah former Pakistani ambassadors, and Qandil Abbas, Professor of international relations at Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad. The participants in the meeting explained the important and key policies of the two countries, especially in the geopolitical scenario in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, the developments of the subcontinent, and their impact on security and economic stability in the region. The Iranian diplomats considered the development of cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries as a key factor in the expansion of Iran-Pakistan

relations and said that linking the ports of Chabahar and Gwadar will pave the way for regional cooperation between the two neighboring countries. They called for the use of the capacity of regional economic cooperation organizations, including ECO, and said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to join the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Pakistani experts stressed the importance of Iran's joining CPEC project, saying that it would strengthen the long-term cooperation between Tehran and Beijing. They praised Iran's resilience to harsh US sanctions and stressed

the importance of advancing energy projects in the region, including the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project with China, to avoid the US pressure and sanctions. The Pakistani speakers called for the establishment of a joint working group with the participation of the two countries' private sectors to find ways of development. The Iranian speakers also appreciated the recent remarks of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan in support of the Palestinian people against the Zionist regime. The concept of the Golden Ring Economic Bloc was initiated in 2010 based on which GREF was established in 2015.

Mayor, Brig. Ijaz Kiani discuss issues of mutual interest

DNA / IBRAR KHAN

ISLAMABAD: The Station Commander, Rawalpindi Brigadier Ijaz Kiani along with his team called on Mayor, Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad Sheikh Anser Aziz earlier today on 24-08-2020. ADC (HQ) Mrs. Maham Asif Malik along with team was also present at the meeting, besides the representative of MCI i.e. Director General (Health Services). The issues of mutual-interest between the twin-cities came under discussion, primarily the Implementation of Dengue Action Plan and allied health related metropolitan challenges and joint-action plan etc. The Mayor, Islamabad Sheikh Anser Aziz explained the Station Commander Rawalpindi about the MCI's mission statement, mandate, jurisdiction with aims and strategies, highlighting the achievements and impending plans. He endowed that, locally elected representatives all



across 50-Union Council's are at the helm of affairs to serve the community at gross root level. Commander Rawalpindi while sharing his experience at the Rawalpindi Cosmopolitan appreciated the efforts of MCI and desired to have team spirit between the two cities, enabling challenges of higher enormity to be dealt as one-team. Mayor, Islamabad besides taking the Station Commander to historical-ports corner of the Capital City, presented a souvenir on behalf of the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI), and desired a mutual-cooperation between the two organizations on regular basis.

New Zealand extends lockdown

DNA

WELLINGTON: New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern has echoed what many of us have probably been thinking, calling 2020 a "frankly terrible year". She has extended lockdown measures in Auckland, the country's biggest city, until at least midnight on Sunday, adding that Covid-19 is "a hard reality to accept". "We know it's been tough. I know there are many who've found it harder this time," she said, adding: "In a world where 2020 has frankly, been terrible, we are strong, we have been kind, and we are doing really well... if any one country knows how to bounce back, it is us." New Zealand has had success containing coronavirus, and went 102 days without a community transmission before a new cluster was detected in Auckland earlier this month. Everyone will also be required to wear masks on public transport. "If Covid can spread on a bus, and we know masks make a difference, let's wear masks," Ardern said.

Pompeo starts Middle East tour in Israel

JERUSALEM: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in Israel on Monday to start a five-day Middle East tour focused on Israel's normalizing of ties with the United Arab Emirates and pushing other Arab states to follow suit. Pompeo, wearing a face mask in the colours of the US flag, was due to meet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and in coming days also visit Sudan, Bahrain and the UAE, the State Department said. Washington and its close ally Israel hope that the Jewish state will soon be able to normalise ties with other regional countries, including several that share their deep animosity with Iran. In Jerusalem, Pompeo and Netanyahu were due to discuss "regional security issues related to Iran's malicious influence" and "establishing and deepening Israel's relationships in the region," the State Department said. - DNA

NZ shooter planned to burn down Mosques

DNA
CHRISTCHURCH: The man who killed 51 people at two mosques in New Zealand in 2019 had plans to target a third mosque, his sentencing hearing has heard. Brenton Tarrant also planned to burn down the mosques, wanting to "inflict as many fatalities as possible". The Australian has pleaded guilty to 51 counts of murder, 40 attempted murders and one charge of terrorism. Tarrant, 29, faces life in prison, possibly without parole - a sentence never before imposed in New Zealand. He was confronted by survivors and relatives of the victims in court on Monday. "You gave yourself the authority to take the souls of 51 innocent people, their only crime - in your eyes - being Muslims," said Maysoon Salama, whose son Atta Elayyan was killed. "You transgress beyond comprehension, I cannot forgive you."

US allows use of blood plasma treatment

DNA

WASHINGTON: The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has given emergency authorisation for the use of plasma to treat coronavirus patients. The technique uses antibody-rich blood plasma from people who've recovered from the disease, and has already been used on over 70,000 people in the US. President Donald Trump said the treatment could reduce deaths by 35%. But several experts have expressed reservations about the robustness of studies into the treatment. The announcement came a day after Mr Trump accused the FDA of impeding the rollout of vaccines and therapeutics for political reasons, and on the eve of the Republican National Convention, where Mr Trump will launch his campaign to win a second term in the White House. "This is what I've been looking forward to doing for a long time," the president told reporters on Sunday. "I'm pleased to make a truly historic announcement in our battle against the China virus that will save countless lives." Mr Trump described the procedure as a powerful therapy, as he appealed for Americans to come forward to donate plasma if they'd recovered from Covid-19.

UN warns of new Yemen disaster

DNA

MUKALLA: Yemen faces a new catastrophe from torrential rain and flooding that have devastated the country for the past three months, the UN warned. Flash floods have killed at least 148 people, left more than 300,000 homeless and destroyed property, crops and livestock. The flooding has left thousands of Yemenis jobless and has hampered efforts to contain the spread of the coronavirus, said UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman Andrej Mahecic. "UNHCR is deeply concerned that the displaced communities are extremely vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic, with many unable to practice social or physical distancing, access clean water for hand-washing or enact other measures to prevent transmission of the virus," Mahecic said. The provinces of Marib, Amran, Hajjah, Hodeidah, Lahj, Aden and Abyan are the worst affected, with thousands forced to flee their homes and seek shelter in mosques, health centers and schools. "Many of the internally displaced people affected by the floods were already living in abject poverty, often in overcrowded, makeshift shelters made from plastic sheeting or mud, which have been washed away," Mahecic said.

Tens of thousands rally in Belarus

DNA

MINSK: Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has made a show of defiance against the massive protests demanding his resignation, toting a rifle and wearing a bulletproof vest as he strode off a helicopter that landed at his residence while demonstrators massed nearby. In the 15th day of the largest and most determined protests ever in Belarus, a crowd of about 200,000 rallied on Sunday against Lukashenko in a square in the capital of Minsk, defying warnings. They then marched to another rally and approached the Independence Palace, the president's working residence. Video from the state news agency Belta showed a government helicopter landing on the grounds and Lukashenko getting off holding what appeared to be a Kalashnikov-type automatic rifle. No ammunition clip was visible in the weapon, suggesting that Lukashenko aimed only to make a show of aggression. The streets surrounding Independence Square turned red and white as demonstrators carried flags symbolising their opposition to Lukashenko, who has been in power since 1994.

China's market to absorb Pakistan's textile yield significantly: Report

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The market in China will absorb Pakistan's textile yield significantly and support textile sector for its further rehabilitation in wake of COVID-19. Gwadar Pro quoting Monthly Report of China Cotton Market released by China Cotton Net stated that the global economic recovery has been slow and gradual, while the Chinese economy has recovered steadily.

The textile imports volume of China rose 6.5% year-on-year in July, well ahead of market expectations. Subsequently, China's textile demand has continued to pick up significantly in August, as the orders of autumn and winter season fabric increasing, the related demands of textile have improved. In July, Pakistan exported 36,600 tons of cotton yarn (up 19.33% year-on-year). Meanwhile, Pakistan exported 959 million dollars



of textile and clothing, only a year-on-year decrease of 5.44%. This followed a 36.72% year-on-year fall in May and a 64.51% year-on-year fall in April.

According to a report released here this week, at present Pakistan's domestic textile industry has fully recovered. Meanwhile, textile market in China has appeared strong demand. Pakistan cotton price has continued to rise in the latest week as demand from downstream businesses increased. Pakistani cotton price continued to rise to 72 cents per pound. Affected by the recovery in cotton price, yarn price has continued to rise in the past two

weeks as well. Meanwhile, textile and clothing factories have been resumed to full capacity production. Comparing with the same period in last year, the textile and garment exports have rose 14.4% in July. As a result, domestic and export prices of cotton have risen by more than 2% in the past two weeks. Although the overall prices are still lower than the same period last year, it has the potentials to continue rising in the future.