

Quick Read

**AIOU to include digital transformation in working**

**ISLAMABAD:** Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) will bring about digital transformation in its working for achieving the ultimate target of quality education and to provide possible services to the students. This will be aimed at improving the University's effectiveness and efficiency in the academic and administrative work. The process of automation and introduction of 'State of the Art' technology in admission, examination and other sectors will be completed within a period one and half year. This was announced by the Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Zia-Ul-Qayyum while addressing a 'Well-come' reception given in his honour by the Employees Welfare Association (EWA). Former VC Dr. Shahid Siddiqui was also present on the occasion.—APP

**PWMA urges govt to facilitate weaving industry**

**KARACHI:** Former chairman and founder of Pakistan Weaving Mills Association (PWMA), Asif Siddiq has urged the government to facilitate industrialists in setting up weaving units to help boost country's exports. Asif Siddiq in a statement on Wednesday said that rise in gas, electricity costs and a ban on power connections for new weaving units has increased difficulties of the industrialists who are establishing small weaving units. He said the industrialists who have already acquired land for setting up weaving units and placed orders for machinery will face heavy losses. He appealed the textile and finance ministries to take action to pull industrialists out of this uncertain situation.—APP

**PIPFA elects Ali Latif as new president**

**KARACHI:** The Board of Governors of the Pakistan Institute of Public Finance Accountants (PIPFA) has elected its new President for the Year 2019 in its 125th meeting. The BOG unanimously elected M. Ali Latif (FCA | FPFA | CPFA | CISA) as President of PIPFA. M. Ali Latif is a Fellow Member of ICAP & PIPFA and a practicing chartered accountant working as Partner in "M/s Munif Ziauddin & Co., Chartered Accountants - An independent Member Firm of BKR International". He is a 2nd generation Chartered Accountant and son of a well-known practicing chartered accountant - M.T.K Rehmani (FCA). Mr. Latif has remained engaged with Public Sector Organizations in various capacities. He has over 15 years of varied professional experience in areas of public financial management, tax planning, business advisory, corporate finance and corporate affairs. He has worked for renowned private & public sector organizations which include Pakistan Tobacco Company, SME Business Support Fund (ADB funded project), Pakistan Mobile No. Portability Company, Bank of Punjab & PTCL. During his association with PIPFA, he has also served as Vice President, Chairman - Examination Committee, Member - Executive Committee and Member - Research and Publication Committee. He is also serving as Chairman - South Asian Federation of Accountants Committee on Auditing Standards & Quality Control. He has also earlier served as an Elected Member of the Northern Regional Committee - ICAP for two consecutive four years terms (2009-2013 & 2013-2017). During his association with ICAP he was known as Industry Members' Representative and had also served as Chairman - Northern Regional Committee, Chairman - Small & Medium Practices Committee, Chairman - CPD Committee (Lahore & Islamabad), Secretary - Northern Regional Committee, Member - CPD Committee (Central), Member - Committee on Taxation & Fiscal Laws, Member - Overseas Coordination Committee, Member - Economic Advisory & Government Relations Committee, Member - Accounting Standards Committee and Member - Public Sector Committee.—PR



ATTOK: Women on their way with camel to sell milk.—Online

**Uniform curriculum to end injustice in education: Shafqat**

**ISLAMABAD:** Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood Wednesday said the government would end injustice in the education sector by introducing uniform education system. Addressing the 1st meeting of the National Curriculum Council (NCC) organized here by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, he said the eradication of injustice in provision of education would lead towards the concept of "One Nation". While hailing the participation of representatives from private schools systems, Madrassa schools as well as public sector schools, he said that this was the national level issue which can only be resolved through consultation. Lamenting over the decreasing literacy rate from 60 to 58 percent in the country, he said that this was happen only due to

poor policies and negligence of the previous governments. The state could not perform in education sector for last seventy years, as it could not pay attention on the quality education and uniform education system, he added. "We could not link our education with the requirements of country, due to which our youths were protesting despite having PhDs degrees," he said. Unfortunately, the minister said that the state remained unsuccessful to bring unity among nation through education, due to which a gap had been created which was filled by the private sector and Madrassa system. Explaining the three kinds of curriculum being taught in the education sector, he said that private, public and Madrassa systems have different curriculums. Different type of curriculum had di-

vided the thoughts of nation, he said adding that only solution for One Nation concept was uniform education system. Elaborating the injustice in the society created due to classification of curriculum, the minister said the elite class has been successful in achieving high posts as they got education in expensive private schools. While, on the other hand, those who had been studying in public sector schools were remained unsuccessful. We will introduce Single National Certification System like other developed countries in next five to seven years, he remarked. The issues identified by the representatives in today meeting, would be resolved in consultation with all stake holders, he added. "We have started work to remove the barriers in this regard, so that national consensus could be developed" he informed. We were not imposing things on

other stake holders, he said and added they were being taken in consultation to achieve the task. After this meeting we will start work in making of contents of the uniform curriculum in which all stake holders would participate, he said. We will make interaction at national and provincial level to ensure the successful implementation of uniform education system the minister said. Later addressing a press conference, the minister said that the basic aim of this conference was to take next step in implementation of uniform education system. Highlighting the two major challenges of the education sector, he said that the different kinds of curriculum were a hurdle in forging of unity among nation's thoughts. Secondly, he emphasized that injustice in provision of education among rich and poor has divided the nation.—Agencies

**Neat capital under 'clean and green drive' remains elusive dream**

**ISLAMABAD:** Though the federal capital has set an example of planting saplings under 'Green and Clean Pakistan' programme but authorities concerned have so far exhibited a luke-warm response to cleanliness in the capital. As a federal capital reflects the picture of entire country, its civic agency is still at it's wits end to handle messy garbage which is continuously marring its beauty and presenting a malee image. Soon after holding the office, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led government had expressed its resolve to change mindset of the public towards environment and inculcate sense of responsibility among them to keep their surroundings clean. In constant, the city's major key stakeholder-Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI), appears insufficient to give the capital a civilized look due to its financial constraints. An official sources in the MCI

said, recently capital's look after charge delegated to the MCI to ease work burden on Capital Development Authority, but this move does not help the authorities concerned to manage the city's beauty due to persistent tussle between both departments over fund sharing. He said the MCI now comes under the city's mayor and most of responsibilities pertaining to the civic issues have transferred to it, but the former authority could not redress the citizens' problems with meagre resources. An official from MCI sanitation wing disclosed that they had worked out several plans to deal with this health hazardous waste material from house's collection to dumping of it. Highlighting the insight projects, he said they have outsourced the garbage collection from houses of different sectors and remnant areas of the city are taking care of the MCI staffers. He underlined the hardships

facing by his department, he said the capital is generating some 700 tonnes of garbage daily but "We are in a dire need of permanent scientific dumping site" he regretted. He said, currently the all collected trash was being dumped at a temporary dumping site located in I-9 sector. The official said they had proposed a dumping site near Sangjani and wrote many times to the authorities concerned for its incapacity to handle garbage but the words seems to be fallen on deaf ears. He said he had written three times to the CDA for allocating a permanent site for waste disposal but an appropriate action was yet to be taken by the departments concerned. Mentioning wast to energy plant, he said, the sanitation wing had also come up various projects to convert this health-risk material in electricity generation, but it also in limbo due to bureaucratic snags and financial constraints.—APP

**MoU signed for clinical trial on mental health**

**PESHAWAR:** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed at Khyber Medical University (KMU), Peshawar on Wednesday to provide health facilities to mental health patients who usually require long-term care, supervision of medication and follow-up treatment. The MoU was signed in the presence of Khyber Medical University (KMU) Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Arshad Javaid, Registrar Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Gandapur, Dean Public Health Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq, Medical Director LRH Dr. Mukhtar, Prime Institute Dr. Saeed Anwar, HSRU KP and Public health faculty from KMU.—APP



HYDERABAD: Custom officials torch 10 million seized cigarettes.—Online

**DG directs FBR to identify tax-evaders**

**HYDERABAD:** Director General (DG) Intelligence and Investigation of Inland Revenue, Shad Muhammad has directed the officials of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to gear up efforts for identifying the tax-evaders. While chairing a meeting here at FBR's office on Wednesday, he stressed on identifying the tax evaders specially those involved in illegal tobacco trade and filing fake sales tax invoices. "Tax collection is very important for sustained development, better education and health facilities in the country," he said. Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue Shahid Iqbal Baloch, Director Intelligence and Investigation Hyderabad Abdul Rehman Bullo, Collector Customs Khalid Hussain Jamali, Commissioner Inland Revenue Muhammad Aslam Mari and Additional Director Intelligence and Investigation Mumtaz Ali Thebo attended the meeting. After the meeting, the cigarettes worth tens of millions of rupees prepared by the tax evading companies were set ablaze at the Directorate of Intelligence and Investigation.—APP

**Nine shopkeepers fined for overcharging**

**SARGODHA:** Assistant Commissioner Shahpur Muhammad Imran imposed a fine of Rs 24,000 on 9 shopkeepers for overcharging. According to official sources, the AC along with a team checked different shops in Shahpur city and Kotmomin and imposed the fine on 9 shopkeepers for overcharging and not displaying rate lists.—APP

**Student awarded**

**CHAKWAL:** A student of Gujrat University Arooj Zehra here on Wednesday awarded with gold medal in final exam of English literature subject. According to the details, Arooj Zehra secured 806 marks in Master of Art with first position. She said that her great victory credit went to her teachers of an English department of Government Post Graduate College Chakwal. She said that teachers' guidance was basic role in her success.—APP

**CPEC, a game changer for Pakistan**



Faryal Asif

Time is changing whereas the world is transforming, and Asia remains at the epicenter of 21st century's transformation. Quite evidently, the Centre of economic power is shifting from West to the East. In this regard, Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) provides Pakistan and surrounding countries a great opportunity by giving an integrated platform to around 3 Billion people in Central Asia, Far East, South Asia, Middle East and Africa. BRI total trade is estimated between \$4 Trillion to \$8 Trillion. China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the flagship project of the BRI and its vision. Furthermore, CPEC is expected to alter the geopolitical and strategic landscape of Asia and has enormous potential to reshape the economic outlook of regional states. CPEC provides opportunity for Pakistan to become a logistic and economic hub for South Asia, Central and Western Asia, Middle East and Western China. Additionally, through CPEC, a small economy like Pakistan is being physically connected with one of the world's largest economy. The importance of CPEC project can be highlighted by the fact that this project is game changer for Pakistan. Since 1951, Pak-China has very friendly, deep rooted, time tested and ever-growing relations with each other and today, close economic cooperation is the most recent development in the form

of a multibillion dollar investment i.e. known as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is of immense importance for the stability of Muslim world and South Asia. CPEC serves as a leading-edge towards Pakistan's development. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an ambitious project with cost of around \$ 46 billion, launched in 2015. This mega development project aims to connect Gwadar port (Southwestern Pakistan) to Xinjiang Uyghur (Northwestern China) via 3000 km network of Railways, Highways and Pipelines. This corridor will pass through Pakistan's largest province Baluchistan, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir. The main objective of CPEC is to connect China with South Asia, Central Asia & Middle East and to provide safe trading route via Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This purpose of CPEC will provide game-changing opportunities to Pakistan. CPEC will provide safer trade route to Pakistan to extend their market to European, Middle East, Russia, Gulf Countries and Africa. CPEC will help Pakistan to advance its economic interests. It will help to overcome psychological barriers to increase foreign investment flow within the country. Peace and prosperity will be achieved through economic development. Almost from a half decade no any international investment has come to Pakistan so after a long time Mega investment in shape of CPEC came and its giving a little hope to every Pakistani that their poverty might end after it. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will improve Pakistan's current economy as well as the lives of nearly three

billion people across the region. It is seemed to be a breakthrough for Pakistan's development and successful completion of the CPEC may generate three to four times more profit than their investment. The corridor will boost up economic development and create new business and job opportunities which will help in the improvement of poverty. The project will help in Pakistan rebalancing between the geopolitical and geo-economic will improve the infrastructure, the energy requirements, workforce development and economic progress. CPEC is viewed as a game changer for both China-Pakistan and the entire region; economic development and regional integration will be enhanced through connectivity and partnership. China Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC) only could become a game changer, if Pakistan succeeded in overcoming security challenges. It will have a positive impact on the living standard of the common people in the region by providing the numerous opportunities of cooperation and development. It will address the grievances, sense of deprivation, discrimination and poor management of resources, of a different segment of the society of Pakistan. It will boost the trade and investment in Pakistan. The project will help in mitigating the chronic energy crisis which has a negative impact on the economy of Pakistan. The energy shortage hampered the industrial production in the country, and business is closing, shifting to other countries. Pakistan industry needs an uninterrupted energy supply for smooth economic growth. CPEC is the central and ideal project which will help get the free country of the energy crises while WAPDA and KESC have failed to tackle the problems of the system of the state.

CPEC is the game changer project which eliminates and removes the poverty in the entire region, the project is based on construction of textile garment, industrial part project, dams and installation of nuclear reactors and creating a network of roads, railway line which will automatically generate employment and people's will also take ownership of these projects, the projects will also facilitate the education side, technical side, vocational training institutes, water supply and distribution in undeveloped areas of Pakistan and will improve the quality life of people. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor is a game changer opportunity for Pakistan and a new and fruitful step towards Pak-China friendship. CPEC is the framework of regional connectivity which is a well thought out framework that will escort great economic/trade activity in the region and will reshape many economic policies in the coming years. For Pakistan, it is a catalyst for change and for China, it is meant to showcase its comprehensive economic reach to the regions for its successful culmination of "One Belt, One Road" policy. Along with challenges CPEC also provides opportunities for growth and development. So, we should remain positive despite of threats and support this project. It is also government duty to motivate people of Baluchistan, FATA, Sindh and Gilgit-Baltistan. Free roads, railway, power project, job opportunities and easy connectivity within provinces and countries are aim of this project. Government should take steps to stretch its planning and increase the stakeholders to get maximum benefits of CPEC. The writer is the student of Business Administration at the University of South Asia