



Islamabad POST

Thursday, June 03, 2021

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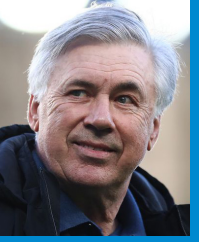
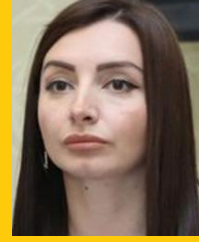
Detailed News On Page-01

10 key steps to rebuild Karabakh

Detailed News On Page-07

Carlo Ancelotti returns to Real Madrid

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Asad for harnessing ECO trade potential

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar has underlined the need for harnessing the trade potential of ECO countries by creating infrastructure of connectivity. Addressing the General Conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of ECO which is continuing in Islamabad, he said we have to develop rail, road and air linkages besides simplifying the visa regime to achieve the objective. The Minister for Planning said that promotion of trade amongst the ECO is important to lift up the peoples of this region and provide them the prosperity.

CPEC to strengthen Sino-Pak ties

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Railways Azam Khan Swati Wednesday said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would further strengthen Sino-Pak friendship. In a meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, the minister thanked the ambassador for his keen interest in the Main Line-I (ML-I) project from Karachi to Peshawar under CPEC. The matters pertaining to mutual interest and the CPEC projects were came under discussion during the meeting. The minister appreciated the services rendered by the envoy and agreed to launch the ML-I project as soon as possible.

Tarin seeks proposals on refinery policy

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Shaukat Tarin Wednesday directed the concerned officers of Finance Division and Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to come with concrete proposals regarding the proposed refinery policy. Chairing a meeting with the delegation of representatives of oil refineries operating in the country, the minister directed that proposals should be made in consultation with all stakeholders.

Pak, Tajikistan committed to Afghan peace

PM Imran says talks with India only if Kashmir's special status restored; Tajik president supports the establishment of a 'trade corridor' passing through Pakistan

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Tajikistan in their delegation-level talks held unanimity of views that a consensus political government in Afghanistan was vital for peace of the region. Pakistan and Tajikistan on Wednesday entered into 12 accords for cooperation in diverse fields including trade, anti-corruption, infrastructure, education and culture. The resolve was presented during a joint news conference of Tajik President Emomali Rahmon and Prime Minister Imran Khan. Prime Minister Imran Khan reiterated that Pakistan would only hold talks or do trade with India if New Delhi restored the pre-August 5, 2019 status of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Imran Khan said "If Pakistan restores its relations with India (without the latter restoring the status of Kashmir), it will be similar to turning our back on the Kashmiris."

MoUs signed between Pakistan and Tajikistan

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Following MoUs were signed between Pakistan and Tajistan. Academic Cooperation Agreement between Tajik Technical University named after academician M. S Osimi and Indus University of Pakistan

- Agreement on Cooperation between the Chamber of Commerce & Industry of the Tajikistan and Chamber of Commerce & Industry Quetta Balochistan
- Agreement on Cooperation between the Chamber of Commerce & Industry of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Pakistan

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LAHORE: Speaker Punjab Assembly Ch. Perviaz Elahi presenting a souvenir to Ambassador of Switzerland Benedict Cerjat during his visit. DNA

Pak-Turkish ties brotherly

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speaking at the concluding ceremony of 2nd General Conference of Parliamentary Assembly of the Economic Cooperation Organization (PAECO) here, Speaker of Grand National Assembly of Turkey Prof. Dr. Mustafa Sentop said the people of Pakistan and Turkey had strong historical relations. He said the COVID-19 pandemic had affected the world but the crisis also provided an opportunity towards more human and integrated world.

'Covid pushes over 100m into poverty'

NEWS DESK

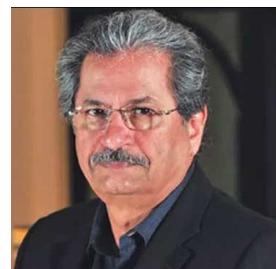
GENEVA: After working hours plummeted and access to good-quality jobs evaporated, the United Nations said Wednesday the coronavirus pandemic has forced more than 100 million more workers into poverty. And the labour market crisis created by the pandemic is far from over, the UN's International Labour Organisation warned in a report. Employment was not expected to bounce back to pre-pandemic levels until

Continued on Page 06

Exams of 9-12 to be held after July 10: Shafqat

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood has announced following a meeting of inter-provincial education ministers on Wednesday that board examinations for grade 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th will be held after July 10 across Pakistan. "In this regard, examinations for class 9 and 10 will be held first," Mahmood said while addressing a news conference in Islamabad. "Today it was decided that students of ninth and tenth will be examined only in elective subjects and mathematics... that is, only four subjects of class 9-10 will be examined. Students of 11 and 12 grades will also be examined only in optional subjects," he said. The education minister



also took to Twitter to announce the decision. The marks percentage taken by students in elective subjects will also be proportionately allocated to subjects in which exams are not being taken, he added. Mahmood, during today's presser, also said that the issue of non-completion of the course was also discussed during the meeting. "We had reduced the curriculum by 40 per cent few months ago to make it easier for teachers and students to prepare for the examinations," he added. He said that due to Covid-19 pandemic for the past one-and-a-half-years, all decision have been taken unanimously by the ministers of education of all provinces so that they can be implemented with ease, adding that the decision regarding the examinations was also taken with consensus. "We have decided unanimously that no one will be promoted without passing examinations [this year]," he added. The education minister said that there will be no review of the decision. "Students should prepare [for the exams]... we have already been very lenient with the legitimate demands of the students... this (the decision) concerns the future and education of our children," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan and President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon exchange documents during a MoU signing ceremony held at the Prime Minister House. - DNA

COAS visits training area

Expresses satisfaction over combat readiness of the formation

NEHAL MIRAJ

RAWALPINDI: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited field training area near Kotli. COAS was briefed about conduct modalities of a Corps level exercise 'Task-Heer-e-Jabal'. The exercise is aimed at enhancing operational preparedness of formations, encompassing defensive and offensive tasks during various contingencies within an operational cycle. The troops and units participating in exercise will rehearse various defensive and offensive manoeuvres in the mountainous terrain. Appreciating dedication and professionalism of participating troops,

Continued on Page 06

UAE extends Pak travel ban

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The United Arab Emirates has extended its ban on the arrival of passengers from Pakistan till June 30 in the wake of its measures to contain Covid-19 spread by imposing restrictions on international travel. According to sources, the UAE government on Wednesday extended its ban on Pakistani passengers till June 30.

ECO countries mull cooperation

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Cooperation Organization countries have emphasized on enhancing cooperation in all forms of tourism for sustainable development and poverty alleviation. The national parliamentary delegates from Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan attended in person while Hon. MPs from Iran and Turkmenistan participated virtually. A joint statement adopted at the concluding session of the General Conference of the Parliamentary

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PM for effective use of PAECO platform

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan says the platform of Parliamentary Assembly of Economic Cooperation Organization should be used for collective efforts to cope with the common challenges including climate change, water crisis and poverty alleviation. He was addressing the concluding session of the General Conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of ECO on Wednesday. The Prime Minister said the population of the region is 450 million and every country of the region can benefit from this huge population utilizing their potential in different sectors. He said many countries are facing water shortage due to global warming and parliamentary integration among ECO member countries will be helpful in resolving challenges in a befitting manner.

Italian envoy thanks Pakistan for support

Delivers message on Italian National Day

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese has shared the message with the people of Pakistan on National Day of Italy. He said today was the 2nd of June and the Italian all over the world are celebrating republic day. On this day back in 1946, referendum was held in Italy where people were asked to choose between monarchy or republic for their state, 54.3% of voters opted for their republic, and thus Italy became republic on the 2nd of June 1946, he added.



Moreover, he said, every year Italy celebrates this day as the republic day or National day, following the covid-19 SoPs, we are not able to celebrate National day this year with our friends, but we are looking forward to celebrating after

vaccination completes. Furthermore, I would like to thank our Pakistani friends who sent messages of warmth and solidarity on our national day. Pakistani stood by Italy since the very beginning of the pandemic. People in the government of Italy sincerely appreciate all the support and sympathy offered by the Govt and the people of Pakistan, says the ambassador. He added, Let us play our role to curb the contagion and celebrate all our festivities responsibly. From everyone at Italian embassy, I wish you all a Bona-fiesta. Pakistan-Italy Dosti Zindabad.

THERE ARE CLEAR REASONS WHY AN ASSEMBLAGE OF ALL THE ORGANISATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT PRESS IN PRINT, BROADCAST AND DIGITAL MEDIA HAS UNANIMOUSLY REJECTED THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION...



NO

to the PAKISTAN MEDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

- 1 The proposed PMDA Ordinance is a declaration of war against independent journalism. It seeks to erase all critical voices from the media through a system of coercive censorship.
- 2 The all-powerful regulatory body would exercise a draconian control over the media and would be appointed by the President on the Federal Government's advice.
- 3 The proposed body can impose arbitrary sanctions including invading media premises, the imposition of huge fines, or the closing down of any media outlet on the flimsiest of pretexts. Its verdict will be exempt from review by any court except the Supreme Court.
- 4 All existing media outlets will be made to pay extortionate license fees to the government in addition to normal taxes in order to operate.

Inside...

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- Wake up Pakistan: Getting too late for food security - Page 05
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Briefs

Saqib visits vaccination center

FAISALABAD: Commissioner Saqib Manan on Wednesday paid a surprise visit to Corona Vaccination Center at Social Security Hospital Madina Town. The commissioner reviewed facilities provided to people at the center and urged staffers to provide speedy services to people. He appealed to people to get vaccination at the earliest to protect from the COVID-19. On the occasion, MPA Firdous Rai also appreciated arrangements at the center. Medical Superintendent Dr Ijaz Mumtaz Sheikh was also present. - APP

Changan inaugurates second shift operations

KARACHI: Master Changan Motors is proud to announce the inauguration of a second shift operation in their State-of-the-Art manufacturing and assembling facility on 20th May 2021. As their maxim goes, "Breaking the Status Quo" the company is revolutionizing the automobile industry in Pakistan. Even though a double shift operation was always in the company's original plan, it can be seen that it started much earlier than the anticipated time due to a couple of reasons. Master Changan Motors is all geared up to work with banks on the Government's RDA program by reserving a separate quota for RDA holders. The company always seems to be on board when it comes to helping the economy grow and supporting government initiatives. By starting a second shift earlier than planned, the company is ready to provide RDA customers with their vehicles within one month. The company plans to treat every customer equally and deliver its products as per its commitments. In light of the overwhelming response to Changan vehicles in Pakistan, the company has aggressively invested in capacity enhancement and has successfully gone into double shift production. The double shift plan has not only divided the workload to meet excessive demand but also has created an additional 1,000 new jobs in management as well as for highly skilled labor to serve the market demand. As a result of this, the plant capacity has increased from 30,000 units to 50,000 units per annum (more than 66% increase) in a short span of time. Expressing his views on the double shift inauguration, Mr. Danial Malik, CEO of Changan Master Motors said, "We are making technologically advanced vehicles accessible to every Pakistani customer - not just the rich. By increasing our production capability we intend to make the customer win and ensure delivery as early as possible."

Javed Jabbar leads IUCN activity

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Nadeem Raza Wednesday addressed the participants of National Security and War Course, at National Defence University, Islamabad, said a statement issued by Inter Services Public Relations. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee said that Pakistan Armed Forces face a multitude of challenges which demand a well-considered response strategy. Dilating upon the Revolution in Military Affairs, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee said that the world is now witnessing the introduction of autonomous and semi-autonomous weapons and the preferred mode of warfare is unannounced, undeclared and invisible, commonly termed as Hybrid Conflict. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee also emphasized that officers must remain focused to pursue professional excellence and should remain abreast with the latest developments. Earlier, upon arrival at NDU, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee was received by Lieutenant General Muhammad Saeed, President NDU. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Zafar Bakhtawari Secretary General United Business Group Pakistan is Presenting his book "Jahan Doost" to Qazi Jamil Ur Rehman, Inspector General Police Islamabad at the reception. Sardar Yasir Ilyas president ICCI, Sardar Tahir Mehmood president IEAA and Saif Ur Rehman ex vp ICCI are also present. - DNA

Economic survival hinges upon industrial growth

ISHAFAQ MUGHAL
FAISALABAD. Economic survival of Pakistan hinges upon speedy, reliable and sustained industrial growth and in this connection Punjab Government must forward effective, result oriented and pro-industrial proposals to be included in the Federal budget for the next financial year of 2021-22, said Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). He was addressing a zoom conference organized by the Planning & Development department of the Punjab. It was participated by the different chambers of commerce and industry of the Punjab province. "Provincial government will finalize comprehensive budget proposals", he hoped and said that the present government had focused on a tri-pronged strategy to gear up the economic development. These include enabling an environment for industrial growth

through Ease Of Doing Business, trimming Cost Of Production and catalysing Industrial Development. He quoted the saying of Federal Minister Mr. Shoukat Tareen that industrial growth is prerequisite to achieve progress and prosperity. Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed said that Faisalabad is the third major city, which is playing a pivotal role in the overall economic development of Pakistan. "Being a hub of the textile sector Faisalabad has the privilege to formulate first progressive textile policy even before the PTI came into power", he said and disclosed that he himself prepared the component relating to the processing sector. "It also included fixation of electricity tariff at 6.5 cent and gas at 7.5 cent. Appreciating the government's endeavours, he said that it provided best opportunities to the industrial sector even during the corona lockdown. "I am currently serving FIEDMC as its acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO)", he disclosed

and added that he had a chance to closely witness and examine the problems confronted by the foreign investors. He said that one window operation is working just as a post office. He stressed the need to make this facility result oriented in accordance with its true spirit for which necessary legislation is imperative. He said that our concerned departments are handicapped when foreign investors demand comparative analysis of different aspects regarding our regional competitors including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Vietnam etc. He said that overcrowding of departments is creating problems instead of facilitating the investors. Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed said that the government provided maximum facilities to the industrial sector during the corona outbreak. Relief was provided in electricity bills to the SME sector but this facility was short-lived. He also mentioned TUF (Technology Up-gradation Fund) and said that

it helped the industrial sector to replace the old, obsolete and redundant power looms with new and hi-tech looms. "During this period at least 40-50 thousand looms were added", he said and added that the share of direct exporters in exports is only 30-33% while indirect exporters are contributing 66% share. He lamented that the DTRE facility is only doled out to the direct exporters but it should also be extended to the indirect exporters. President FCCI said that the Prime Minister is proceeding abroad to host an international conference on global environmental changes. He said that scientifically organized and planned industrial estates must be established in every city. "The scattered industrial units must be shifted to these estates where pollution could be easily contained", he hoped. Engineer Hafiz Ihtasham Javed also explained the problems confronted by the Faisalabad Dry Port and said that local importers

and exporters have to pay double taxation in the form of Provincial Road Infrastructure Development cess i.e. first in Sindh and then in Punjab on each and every import and export consignment originated from this up country port. He said that he had three successive meetings with the Provincial Finance Minister who has assured to withdraw it in the upcoming provincial budget. Regarding energy, he said that the government must freeze electricity and gas tariffs for five years so that investors could freely implement long-term policies. He said that a new textile policy was also pending. "It must be approved and announced at the earliest, as we could not stabilize our economy without enhancing our exports to at least 35-40 billion dollar", he added. He chided the previous government and said that he had turned Pakistan into a consumer economy instead of promoting the industrial sector, which is imperative for creating new job opportunities.

JCSC addresses NSWC participants

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HYDERABAD: Women of PPP showing empty water storage Matka in which sand is coming out to mark a protest as Sindh is facing shortage of water now a days. - DNA Photo by Jan Ali Laghari

Javed Jabbar leads IUCN activity

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E-system makes LDA public friendly

LAHORE: Minister Housing & Urban Development Punjab Mian Mehmood-ur-Rasheed has said that Lahore Development Authority (LDA) worked with revolutionary swift to solve the problems of the public during the last two years. He was addressing a press conference regarding performance of LDA at Johar Town Sports Complex on Wednesday. SACM Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan, MPA Saadia Sohail Rana, and other senior officers were also present. - APP

Navy ready to tackle maritime security challenges: CNS

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi Wednesday emphasized the need to keep Armed Forces abreast with the emerging trends and make further endeavors to deal with current complex and dynamic security environment. The Naval Chief was addressing to Command & Staff College, Quetta during his visit, said a Pakistan Navy news release. Upon arrival, the Naval Chief was received by the Commandant, Command & Staff College, Quetta. While addressing the Staff Course participants, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi paid rich tributes to the sacrifices of the Pakistan Armed Forces in defence of the country. The Admiral added that jointness remained central to the modern concept of military operations as no force could achieve success in today's warfare single handedly. The Naval Chief further highlighted that Pakistan Navy was always ready to tackle the maritime security challenges facing the country by active support of Sister Services. Later on, Chief of the Naval Staff interacted with faculty and students including foreign officers undergoing course at the premier institution.

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY STREET LIGHTS DIVISION-II TENDER NOTICE. Sealed tenders are hereby invited on percentage basis for the following works from contractors / firms duly enlisted with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in appropriate category & Codeshaving validity / renewal of PEC license. Electrical License issued by Electrical Inspector Islamabad for execution of Electrical & Mechanical Works in Rawalpindi / Islamabad and NTN & GST registration with FBR. Table with 6 columns: S.#, Name of works, Estimated cost, Earnest Money, Date & time of receipt of tender, Date & time of opening of tender. Includes 11 tender items and detailed notice text.

12000 traffic pamphlets distributed

ISHAFAQ MUGHAL
FAISALABAD: Prevention is better than cure. This is the high time to display responsibility in the third lethal wave of Corona Virus. SSP Punjab highway patrol Mirza Anjum Kamal said while releasing Mobile Education unit performance report of May, 2021. While talking to media he told that Mobile Education unit of Punjab Highway Patrol (PHP) Region Faisalabad has relentlessly pursued traffic awareness campaign in four Districts of Region Faisalabad to educate public about appropriate safety precautions, traffic rules and COVID-19. In this regards, pamphlets, brochures and leaflets distributed among road commuters. Further, he told that Incharge MEU Muhammad Rizwan Bhatti and his team visited 11 educational institutions, 18 Patrol pumps, 24 Banks, 14 villages, 15 Union councils, 15 Hospitals, 34 Goods Transport, 38 Commercial Markets, 35 Bus/Rickshaw stands, 35 Public places, 36 Road shows, 03 awareness seminars and distributed 12000 Pamphlets among citizens and road users to create awareness about Road safety and mobilization to fight against deadly Pandemic. Every day, accidents happen due to human error.

IoBM organizes ASKGrant Challenge

ATHAR SUFI
KARACHI: The Institute of Business Management (IoBM), Karachi recently announced the winners of the Dr. Ahmer S. Karim (ASK) Grant Challenge. The events and its proceedings were held virtually. Five student teams have been selected so they can take their innovative business startup ideas to the next level. They will undergo a rigorous capacity building and monitoring program under the aegis of Shahjehan S. Karim Business Incubation Centre (SSK-BIC) at IoBM. The winning teams were Boltay Haroof, Karachi University; Bridge, IoBM; Healthitol-A sugar story, Karachi University; Pak Sencare, Karachi University; Tactonic Bio, COMSATS University Islamabad. The judges of Grant Challenge were Jehan Ara, Founder and CEO, Katalyst Labs and Member of Prime Minister's Taskforce on IT & Telecom; Ms. Shahnaz Kapadia Rahat, CEO, Mera Nam Pkt Ltd; Furqan Qureshi, Founder.

Deputy Director, Street Lights Division-II, CDA. Contact No.0300-9189525. PID (I) No. 6614/20

Briefs**13 FIRs registered under ZARA App**

ISLAMABAD: A total 13 First Information Reports (FIRs) were registered under Zainab Alert Response and Recovery ACT (ZARA) application reports filed by the citizens highlighting child abuse case of various nature.

According to Ministry of Human Rights, out of 262 preliminary examinations 21 verifications were carried out and 13 FIRs were registered against the culprits and 25 investigation were conducted of various incidents.

Regarding status of the incidents, the ministry said open cases were 321 and closed cases were 231 that were reported on the ZARA App. Giving details of personal incidents, it reported that there were 288 personal incidents recorded on the App whereas social responsibility cases were 248 registered.

Giving the details of last month, it said around 10 open cases has been received and 1 closed complaint was noted during last month of May. While the registration of child abuse cases faced 76 percent decrease as compared to last months, out of the total reported incidents the applications mentioned were 313 pertaining to male victim and 238 complaints regarding female victim. — APP

NAB meeting postponed till Friday**STAFF REPORT**

ISLAMABAD: The Executive Board Meeting of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) meeting chaired by Justice (Retd) Javed Iqbal was postponed till Friday (June 4, 2021) after reviewing different cases.

Speaking on the occasion NAB Chairman Justice Javed Iqbal said that the bureau was determined to recover the looted money from the corrupt elements. The priority of NAB was to take the culprits of various scams like money laundering, sugar, flour, fake accounts, assets beyond resources, illegal housing societies, modarba till logical conclusion.

He said the accountability court accords final approval to a plea bargain case, in which a culprit not only confesses his crime but also pledge to return the looted money. The meeting was attended by bureau's Deputy Chairman, Prosecutor General Accountability, Director General Operations and other senior officers.

Six Covid-19 patients died in 24 hours**DNA**

RAWALPINDI: As many as 37 more COVID-19 positive cases were reported during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 26,332 in the district while six lost their battle of life against the deadly virus.

As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Wednesday, 13 international passengers who had been tested positive for COVID-19, 8 were quarantined at Women University Satellite town, one at Shalimar Hotel and four were allowed to go to their homes as their reports were tested negative.

The report said among the new cases, 10 reported from Rawal Town, 9 from Potohar town, 10 from Rawalpindi Cantt, 4 Gujjar Khan, 2 and one each from Jehlum and AJK.

"Presently 65 confirmed patients were admitted to various city facilities, counting 17 in Holy Family Hospital, 15 in Benazir Bhutto Hospital, 21 in Institute of Urology, 8 in Fauji Foundation Hospital, 3 in Bilal hospital and one in Hearts International Hospital," the health authority report said. District Health Authority updated that so far 24,842 patients were discharged after recovery while 1151 were quarantined including 694 at home and 454 in isolation.

First batch of Pakistani mangoes to reach China

"This year, we want to conduct the mango export earlier, so that we can have proper marketing in China." Due to the COVID-19, when mango or any kind of shipment arrives in China customs, they will first conduct COVID-19 tests on everything

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: First batch of Pakistani mangoes will arrive China next week, according to Gwadar Pro. "This year we will start mango export to China on 10th of June. So they will reach China on the 11th," said Adnan Hafeez, founder of Imperial Ventures who has been doing Pakistan mango and orange exports to China for 5 years.

"This year, we want to conduct the mango export earlier, so that we can have proper marketing in China." Due to the COVID-19, when mango or any kind of shipment arrives in China customs, they will first conduct COVID-19 tests on everything. If goods are detected positive, the shipment will be destroyed. So many of our previous buyers stopped bookings to avoid such loss." Adnan told us that they started the B to C sale last year. They do promotions online to sell mango to individual customers in small quantity on WeChat or other platforms. A lot of Chinese customers have already pre-



booked their mangoes. "In this way, the customers do not need to bear any loss." Similar to the last year, the mango will be transported from Lahore to Kunming airport with the support of YTO Express. "We can achieve 72 hour delivery from Pakistan to your doorstep." According to Adnan, the transportation cost is around RMB 7 to 8 per kilogram from Lahore to Kunming. "Now we have bookings

about 2 tons. We still have one week. If we can get higher quantity, the transportation price can be further reduced." "Last year Shanghai conducted the mango event in the mall. So this year I suggested using the same strategy in Beijing, that we find some supermarket to hold the promotion activity. After the event, the display can continue, so people can come to buy and taste."

Adnan believes that in this way, they can get better feedback from the people. "We actually have never marketed our mango to the Chinese people.

If you ask them what choices of mango they have, they never think of Pakistani mango. This is why we should put our mango in some better place where people may get to know that Pakistan also has mango, and it's one of the five largest mango producers in the world." This year, Adnan has started some new cooperation with Chinese partners in online sales. "Our new partner has never sold Pakistani mangoes before. They only did some small-scale marketing. When our first shipment arrives, they will check everything and start marketing aggressively in the next phase. We also expect that we get a better sale in the next phase." "Last year we started mango export quite late, this year we started quite early. We expect that for every 10 days we will have one batch of mango sending to China. We're planning like that. But let's see what the market response is after the first batch." Adnan said.



ISLAMABAD: President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahom planting a sapling during his visit to Pakistan. — DNA

Private schools to educate children of Police employees

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police on Wednesday entered into an agreement with two private schools of the city to ensure quality education to the children of in-service, retired and martyred employees of the capital police department. According to the details, the police signed an agreement with American Lycetuff Dnk School System Pakistan and International Learning Hub School Pakistan under which the children of police martyrs would be given fee concession up to 80 percent while the children of in-service and retired employees will pay nothing under the head of security/admission.

They will also avail 50 percent concession in tuition fee. Furthermore, they would be charged just Rs 3000 as Registration Fee. DIG (Headquarters) Kamran Adil, other senior police officers and representatives of the school management were present during the signing ceremony. According to police spokesperson, IG Islamabad Qazi Jamil ur Rehman said that signing an agreement with private educational institutions is to ensure quality education to the children of the employees at affordable expenses. He said the police was busy in providing relief to its employees in whatever possible way which, he believed, will boost morale of the force.

The department had earlier took several initiatives for the welfare of the employees including signing agreements with the educational institutions as Islamabad Science School and College, Nikon Group, Air Foundation School System, and The Smart School. — APP

Increased revenue, economic development welcomed

Zahid Hussain said the finance minister enjoys the confidence of the business community and some important opposition leaders

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said the business community is pleased at the steps taken by the government to improve the growth rate. The decision to freeze power tariff for industrial consumers for one year and reduce power tariff for domestic consumers will improve the economic situation and provide relief to the masses, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that travel and tourism sector which is closed for over a year due to pandemic should be given relief package. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the government has decided to improve



the agriculture sector, increase and diversify exports, increase subsidies and extend construction sector amnesty scheme to December 31 are good steps however the issue of water scarcity should also be tackled on preference. He said that the finance minister enjoys the confidence of the business community and some important opposition leaders which will help him forge

consensus on important issues making the economy competitive in few years which will reduce the deficit and improve the living standard of masses.

The government should strive to reduce the cost of doing business in the budget while making the tax system easy while improving taxes from the retail sector through various steps including strengthening point of sale system, he demanded.

He said that the government is planning to extend power sector repayment of loans including that of IPPs and power sector which will reduce circular debt while payment of 90 billion rupees of 35 IPPs within days will improve overall conditions in the power sector.

The government has decided to abolish peak and off-peak tariff for domestic consumers and reduce the tariff for people consuming additional electricity which will increase demand for electricity and save gas that is a right move, he said.

Economy improving steadily

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan on Wednesday said country's economy was growing rapidly despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the institutions were working independently. Talking to a private news channel, he said the all developed nations were facing pandemic crises which destroyed their economy, negative GDP was also recorded in whole world. Minister said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led government through practical steps and policies achieved better results in gross domestic Product (GDP) growth rate and enormous increase in exports. He said a huge investment through foreign remittances, which was improving different sectors of the economy, construction industry was reviving and robust construction activities across the country proved as pragmatic steps of the government, he added. — APP

Zero tolerance in the anti-polio campaign: DC**DNA**

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Amir Aiq Khan Wednesday said that government would take stern action against those showing negligence in the anti-polio campaign.

Chairing a meeting to review polio campaign arrangements starting from June 7 to June 11 in the entire district, he underlined the need for effective utilization of all available resources to run the campaign successfully, particularly in the high-risk union councils of the district. Under the drive, the DC said that 2964 polio teams, 396 area in charges, 204 medical officers, and allied hospitals, and tehsil headquarter hospitals would participate in the campaign, adding the drive would also be utilized for creating awareness about Covid-19 and anti-dengue preventive measures.

During the campaign, he said, 885,000 children would be administered polio vaccine. He said staff deployed for the campaign has been warned that no negligence would be tolerated in this regard. The DC advised parents to come forward and play their role in ensuring vaccination of their children to eliminate the crippling disease.

VC WASA reviews work of Nullah Leh**STAFF REPORT**

RAWALPINDI: Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) and Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA), Vice Chairman, Haroon Kamal Hashmi Wednesday inspected dredging and desilting work of Nullah Leh at Gawalmandi Bridge. He said that this year the project would be completed with the cooperation of Bahria Town.

On the occasion, Additional Chief Executive Officer, Bahria Town Haji Amjad Mehmood and Managing Director WASA Raja Shoukat Mehmood were also present. He said, the dredging work would help in preventing floods in the Nullah. Bahria Town staff briefed about the project and informed that heavy machinery was being used to complete the project. Haroon Kamal thanked the administration of Bahria Town for the services being rendered to prevent flash flooding and avoid loss of lives and property during heavy rains in monsoon season. He expressed the hope that the dredging work would be completed within shortest possible timeframe.

MD WASA informed that the agency had launched the project earlier with the special grant released by the Punjab government but, now the pace of work would be accelerated due to cooperation of Bahria Town. MPA PP13, Haji Amjad Mehmood told that this year too, the project would be completed with the help of Bahria Town like last year. He said, Bahria Town always plays an important role in public welfare projects and the cooperation would continue in future as well.

Pakistan redesigning policies for climate change

Amin Aslam elaborated on all the aspects of climate-related challenges and options for Pakistan. He said that if you keep on pushing nature, it will react. Therefore, it is vital to make nature an ally in this battle

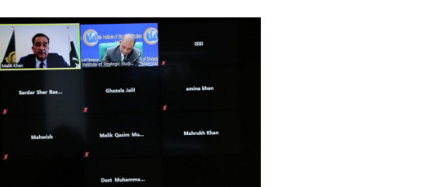
DNA

ISLAMABAD: "Pakistan is honoured to host World Environment Day and celebrate the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. We are not just playing a victim card on climate front, rather we are formulating nature-based responses in an effort to make nature our ally in this global crisis." This was stated by the Minister and Advisor to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Honourable Malik Amin Aslam, in a public talk on "Climate Change: Challenges and Options for Pakistan" hosted by the Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) under its Distinguished Lecture Series as part of Pakistan's upcoming Environment Day celebrations. Mr. Amin Aslam elaborated on all the aspects of climate-related challenges and options for Pakistan. He said that if you keep on pushing nature, it will react. Therefore, it is vital to make nature an ally

in this battle. Pakistan is not a big emitter but we are the victims of greenhouse emissions. He identified and elaborated nature-oriented programs that the current government is undertaking in order to mitigate the impact of climate change. These include the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Project, construction of new dams, launch of Green Eurobond Scheme, Recharge Pakistan Project, introduction of electric vehicles, and restoration of ecosystems, particularly in national forests and wetland areas.



Mr. Aslam said that we will have to factor in the finances in our budget in order to



meet the challenges of climate change. He informed the audience that Pakistan is redesigning policies and smart infrastructures and it is not waiting for any external aid to make the country adaptable and resilient in terms of climate crisis. He said that the introduction of the Green Eurobond will add to green credibility of the country's business profile. Earlier, in his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aiaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI noted that climate crisis has become a formidable challenge worldwide. He lauded the efforts and commitment of the present government to mitigate the impacts of climate change in the country. He said that climate change is a global problem, and so is its solution. He was of the view that Pakistan must showcase three capabilities in order to put up a strong front against climate-related challenges: collective responsibility, both in terms of political will and infrastructure; financial burden sharing mechanisms; and policy framework, including forging partnerships with the relevant entities.

Briefs

New Girls' hostel inaugurated at QAU

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad, Dr. Muhammad Ali has inaugurated the girls hostel and new academic block in the university. The academic block for pharmacy department would be completed in 18 months with total cost of Rs. 183 million, while the stimulated time for completion of girl's hostel is 13 month with the cost of Rs 173 million. After completion, the hostel would provide accommodation to around 300 students. On the occasion, VC Muhammad Ali directed to complete the projects timely. He also vowed to provide all possible facilities to the students.

Agri machinery, inputs worth \$73.498m

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Agricultural machinery and inputs worth of \$73.498 million were imported during 10 months of current financial year as compared the imports of \$79.728 million of the corresponding period of last year. During the period from July-April, 2020-21 import of agricultural machinery and imports decreased by 7.28 percent as compared the imports of same period of last year.

Meanwhile, during the period under review agricultural chemicals including fertilizers, pesticides, plastics materials and medicinal products worth \$7.256 billion imported in order to fulfill the domestic requirements as compared the imports of the same period last year. The import of above mentioned commodities into the country were stood at \$6.196 billion during first ten months of last financial year, according the data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. During last 10 months of current financial year imports of agricultural chemicals into the country recorded about 17.10 percent growth as compared the imports of same period of last year.

About 1,298,820 metric tons of fertilizers manufactured valuing \$457.938 million were also imported during the period under review as compared the imports of 1,519,626 metric tons valuing \$513.959 million of same period of last year. In order to enhance output of agriculture sector during current season, an amount of \$152.310 million was spent on the import of 32,561 metric tons of insecticides as against the import of insecticides valuing \$130.679 during same period of last year. During last 10 months of current financial year, country spent \$990.669 million on the imports of medicinal products as it imported 29,350 metric tons of medicinal products as compared the imports of same period last year.

Al-Shifa Trust Eye hospital holds free medical camp

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital Rawalpindi on Wednesday conducted a one-day Minhaj Free Eye Camp at Hira Public School Lane No. 3, Gulistan Colony, Rawalpindi. During camps, the eye specialists examined 350 patients, conducted 25 operations and provided required medication to patients. The specialists also advised people to take care of their eyes and must go for checkups at least once a year. Director, Hira Public School, Raja Kamran Zameer thanked the team of doctors for their concern and free of charge services. He lauded the services of Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital which is fighting against blindness as a noble cause.

CGSS, HSF discusses climate change security challenges

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Online Roundtable Discussion on "Climate Change as Non-Traditional Security Challenge: Relevance for Pakistan" was held. It was jointly organized by Center for Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad and Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Pakistan. Mr. Shakeel Ramay Advisor, Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development, Consultant SDPI & Member board of Advisors, CGSS, commenced the session with opening remarks. Dr. Steffen Kudella, Resident Representative, Hanns Seidel Foundation, Pakistan gave the welcome remarks. He welcomed all the participants and distinguished panelists. Dr. Kudella highlighted that on 5th June 2021, Pakistan is hosting the international Environment Day. Last year this day was hosted by Germany

and Colombia. Dr. Kudella said that it is important for Pakistan to raise awareness on climate change and mitigate its negative impacts. He stated that climate change is both, the rise of the average temperature of the Earth's climate system and also large-scale weather shifts. It is one of the most threatening situations for Pakistan. These non-traditional security challenges are non-military in nature, but risks to the survival and well-being of people. Dr. Kudella stated that the rising temperatures are leading to the melting of glaciers in Pakistan. Moreover, they lead to a degradation of ecosystems, impact biodiversity, and cause desertification and flooding, which in turn can cause serious problems such as mass migration, starvation or poverty. He emphasized on the importance of holding these roundtables to address critical issues. Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam,



Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and Former Secretary of Climate Change Ministry stated that climate change is a subject on which we all need to work cohesively. She said that pollution has also increased in

this pandemic and explained that Pakistan has the Climate Committee and is working to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change. She suggested that in this regard think tanks can play an important role in policy orientation

process and Government should implement the devised policies. Dr. Rashid Aftab, Director of Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University stated that the outcomes of climate change

are devastating as Pakistan is among the top ten most affected countries. This has led to water insecurity. Dr. Rashid explained that climate change can lead to a number of challenges. One is the scarcity of water. Second, water availability will become erratic and put strains on population. Third, this situation will result in higher evaporation rate and raise demand of water. Dr. Rashid said that if these factors are likely to continue, it will increase frequency of droughts. While concluding, Dr. Rashid suggested that the government should devise policies which can be practically implemented. Dr. Yusuf Zaraf, TI, Former Chairman, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) explained the relevance of climate change with agriculture sector. He stated that Pakistan energy consumption is low and it is not contributing much to GHG.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary for Narcotics Control, Akbar Durrani (TI)/PAS met with Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasinzi, the rector of the International Islamic University, Islamabad to curb the menace of drugs from educational institutes. – APP

Three held for selling firecrackers

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested three firecracker sellers and recovered huge quantity of fireworks from their possession, informed police spokesman. Ganjmandi police held 3 firecrackers sellers identified as Tayyab Elahi, Mohammad Javed and Zafar and recovered huge quantity of firecrackers from their custody. Police have registered separate cases against them and started investigation. –APP

PNCA initiated its first musical project from GB studio

DNA

ISLAMABAD: After opening of Pakistan National Council of the Arts regional office at GB and formation of a fully equipped audio studio, PNCA initiated its first music project from GB Studio named Gems of GB. The program comprises of high-quality recording sessions of an album of the renowned singer of GB region Mr. Jan Ali. The legendary senior artist, musician, composer and poet – Jan Ali has recorded 10 songs and 3 instrumentals on traditional instrument Shehnai. PNCA will release a complete audio and video album titled, "Gems of GB". It will be the opening release of the mega musical series, followed by

recording and preservation of folk musical assets of Pakistan. The said project is aimed to gain multiple outcomes such as to streamline an equipped audio studio at GB, said project is also aimed to research on folk tales of Shina Language and relevant material by famous researcher in that domain Mr. Abdul Khaliq Taj. PNCA deputed a musical team of professionals (comprising of Khurram Latifi -Director Performing Arts, Sherry Bakshi – a renowned musician, music arranger along with other crew members) to record & preserve precious but dying folk songs, tunes and traditional instruments with modern recording techniques in state of the art studio.

CDA board approves Rs 156 bn budget for 2021-22

DNA

ISLAMABAD: CDA Board has approved the largest budget in the history of CDA for the new financial year 2021-22, a budget of over Rs 156 billion with an estimated expenditure of Rs 82 billion and revenue collection of Rs 156 billion while a surplus of Rs 73 billion. According

to details, the meeting of CDA Board was held under the chairmanship of CDA Chairman Amir Ali Ahmed. Board Members Shakeel Jazeb (Member Finance), Amir Abbas Khan (Member Administration), Naveed Elahi (Member Planning), Munawar Shah (Member Engineering), Nayyar Ali Dada (Member Architect), Iftikhar Arif, Chaudhry Muhammad

Wateen, Huawei partner to upgrade network

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Wateen Telecom, a leading ICT company with a fiber infrastructure across 250 cities in Pakistan, has signed an agreement with Huawei Pakistan to modernize its countrywide data transmission network. Wateen will be deploying a state-of-the-art Optical Transmission Network from Huawei to revolutionize digital landscape of the country. The agreement was signed in Lahore at the Wateen Telecom head office by Adil Rashid, CEO Wateen Telecom and Mark Meng, CEO Huawei Pakistan. Wateen Telecom will have en-

hanced capacities and higher speeds on its nationwide optical fiber network after the completion of project. As demand for superior network performance continues to grow, both domestically and internationally, Wateen's network is designed to facilitate growth to meet the exponential increase in internet capacity demand. The new network capacity holds the potential to perform at 100G to 400G rates to future bandwidth requirements. Wateen Telecom is fully geared for 4G growth and 5G era with its futuristic network architecture, resilient fiber footprint, high-capacity transmission infrastructure and nationwide field services

organization. This network modernization will give the required impetus to offer new opportunities to benefit small, medium & large enterprises, financial institutions, cellular mobile operators, education sector, internet resellers across Pakistan and international customers. Adil Rashid, CEO Wateen Telecom, said on the occasion, "As an organization that is always innovating to stay ahead of tomorrow's needs, we are proud to have Huawei's technologies onboard to serve our customers best. This successful innovation is only one of the many that will follow as Pakistan advances on its path to digitalization."

PEIRA sets up vaccination center for teachers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority (PEIRA) has set up a coronavirus vaccination center here at Aims Education System H/8 Campus for the teaching staff of private sector schools. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Ali Nawaz Awan inaugurated the center. Parliamentary Secretary for Federal Education and Professional Training Wajiha Akram and PEIRA Chairperson Ms. Zia Batool were also present at the inauguration ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, Ali Nawaz Awan said despite being a major populated country, the Covid pandemic was under control due to policies and efforts made by the government led by National Command and Operation Center (NCO) Chairman and Federal Minister Asad Umar.

On the contrary, he said, neighboring country India was facing dangerous situation with high number of corona cases.

He said around 0.4 million people were being vaccinated daily in Pakistan, and the whole population would be vaccinated till December. He said on the direction of NCO, PEIRA had started a campaign to vaccinate the teachers of private sector schools.

Wajiha Akram said the vaccination of teachers was being done on the directives of NCO. Examinations schedule had also been announced, she added. She urged the teachers to vaccinate themselves as soon as possible.

Wardens get prizes for offering cold drinks

RAWALPINDI: Chief Traffic Officer Rawalpindi Rai Mazhar Iqbal distributed certificates of commendation and awarded cash prizes to traffic wardens for offering cold drinks to the motorists in scorching heat.

Chief Traffic Officer Rawalpindi Rai Mazhar Iqbal said that such traffic wardens deserves appreciation and are a source of pride for department. Those who received commendation certificates, cash prizes were Amir, Traffic Warden Ramzan, Traffic Warden Nawazish and Traffic Assistant Muhammad Akbar.

On the occasion, Chief Traffic Officer Rawalpindi Rai Mazhar Iqbal said that the spirit of the traffic warden is commendable and his good deeds will be encouraged on every platform so that they can perform their duties with more courage and dedication.

He further said that the initiative taken by the on-duty traffic police personnel with the spirit of service to the road users is a perfect example for other personnel. He urged road users to follow traffic rules to avoid fatal accidents. – APP

MDCAT exam syllabus finalized

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The National Medical and Dental Academic Board meeting was held here on Wednesday to finalize the NLE (MBBS) and MDCAT examinations' structure and syllabus. The recommendations have been forwarded to the Medical and Dental Council, where the body will convene on Friday for final approval and implementation thereafter. According to the Pakistan Medical Commission spokesman, the commission is committed in its efforts to maintain the highest standards of transparency and competence, following rigorous protocols of approval processes across multiple channels. He said that PMC is striving to set standards of excellence and continues to work towards implementing them in every medical and dental institute across Pakistan, both for post-graduate and undergraduate education.



ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan, Romanian Friendship Forum Zahid Maqbaool and Atif Ikram presenting bouquet to Zafar Bakhtrawri on his election as Secretary General UBG group. – DNA

Intra-Afghan accord critical for peace: IPS webinar

The speaker urged regional countries, especially Pakistan, and internal power contenders to mitigate any chances of a civil war

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: An all-inclusive Afghan-owned accord among Afghanistan's internal power contenders is the only solution to end the issues engulfing the country's people and the region. Otherwise, bloodshed will continue in the war-torn country, which is already on the brink of a civil war, in case the US leaves the Afghans on their own, as it had done before, without striking an intra-Afghan agreement. This was the crux of a webinar titled 'US withdrawal from Afghanistan: Threats to regional peace, within and without' organized by the Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad. Syed Abrar Hussain, IPS' vice-chairman and Pakistan's former ambassador to Afghanistan, chaired the webinar, which was addressed by

Brigadier (r) Said Nazir, IPS' senior associate and geostrategic analyst, as the keynote speaker. Khalid Rahman, IPS' chairman, Jumma Khan Sufi, author and Afghan affairs expert, and Hasan Khan, senior journalist and analyst, were among the discussants. In his address, Said Nazir said that as the date of US withdrawal is coming closer, violence in Afghanistan is increasing – underlying the intense power struggle that is going on between the Taliban and the Afghan government. He said Washington, after the pullout, would act as a mere distant spectator of the mess it would leave behind in Afghanistan. Commenting on the much-debated air and ground logistical support to the US by Pakistan, he feared that if such action is taken, it would be det-

rimonial to peace and stability in the region and Pakistan as it will have direct consequences for the countries that will provide assistance to the US in this regard. As the Taliban have also cautioned regional countries against such a move, this will further intensify the armed conflict, resulting in the influx of Afghan refugees, he warned. Providing facilities of bases to the US in Pakistan, he argued, will not serve national interests. Instead, it will allow anti-state elements, including Daesh and the TTP, which are gaining ground along the Pak-Afghan border inside Afghanistan, to label Pakistan a US proxy. The speaker urged regional countries, especially Pakistan, and internal power contenders to mitigate any chances of a civil war. Pakistan needs to beef up its efforts and precautionary measures for

lasting regional peace in the presence of spoilers, especially India, which will try to add fuel to the ongoing fight, he warned. Sufi was of the view that the British government is trying to bring Pakistan and Afghanistan closer in a bid to solve bilateral issues that have prevailed between the neighbors for a long time. He revealed that the UK facilitated the recent meeting between the Pakistan Army chief and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. He stressed that Pakistan needs to provide the regional power brokers to ensure Afghanistan recognizes the existing Pak-Afghan border for a long-term settlement. Talking about his recent visit to Afghanistan, Hasan Khan said that the Afghan people generally like Pakistan and did not despise it as is often depicted in media, especially social media.



Covid and politics

THE coronavirus pandemic and politics have often clashed with each other in various parts of the world. We have seen this in the US and in other countries in Europe and Australia, as well as countries closer to home. We now see it in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, where the Assembly completes its term on July 29, with the constitution of the territory stating that a new poll must be held within 90 days. The NCOC suggested that polls in Jammu and Kashmir be delayed by two months in light of the high number of Covid-19 cases, so that more people could be vaccinated.

Instantly, there has been retaliation from the main opposition parties, notably the PML-N, and also the PPP as well as various other political groups. The parties have said there is no constitutional provision for the polls to be delayed and that the tactic is simply a way for the PTI to force candidates from other parties to join its ranks. The PPP has said this process is already underway, with arm-twisting to force candidates to defect. We are told that the Covid positivity rate is going down in the country. Even then it is possible there may be concerns of a very genuine nature over political gatherings and attendance at rallies. But there seems to be no need to create more animosity with the political opposition by leaving them out in the cold ahead of the announcement by the NCOC.

In politics, all things need to be worked out collectively and through dialogue. This after all is the essence of democracy. The Covid situation could have been discussed with Farooq Haider, the present prime minister of AJK, and other party leaders who have been active already in campaigning in the territory. It could so easily have been worked out simply by talking and by bringing all parties together to do so. The fact that this was not done has resulted in a situation where there is growing anger which could spill over into the polls as the campaign gets underway in the AJK.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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ABC CERTIFIED

Vol: 02 Issue: 27

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Iranian elections

THE 2021 Iranian presidential elections are scheduled to be held soon. Under the Iranian constitution, Hassan Rouhani, the incumbent president, is ineligible to run for re-election as he was limited to two terms, which means that the succeeding President will be a new candidate, prompting several predictions about the inevitable change in Iran's policies. This election is particularly impactful since it comes at a time when Iran is at a headway. Decisions made at this time can change the trajectory of Iran's course completely for the next four years. How the next Iranian president will negotiate with US President Joe Biden over the Iran deal right now is crucial in determining the new US administration's approach with Iran.

The longstanding Middle East cold war might also finally be slowing down, as three weeks ago, Iran's foreign ministry stated for the first time that talks have been held with regional rival Saudi Arabia. While an Iranian President does not have complete power, considering the ultimate authority lies with the Supreme Leader, if Rouhani's successor takes a calm and conciliatory approach, it can go a long way in reducing hostilities in the region, and in resolving Iran's catastrophic economic crisis brought about because of debilitating sanctions and the pandemic.

While in all likelihood, it appears that a 'hardliner' will replace Rouhani—with Chief Justice of Iran Ebrahim Raisi leading the polls—it is important for Pakistan to keep up active engagement with the next president. A stable Iran is crucial for Pakistan and the region. Pakistan and Iran share several outstanding border trespass and smuggling issues, for which economic cooperation and regional connectivity is required. Pakistan is also poised to play its role in seeking rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran—for that, constant engagement and a closer friendship with both sides is needed.

Wakeup Pakistan: Getting too late for food security

Munir Ahmed



Shandana Gulzar, Convener of the Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Agriculture, feels determined to provide opportunities to young people and women to engage in food productions and processing systems and mechanisms in the country. She believes that food security policy 2018 shall be implemented in letter

PAKISTAN is a graveyard of national policies. The recently buried one is the 'Food security' that was finalized and approved in 2018. Almost three years on, the stakeholders are waiting for any action on it. The participants of the recently organized conference by Awaz CDS and Pakistan Development Alliance, VSO-Pakistan and UKAid on "Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood in Pakistan" have shown grave concerns on the policy dustbin shelves. They demanded immediate kick off the implementation and letter and spirit.

The stakeholders voiced numerous challenges related to food, agriculture, and livelihoods and shared their recommendations for the federal and provincial governments in somber. They believe that on their charter of demand, the real and practicing smallholder women and men farmers should be included in the government committees at provincial and federal levels raise their voices to safeguard their rights for better production, fair prices and sustainable livelihoods; food and nutrition security should be brought as enforceable fundamental right in the constitution of Pakistan; and while the nutrition is important for people, it should be incorporated in all the programs of agriculture and food security.

No doubt, the government should initiate training and support for kitchen gardening in rural and urban areas for improved nutrition. Indeed it's true that rising cost of production is negatively impacting small farmers. The provincial and federal governments shall monitor erratic price of inputs for the benefit of farmers. Substandard quality of seeds and inputs negatively impact agricultural production and farmers livelihoods, the relevant government departments shall monitor quality issues of agricultural inputs, and also ensure fair price of agricultural products to ensure sustainable livelihoods. The small farmers shall receive concessionary loans and crop insurance in all provinces and regions. The conference emphasized the extension departments shall be revitalized to provide required technical support to small farmers; wages of agriculture workers shall be implemented according to the national or provincial minimum wage rates whichever is higher; the farmer men and women shall be supported through trainings and financial resources to

initiate value addition of their crop, vegetables, fruits, livestock and other agricultural products.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and federal governments shall have special emphasis on the newly merged districts of FATA in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to explore potential agriculture and food production, and micro finance support shall also be extended to the natives of these areas. Women at the moment are not the focus in the agriculture system despite being in the heart actually, so women farmers shall be prioritized from university curriculum to research up to extension system. Government shall induct women staff to ensure timely and quality extension support for women farmers. Women should receive capacity building and financial support for crop, livestock, vegetable production as well as poultry and goat farming.

Sindh Women Agriculture Workers Bill 2019 is still pending. It shall be implemented in letter and spirit. All other provinces shall also ensure the replication of the similar legislations in their respective provinces and regions. Special programs should be included in government policies to address drought related situations in crop, livestock and all forms of agricultural production. Storage dams should be constructed to ensure food and agricultural production in drought hit and flood prone areas in all provinces. Livestock training and mobile livestock veterinary services should be provided in all the provinces. Women should also be given on farm training on livestock, goat and sheep and poultry farming to empower the marginalized women. Climate change is the worst threat to national water and food security. Agriculture and related policies and programs shall integrate climate change resilience from curriculum to research and up to extension systems. Government shall conduct scoping studies to assess climate related risks and related measures in all provinces and regions, and strengthen efficient water utilization for agriculture in all provinces. Crop and food diversity is important for nutrition and climate resilience. This should be encouraged through a variety of crop cultivation and naturally bred bio-fortified seeds. Pakistan has 11mhc cultivable waste. These marginal lands should be developed into new areas to produce agriculture and food crops.

Shandana Gulzar, Convener of the Parliamentary

Sub-Committee on Agriculture, feels determined to provide opportunities to young people and women to engage in food productions and processing systems and mechanisms in the country. She believes that food security policy 2018 shall be implemented in letter and spirit while taking all the provinces and other related stakeholders on board equally. "We will encourage provinces to develop their own food security policies in accordance with the national food security policy 2018. Before the 18th constitutional amendment in 2010, it was possible to have uniform policies for the whole country, however now provinces have their own agricultural policies too. They need to sync their agricultural policies with that of national food security policy if there is any challenge in this respect." MNA Riaz Fatyana- Convener, National Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs shared that the government has initiated many social protection initiatives to ensure food security of poor and marginalized communities under Ehsaas Program including Roshan Cards. The program will be kicked off soon. He also shared that small land holders and farmers will be given Kissan cards to enhance their productions. Government is also encouraging Agriculture Chambers and the first ever agriculture chamber will be initiated in Lahore soon.

Zia ur Rehman, National Convener of Pakistan Development Alliance, believes that food security should be considered as a basic human right. Pakistan is also a signatory of many international treaties and conventions including UDHR, ICESCR, CRC, CEDAW, SDGs and Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food for all citizens. These commitments demand that Pakistan should recognize food and nutrition security as fundamental human rights; however this is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan's Constitution has yet to recognize the right to food for all. Wakeup Pakistan government before it's too late to secure food for 220 million people. Your slow response or no response would lead to a disaster we could never imagine.

— The writer is a freelance journalist and broadcaster, Director Devcom-Pakistan, a policy advocacy and outreach think tank in Islamabad. His email: devcom.pakistan@gmail.com Twitter Handle: @EmmayeSyed

2021 World Environment Day hosted by Pakistan

Munaza Kazmi



The theme for World Environment Day 2021 is "Ecosystem Restoration" and will see the launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Ecosystem restoration can take many forms: Growing trees, greening cities, rewilding gardens, changing diets or cleaning up rivers and coasts. This is the generation that can make peace with nature. Ecosystem restoration means assisting in the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded or destroyed

IN 1972, the UN General Assembly designated 5 June as "World Environment Day". The first celebration, under the slogan "Only One Earth" took place in 1974. In the following years, World Environment Day has developed as a platform to raise awareness on the problems facing our environment such as air pollution, plastic pollution, illegal wildlife trade, sustainable consumption, sea-level increase, and food security, among others. Furthermore, World Environment Day helps drive change in consumption patterns and in national and international environmental policy.

The theme for World Environment Day 2021 is "Ecosystem Restoration" and will see the launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Ecosystem restoration can take many forms: Growing trees, greening cities, rewilding gardens, changing diets or cleaning up rivers and coasts. This is the generation that can make peace with nature. Ecosystem restoration means assisting in the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded or destroyed, as well as conserving the ecosystems that are still intact. Healthier ecosystems, with richer biodiversity, yield greater benefits such as more fertile soils, bigger yields of timber and fish, and larger stores of greenhouse gases. However, restoration can happen in many ways – for example through actively planting or by removing pressures so that nature can recover on its own. It is not always possible or desirable to return an ecosystem to its original state. We still need farmland and infrastructure on land that was once forest, for instance, and ecosystems, like societies, need to adapt to a changing climate.

Between now and 2030, the restoration of 350 million hectares of degraded terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems could generate US\$9 trillion in ecosystem services. Restoration could also remove 13 to 26 gigatons of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. The economic benefits of such interventions exceed nine times the cost of investment, whereas inaction is at least three times costlier than ecosystem restoration. All kinds of ecosystem can be restored, including forests, farmlands, cities, wetlands and oceans. Restoration initiatives can be launched by almost anyone, from governments and development agencies to businesses, communities and indi-

viduals. That is because the causes of degradation are many and varied and can have an impact at different scales.

Every year World Environment Day is hosted by a different country, in which official celebrations take place, and this year's host is Pakistan.

The Government of Pakistan plans to expand and restore the country's forests through a 10 Billion Tree Tsunami spread over five years. The campaign includes restoring mangroves and forests, as well as planting trees in urban settings, including schools, colleges, public parks and green belts. Through the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami, Pakistan is contributing to the Bonn Challenge, a global effort linked to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Under the challenge, countries are pledging to bring 350 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2030. World Environment Day is celebrated every once a year, to remind us that we are not alone on this planet. There is a huge biological ecosystem that exists, and we as a human being survive because of that, since we are all part of a chain, removing or damaging a

bead can disturb the beauty and existence of the whole chain.

Preserving nature is our responsibility, that can be done by adopting simple steps, why it's the most urgent to throw the peel off out of the car windows? We can keep it in paper and then to throw in dustbin. We go to recreational spots in order to pollute them, I believe first educate oneself then others. It is only the human that pollutes, damages and harms, can't we just change this habit. We have taken a lot from this nature, it's the time to refund, however its not refund but an investment. Next, it's an appeal to the parents and institutions to create awareness among the younger generation, tell them aspects about nature and the significance of birds, animals, ecology, and even the small insects. A humble example could be our six-legged friends – bees. The contribution that bees make to food production is astonishing.

Moreover, respect Biodiversity & nature. Biodiversity plays an important role in offering ecological services that make life livable on Earth. Each species, no matter how big or small, has a considerable impact on the ecosystem.



Briefs

ECO
countries
mull
cooperation

From Page 01

Assembly of ECO in Islamabad Wednesday said that the member states must pool their resources to build the capacity of local communities through education and training of their population, especially in livelihoods connected to tourism.

It also stressed the need for promoting religious, cultural, and health tourism through enhanced connectivity and development of infrastructure and institutions in the tourist industry of all member states. All member states also reiterated the importance of sustainable ecotourism, which is both a powerful source of perpetual poverty alleviation as well as environmental conservation for coming generations. The statement said elimination of terrorism is a key to ensuring security in our region which is vital to attract and develop our tourist industries.

The key recommendations of the session are include: i. We recognize the fact that our common heritage viz a viz the historical silk route and enormously beautiful geography gives the ECO region enormous potential as an international tourist destination; ii. ECO country governments must cooperate in all forms of Tourism, which remains as a great driver of sustainable development and poverty alleviation. We must pool our resources to build the capacity of local communities through education and training of our population especially in livelihoods connected to tourism; iii. ECO states must promote religious, cultural and health tourism, which will be possible through enhanced connectivity and development of infrastructure and institutions in the tourist industry of all member states.

'Covid
pushes over
100m into
poverty'

From Page 01

"Without a deliberate effort to accelerate the creation of decent jobs, and support the most vulnerable members of society and the recovery of the hardest-hit economic sectors, the lingering effects of the pandemic could be with us for years in the form of lost human and economic potential, and higher poverty and inequality."

The report showed that global unemployment was expected to stand at 205 million people in 2022 – far higher than the 187 million in 2019. But the situation is worse than official unemployment figures indicate. Many people have held onto their jobs but have seen their working hours cut dramatically.

In 2020, 8.8 percent of global working hours were lost compared to the fourth quarter of 2019 – the equivalent of 255 million full-time jobs.

While the situation has improved, global working hours are far from having bounced back, and the world will still be short the equivalent of 100 million full-time jobs by the end of this year, the report found. Global employment is expected to recover more quickly in the second half of 2021 – provided the overall pandemic situation does not worsen.

Cultural show held to mark
Pak-China diplomatic ties

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haq thanked the Chinese dignitaries for their warm sentiments for Pakistan and said that friendship between Pakistan and China was unprecedented in history of inter-state relations due to its scope and depth

BEIJING: A colourful cultural show mesmerized the audience at a reception held here to mark the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. Senior Chinese and Pakistani officials, businessmen, representatives of media organisations and prominent citizens from both sides attended the event. It was co-organized by the China International Cultural Communication Centre (CICCC), China Pakistan Friendship Association and the Embassy of Pakistan in China. The major attraction of the cultural show was the newly released song "you stole my heart" sung by Pakistan's famous artist Ali Zafar and Chinese singer YangMinqi. This song was released on eve of 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between

two all weather friends. It had been instantly hit and seen by millions of people of Pakistan and China. During the show, the special cultural show highlighted the history and culture of the two countries. Chinese and Pakistani singers sang national songs of Pakistan and China. The high quality performance of Chinese troupes of Miao and Zhuang artists from Yunnan and Guangxi provinces on Pakistani and Chinese songs was deeply appreciated by the audience. Speaking on the occasion, Pakistan Ambassador to China, MoinulHaq thanked the Chinese dignitaries for their warm sentiments for Pakistan and said that friendship between Pakistan and China was unprecedented in history of inter-state relations due to its scope and depth. He said that



70th anniversary was an opportune moment for the two sides to take pride in their past achievements and reaffirm their resolve to expand bilateral friendship to new areas of cooperation. Ambassador Moin said that to

build Pakistan-China community of shared destiny was a strategic decision of the country's leadership and added, the diplomats, members of the different institutions and enterprises would fulfill their commitment to make shared destiny of the two countries a reality. During his speech, President of China-Pakistan Friendship Association, Ambassador ShaZukang paid glowing tribute to the succeeding generations and leadership of two countries for their endeavours to deepen Pakistan-China friendship. Reaffirming China's strong commitment to strengthening strategic ties with Pakistan, Ambassador Sha said that Pakistan-China friendship was driven by mutual respect, bilateral understanding and commonality of interests. He added that the two countries would continue deepening their

fraternal ties as envisaged by their leadership and the peoples. In his welcome address, President of CICCC, Long Yuxiang congratulated the peoples and governments of both countries on the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties. He said that besides ever-growing political and economic ties, Pakistan and China were rapidly expanding people-to-people and cultural exchanges which would further deepen their bilateral friendship. President Long reiterated that CICCC would continue its efforts to enhance cultural ties between Pakistan and China in future. It may be mentioned here that both the countries would organize more than 120 events to commemorate seven decades of diplomatic relations. – APP

Pakistan,
Tajikistan
committed..

From Page 01

Imran Khan said that if India takes back the steps it took on August 5, "then we can definitely hold talks". Meanwhile, President Emomali Rahmon expressed his country's interest to access Pakistan's Gwadar and Karachi seaports as the 'shortest trade route' for the landlocked Central Asian state to connect with the region. The Tajik president, in this regard, supported the establishment of a 'trade corridor' passing through Pakistan. The two leaders, who earlier held wide-ranging discussions on diverse areas of cooperation, expressed willingness to further strengthen the bilateral multifaceted ties. President Emomali Rahmon stressed "full-fledged cooperation" between Tajikistan and Pakistan to manage energy and water resources and also tapping the potential of Central Asia-South Asia (CASA-1000) power project. President Rahmon termed Pakistan a "reliable and trustworthy partner" of Tajikistan at the international stage, where the two countries had similarity of agenda to pursue mutually beneficial cooperation.

MoUs
signed
between...

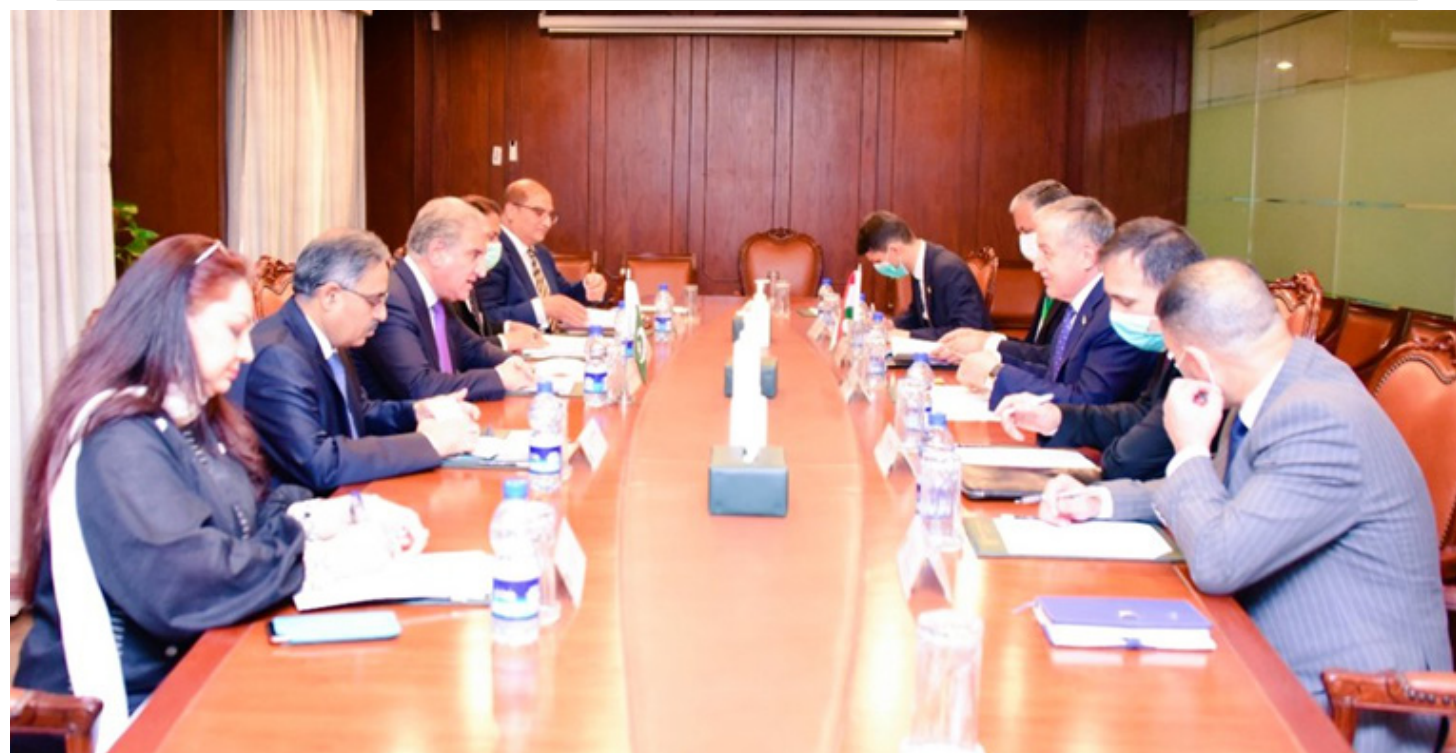
From Page

- Memorandum of Understanding between Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Chamber of Commerce & Industry of the Republic of Tajikistan.
- Memorandum of Understanding between Agency for State Financial Control & Struggle against Corruption of the Republic of Tajikistan and National Accountability Bureau of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan for Cooperation in the Field of Prevention & Liquidation of Emergency Situations.
- Agreement between the Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in the field of Art and Culture.
- Memorandum of Understanding between Tajik Institute of Languages, Dushanbe Tajikistan and National University of Modern Languages (NUML) Pakistan.
- Memorandum of Understanding between Technological University of Tajikistan and COMSATS University Islamabad
- Agreement on International Road Transport
- Cooperation Programme between Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Tajikistan
- Joint Declaration on Next Steps in Building Strategic Partnership for Regional Solidarity and Integration.

COAS visits
training area

From Page 01

COAS expressed satisfaction over combat readiness of the formation. Rigorous training and continued practice of operational drills are imperative for effective response to wide ranging threats, COAS emphasized. Earlier, on arrival, COAS was received by Corps Commander, Lieutenant General Azhar Abbas.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Quraishi welcome Tajikistan FM Sirojiddin Muhriddin to the Foreign Office & to follow up on discussions in Dushanbe on strengthening all bilateral ties across economic, political, defence and education spheres. – DNA

Mahoor
earns
Olympics
spot

SPORTS DESK

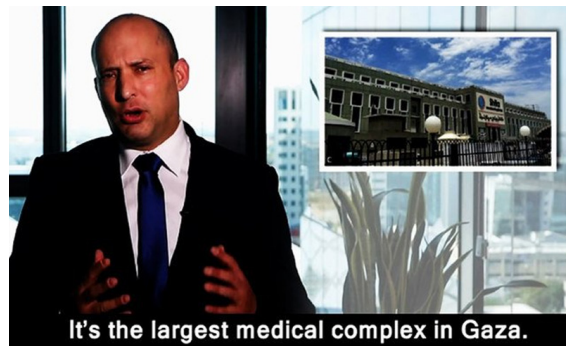
KARACHI: Mahoor Shahzad has made history as she has become the first-ever badminton player from Pakistan to qualify for Tokyo Olympics, Pakistan Badminton Federation (PBF) said on Tuesday. "This is indeed a result of her endless efforts and hard work that she has been selected to participate in the prestigious event," President of PBF Nisar Ahmed Shahwani and Secretary General PBF Wajid Ali Chaudhry said in a joint statement. With the support of PBF, she was selected in the Asian Olympics program of Badminton Asia that helped her improve her world ranking, enabling her to earn a spot in the event, they said.

Pak decries use of hospital
image for ' Hamas HQ' post

FOREIGN DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has taken "serious exception" to an Israeli far-right politician's use of an image of a hospital in the capital city Islamabad, claiming it was a Hamas headquarters and "the largest medical complex in Gaza," foreign office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said.

"We have seen the statement by Israel's former war minister and we believe that it is casual misjudgment at best, and deliberate misrepresentation at worst," Chaudhri told Arab media. "We also take serious ex-



It's the largest medical complex in Gaza.

ception to the fact that a Pakistani building was misquoted in the statement," he added. The attacks killed more than 240 people in the Palestinian territory between May 10 and May 21 when a cease-fire was announced.

On May 20, Israeli far-right politician and former war minister Naftali Bennett posted a video on Twitter showing an image of a hospital that he said was the "largest medical complex in Gaza" and a Hamas headquarters from where the group was "conducting terror actions against Israel." Social media users were quick to point out that the photo was of the Shifa International Hospital in Islamabad. Prime Minister Imran Khan's special representative on the Middle East, Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, called Bennett's video a deliberate attempt to mislead the world.

Djokovic saunters
into FO round two

SPORTS DESK

PARIS: World number one Novak Djokovic kicked off his French Open campaign with a routine 6-2 6-4 6-2 win against American Tenny Sandgren on Tuesday in the first men's match to be scheduled in a night session. With no spectators allowed on Philippe Chatrier court due to a 9pm local curfew, the Serbian went through the gears as he dispatched his opponent seemingly effortlessly. Djokovic, who is chasing a 19th major title and looking to narrow the gap to 20-time Grand Slam champions Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer, showed some signs of frustration in the second set but world number 66 Sandgren was never close to bothering him. The third set was a mere formality as Djokovic, who won his only Roland Garros title in 2016, won five games in a row in what resembled a training session. He next faces Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas on his way to a potential semi-final showdown with 13-time French Open champion Nadal. While Djokovic appreciated



the first men's night session at Roland Garros, Djokovic said he would have preferred to play in front of crowds like he did last week in Belgrade, where he won the title. "I'm honoured to be the first men's match to play a Roland Garros night session. It was very interesting to say the least, I liked the conditions and the way I played, the way I moved, the way I felt, it worked out pretty well," he told a court-side interviewer. "Tennys played some good tennis. He challenged my serve, in the second set he had six break points. But it was awfully quiet, with crowds it would have been the perfect scenario, perfect setting, but hopefully this is the last match without a crowd for me in this tournament." One night session a day is scheduled until June 9, but only the last one is set to be played in front of fans with the French government pushing back the curfew until 11pm next Wednesday.

ASEAN leaders plan Myanmar visit this week

FOREIGN DESK

JAKARTA: The chair and secretary-general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) plan to travel to Myanmar this week even as the 10-nation group remains divided on how to respond to the military coup there, four diplomatic sources have told the Reuters news agency. Myanmar is a member of ASEAN and has a policy of non-interference in the affairs of members, but it has led the main diplomatic effort to resolve the crisis that has engulfed the country since February 1 when the military staged a coup and removed the demo-

cratically elected government. The military has detained Myanmar's civilian leader, Aung San Suu Kyi and imprisoned political opponents amid a deadly crackdown on protesters, resulting in a growing refugee crisis and the collapse of the economy. Erywan Yusuf, the second minister for foreign affairs for Brunei, ASEAN's chair this year and the group's Secretary-General Lim Jock Hoi, also from Brunei, are scheduled to meet leaders of Myanmar's military this week, the sources, who asked not to be identified, said. The sources warned that a trip could be delayed or derailed by last-minute logistical and diplomatic impediments.

It is unclear if the pair will meet opponents of the military government, many of whom are imprisoned or in hiding. ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR), a grouping of Southeast Asian MPs, said it was crucial that civilian leaders be included and that ASEAN representatives had to meet Aung San Suu Kyi and U Win Myint, who was president before the generals snatched power. "If ASEAN only meets with the military it risks, once again, playing into the junta's public relations exercise and granting them legitimacy, when all they deserve is admonition," Charles Santiago, APHR chairman and a Malaysian MP, said in a statement.

United States history riddled
with massacres, genocide

OVUNC KUTLU

US President Joe Biden's controversial recognition of 1915 events between Armenians and Turks as genocide brings to light massacres in American history in the last 500 years. Biden called the events of 1915 an "Armenian genocide" on April 24, breaking American presidents' long-held tradition of refraining from using the term. But during the course of American history, the US and its European ancestors have been involved in numerous massacres and carried out genocides against indigenous peoples. Genocide is an act commit-

ted with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, according to the Geneva Convention. With that in mind, the conquest of the Americas in 1492, European colonization led to the systematic eradication of indigenous peoples on the continent. Native American genocide The 13 American colonies' population grew from about 2,000 to 2.4 million between 1625 and 1775 while displacing Native Americans from eastern North America. After the colonies declared independence in 1776 from Great Britain and formed the US, the settlers started to move west, clashing

with and eradicating the Apache, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Chinook, Navajo and Sioux tribes. Some of the names today are sadly used for American warfare helicopters and ubiquitous sport utility vehicles. The surviving descendants of Native American tribes live in poverty on federally recognized Indian reservations across the US. Almost 100 million indigenous people in the Western Hemisphere have been killed or died prematurely because of the Europeans and their descendants in five centuries, according to David E. Stannard in his book, American Holocaust: The Conquest of the New World. Around 12 million indig-

enous people died within present US geographical boundaries between 1492 and 1900, according to Russell Thornton in American Indian Holocaust and Survival: A Population History since 1492. Genocides against Africans and slavery Despite having unalienable rights – life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness – as enshrined in the American Declaration of Independence, not all in the new colonies were considered equal. The colonies had a system of slavery, which European settlers carried as a practice into the Americas from the Old World, despite English Protestants praising themselves as Puritans.

Tourism potential game changer for
Pakistan, it's economy: Fawad Ch

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Wednesday said Prime Minister Imran Khan was taking keen interest in the promotion of tourism as it was a potential game changer for Pakistan and its economy. "Pakistan was a beautiful and peaceful country. Prime Minister Imran Khan has a special focus and taking keen interest for the promotion of tourism in the country as PM believed tourism was the sector which could be the potential game-changer of Pakistan and its economy," he said while addressing the second Conference of the Parliamentary As-



sembly of the Economic Cooperation Organization (PAECO) Countries. "We would like people to come to Pakistan and see our beautiful country, misunderstood by many, we have huge tourist's resources at our disposal, we have remarkable history on our

side, Pakistan was a peaceful and beautiful country," he said. He said it was responsibility of Pakistan embassies across the world to guide people and inform them about beautiful tourist destinations. Fawad said the government was working on an easy visa policy. "We

need to work on our visa regime and need to work our security perceptions for the promotion of tourism in the country," he added. He said Switzerland was half of Pakistani Gilgit Baltistan but Switzerland was earning huge money from tourism. "Turkey was a world leader in tourism, we can learn from Turkey and we must," he added. The minister stressed the need for overcoming hurdles – saying, "We need to work on our visa regime, and need to work our security perceptions for the promotion of tourism in the country," he added. He said Pakistan has top mountains to visit. There is no example of diversity in weather right from K-2 mountains to Karachi seaport.

Briefs

Turkey issues travel advisory for Pakistan

DNA

ANKARA: Following the announcement of new regulations by the Turkish authorities imposing a quarantine of 14 days on passengers arriving from Pakistan with effect from 1st June, the Pakistan Embassy is in touch with the Turkish authorities about this decision. A number of Pakistanis were resultantly stranded in Istanbul airport as they had started their journey on 31 May and 1st June before the announcement of these rules. At the Pakistan Embassy's intercession, the Turkish authorities have granted a one day exemption (for 1 June 2021) to such passengers, and they are being allowed entry into Turkey after a negative PCR test conducted at the airport. The Embassy of Pakistan Ankara and Consulate in General of Pakistan Istanbul have been in contact with our nationals at the airport to help minimize the impact of these regulations. A team from the Pakistan Consulate General was also at the Istanbul Airport to render possible assistance and facilitate our nationals' entry into Turkey. Passengers traveling from Pakistan to Turkey are requested to re-assess their travel plans in light of these new travel regulations announced by the Turkish authorities.

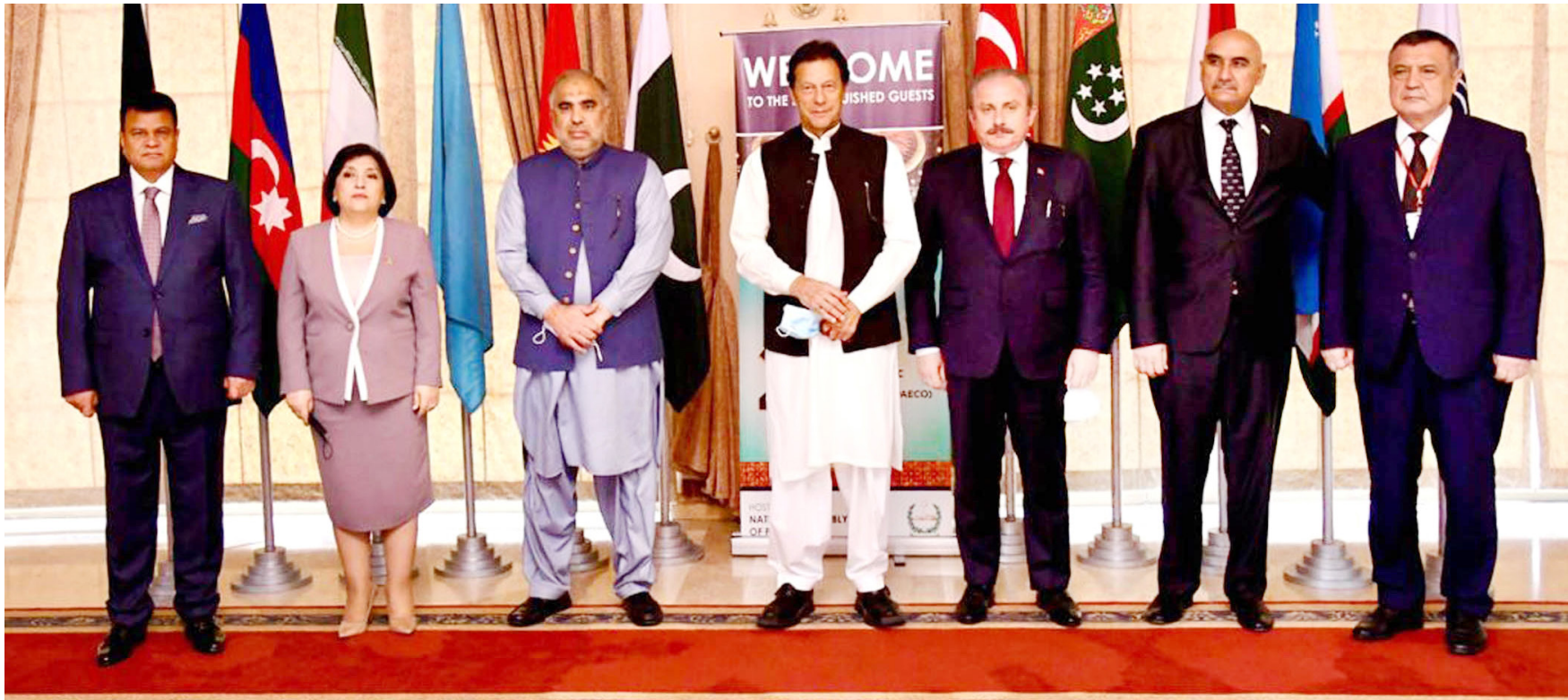
'Pak keen to enhance ties with Tajikistan'

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi says Pakistan is determined to enhance bilateral cooperation with Tajikistan in diverse fields, including education, housing, infrastructure development, technology and energy. Talking to the visiting Tajik President Emomali Rahmon in Islamabad on Wednesday, he said the two countries have immense potential to expand multi-faceted bilateral cooperation, including trade. The Minister said it is welcoming that the leadership of both the countries has been endeavoring to further strengthen the bilateral ties. He said timely completion of the important projects like CASA-1000 will help establish energy corridor between South Asia and Central Asia. The Foreign Minister apprised the Tajik President about Pakistan's reconciliatory efforts and its fruits in Afghanistan. He said Pakistan will continue its efforts for regional peace and stability. He said Pakistan believes that durable peace in Afghanistan is inevitable for progress and prosperity of the region. He said Tajikistan's efforts for peace in Afghanistan are also commendable. The Tajik President thanked the Foreign Minister and the Pakistani leadership for the warm welcome and hospitality.

WB proposes \$200 credit facilities for housing

ISLAMABAD: The Country Director, World Bank (WB), Najy Benhassine in a meeting with the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Shaukat Tarin shared the Bank's proposed \$200 million credit facilities for various interventions in the housing sector. The Finance and Revenue, Shaukat Tarin, chaired the meeting at the Finance Division with Chairman Naya Pakistan Housing & Development Authority, Lt. General (Retd) Anwar Ali Haider and WB Country Director to consider the possibility of providing additional funds for housing finance in Pakistan. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue, Dr. Waqar Masood was also present in the meeting, the statement added. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan with Parliamentary Speakers of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan during closing ceremony of 2nd Parliamentary Assembly of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (PAECO) countries. - DNA

India's variant threatens to rapidly spread in sub-region

The B.1.617 COVID-19 variant, first detected in India, is divided in three lineages: B.1.617.1, B.1.617.2 and B.1.617.3

DNA

GENEVA: The highly-infectious COVID-19 variant first detected in India threatens to rapidly spread in the sub-region, including among refugees, the UN refugee agency has said as it warned of vaccine shortages in the Asia-Pacific region, including for asylum-seekers. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesperson Andrej Mahacic, at a press briefing in Geneva, said that the fragile health systems in many countries in the Asia and Pacific region have struggled to cope with the recent surge of coronavirus

cases. "We are particularly worried about the situation in the Asia and Pacific region, which in the past two months has experienced the largest increase in the number of cases globally," he said. Over this period, there have been some 38 million recorded COVID-19 cases and more than half a million deaths, the UNHCR spokesperson said. The lack of hospital beds, oxygen supplies, limited Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacities and scarce health facilities and services have worsened outcomes for those infected with COVID-19, particularly in India and Nepal. The highly infectious variant of the virus which first emerged in India threatens to rapidly spread in the sub-region, including among refugee populations, Mahacic said. The B.1.617 COVID-19 variant, first detected in India, is divided in three lineages: B.1.617.1, B.1.617.2 and B.1.617.3. The B.1.617.2 strain - rechristened 'Delta' by the World Health Organisation (WHO) which has said that only B.1.617.2 is now a variant of concern, observing that lower rates of transmission have been observed for the other two lineages, making them no longer variants of concern. The B.1.617.2 is now labelled variant Delta and has

been reported in 62 countries as of June 1. With COVID-19 raging in many parts of the world, the UNHCR warned of shortages of vaccines in the Asia-Pacific region, including for refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR spokesperson Mahacic said: We urge an immediate and stronger support for the COVAX initiative, a worldwide effort aimed at achieving equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. "This is critical to save lives and curb the impact of the virus, particularly in developing nations. These countries host the vast majority of more than 80 million forcibly displaced people in the world. Yet so far, they

have benefited from only a fraction of the world's COVID-19 vaccines. The UNHCR stressed that no one can be left behind in the global effort against the coronavirus. "The pandemic will be defeated only when vaccinations become available everywhere on an equitable basis, the agency said. It said that the current delays in vaccine shipments, brought about by limited supplies to COVAX, mean that some of the world's most vulnerable people remain susceptible to the virus. The UNHCR is adding its voice to the calls for countries with surplus doses to donate to COVAX, and

for manufacturers to boost supplies to the COVAX facility, Mahacic said. The UN refugee agency said that refugees remain especially vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19 as overcrowded settings, coupled with limited water and sanitation facilities, can contribute to increased infection rates and an exponential spread of the virus. It said that in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar, where almost 900,000 Rohingya refugees are living in the single largest and most densely populated cluster of refugee camps in the world, the number of cases has increased considerably in the last two months.

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Chinese experience to help Pakistan control water pollution

DNA

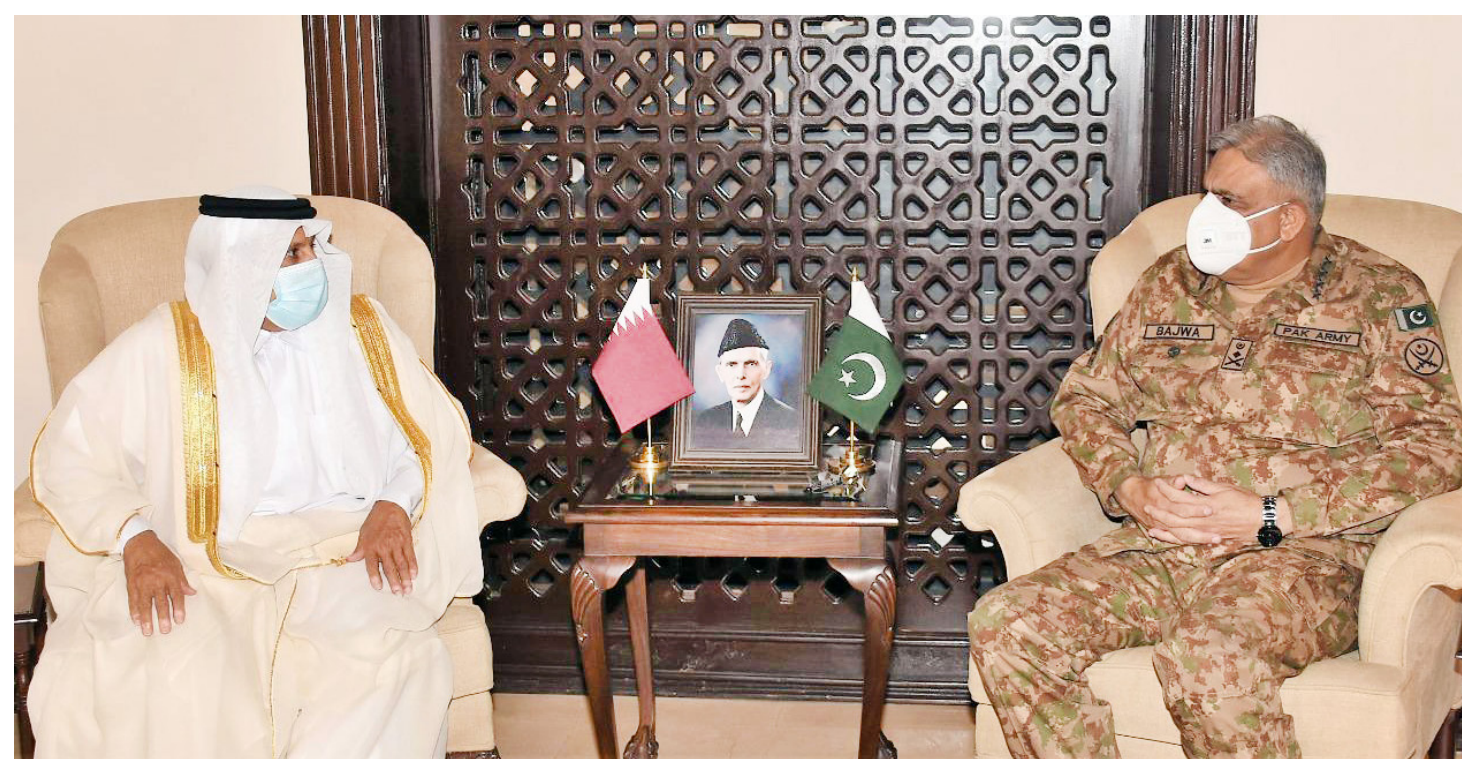
BEIJING: China hopes to cooperate with Pakistan in water pollution control, protection of drinking water sources and recycling of waste water as it has gained experience through explorations in the sector. This was stated by Wang Dong, director of Water Ecological Environment Planning Institute in Chinese Academy of Environmental Research. Wang Dong stressed that the first step of water pollution control is legislation. China adopts a series of related regulations such as the Water Pollution Prevention Law. "China has more than 60 criteria for industrial waste water emission. Moreover, there are local emission criteria for specific areas." "In addition to installing on-line monitoring equipment to inspect conventional water pollution indicators, industries in China also need to conduct manual monitoring regularly. Third-party agencies and environmental management departments also come for monitoring and impose fines on illegal sewage discharge," he told China Economic Net. China started to treat domestic sewage on a large scale in the 1990s, the work started from cities to towns and then to rural areas. According to Wang Dong, the daily processing capacity of sewage treatment facilities in China now has exceeded 200 million cubic meters. "Collection facilities have also been constructed.

'Economy improving due to govt's policies'

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Wednesday said the national economy was improving due to the prudent policies adopted by the incumbent government. All the sectors were showing positive indicators as a record tax had been collected during the current fiscal year, he said while talking to a private television. The minister said despite the coronavirus pandemic, the government did not opt for lockdown to keep the wheel of economy running, which had perturbed the opposition. The opposition was confused nowadays and the body language of leaders did not support their words, he added. Farrukh Habib said the previous governments of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Pakistan Peoples Party had done nothing for the people's welfare and the country's development. Instead the two parties' leaderships ruthlessly looted the national wealth and ruined the national institutions, he added. Replying to a question, he said it was the result of the government's economic policies that PML-N leader Miftah Ismail's company was getting more profit as compared to earlier. - APP

COAS lauds Qatari support

RAWALPINDI: Sheikh Ali Bin Abdullah Thani J. Al Thani, Chairman of Pakistan-Qatar Takaful Insurance Company & Member of the Ruling Family of State of Qatar called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), on Wednesday. During the meeting matters of mutual interest, regional security situation including recent developments in Afghan Peace Process and bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed. Acknowledging positive trajectory of Pakistan-Qatar relationship, COAS appreciated Qatar's support to Pakistan in various domains. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's contributions for conflict prevention in the region & expressed desire for enhanced Pakistan-Qatar bilateral collaboration. - DNA



RAWALPINDI: Sheikh Ali Bin Abdullah Thani J. Al Thani, Chairman of Pakistan-Qatar Takaful Insurance Company & Member of the Ruling Family of State of Qatar called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff. - DNA

Korean envoy calls on Zobiaida Jalal

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Suh Sangpyo called on Federal Minister for Defence Production, Zobiaida

Jalal at her office in Islamabad. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, enhanced bilateral & defence cooperation were discussed. Suh Sangpyo expressed Korea's keen desire to explore

new avenues in the mutual relationship with Pakistan in all sectors, particularly in defence, economy and education sectors. Both reiterated the commitment to enhance Pak-Korea bilateral relationship.



Budget 21-22 to include 'no new taxes'

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The federal budget 2021-22 having a total outlay estimated at Rs8.4 trillion will be presented before the National Assembly on June 11. According to sources privy to the matter, the total outlay of the federal budget is estimated at Rs8400, with a recommendation of upto 10 to 15 percent increase in salaries of the government employees. "The budget for the pension of the government employees is estimated at Rs470 billion," they said. "It has been recommended in the budget that no new taxes should be imposed on salaries person," they said while sharing the salient features. The sources said that the development budget-Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) is estimated at Rs900 billion besides also earmarking Rs500 billion for government expenditure. They further shared that an allocation of Rs400 billion is being set aside in the budget for subsidies. "The defence budget is estimated at over Rs1300 billion for the next fiscal year," they said.

China to host China-Afghan-Pakistan FM' meeting

DNA

BEIJING: China will host fourth China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Foreign Ministers Meeting on Thursday focusing on peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan besides cooperation in security and counter terrorism, Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Wednesday. China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi will chair while the meeting while Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Afghan Foreign Minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar will attend the meeting via video link, he said during his regular briefing held here. Wang Wenbin said that the three foreign ministers would have in-depth exchanges of views on Afghan peace and reconciliation process, practical cooperation and the counter terrorism and security cooperation. Responding to question about the special background of the meeting, he said that the unilateral withdrawal of the US and NATO forces in the

critical stage of Afghan peace and reconciliation process posed new uncertainties to its domestic situation and regional security. "As good neighbours, friends and partners linked by river and sea, all three countries have the positive will to uphold regional peace and stability," he added. The spokesperson remarked that against such backdrop, the three countries decided to hold the fourth dialogue, adding, "We will focus on the peace and reconciliation process in Afghan and cooperation, security and counter terrorism." He said, "We believe it will produce positive outcomes, and promote regional peace, stability and development." He said that China, Afghanistan, Pakistan trilateral foreign ministers meeting was an important platform for all the three countries to enhance mutual trust and promote cooperation. "Since its inception in 2017, at the initiative of China, it has been held for three times and achieved positive outcomes. As agreed by all, the fourth dialogue will be chaired by China," he added.

Soldier martyred

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A soldier embraced martyrdom during an improvised explosive device (IED) attack near a military check post in South Waziristan's Kaniguram Town, the military's media wing said Wednesday. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), in a statement, said Lance Naik Waqas Ahmed, 26, hailing from Karachi, was the soldier who was martyred due to the attack. A cordon and search operation is underway to apprehend any terrorists found in the area, the military's media wing said. "Pakistan Army is determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR added.