

# Samana

Saturday, June 19, 2021

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China's success is result of the CPC's competent leadership

Dasu Dam to

start new era

of development

**Detailed News On Page-07** 

**Antonio Guterres** re-elected as UN chief for 5-years

**Detailed News On Page-08** 



**KP CM terms** budget 2021-22 as 'historic'

**Detailed News On Page-02** 



# Briefs

# **Maryam** lauds **Shahbaz'** address

DNA



yam Nawaz has said that the speech of party president Shehbaz Sharif in National Assembly represented the pain every Pakistani feels while watching the abysmal condition of country's economy. In a post on social-networking website Twitter, the PML-N leader posted, "His [Shehbaz Sharif concerns about inflation and continued destruction of economy because of IMF dictation are shared by every Pakistani." She further termed the dignity and patience with which Shehbaz Sharif faced the shameful hooliganism and street vandalism as truly remarkable. The reaction came after PML-N president Shehbaz Sharif said that 220 million people have elected MNAs of both sides of aisle for their representation but what happened in last few days in National Assembly, sent a very bad image of Pa-

# Vaccine availability top priority

kistan internationally.

DNA



Regula tions and Coordination Dr Faisal Sultan said that the government was making all out efforts for availability of COVID-19 vaccine at all vaccination centres and more doses were expected to arrive soon. Talking to the media on Friday, Dr Sultan said that this issue was temporary which would be resolved soon although more than 20 million citizens have been vaccinated. He said that the vaccine situation in the country would improve in coming days and more vaccines would reach Pakistan. He said that the government was in contact with local and provincial administrations to make up the shortfall.

### **Holiday Notice**

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday.

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Uzbek delegation in

Pakistan to explore

academic links

Govt taking steps

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# The prime minister, while reviewing, said completion of the Dasu Dam will ensure cheap and clean electricity and ease the burden on consumers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

DASU: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday said the construction of water reservoirs in the country is vital to meet the impending challenges of water shortage and power generation. In his interaction with the workers, including foreign engineers, during his visit to the construction site of Dasu Dam, the prime minister expressed satisfaction over the pace of

wards completion of the project. The prime minister said completion of the Dasu Dam will ensure cheap and clean electricity and ease the burden on consumers. PM Khan said the project will usher in a new era of socio-economic development in the country. He said that costly electricity triggers inflation in the country. "Our industry was growing 50 years ago when we had cheap elec-

ongoing work and lauded their efforts to-

A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency** 

The prime minister added that cheap electricity will benefit industry the most Phase-I of the Dasu Dam will be completed by 2025 and it will start supplying 2160

tricity, thanks to Manga and Tarbela dams."

megawatts to the national grid. After completion of Phase II in 2029, the capacity of the dam will be increased to 4320 MW. The work at the Dasu Dam has been enhanced under the government's policy to diversify power production.

Continued on Page 06

# FM Qureshi reiterates Pak support for Palestine

Meets Palestinian FM Dr. Riyad Al Maliki; also expresses concerns on the latest Israeli strikes

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Palestinian Foreign Minister Dr. Riyad Al Maliki on the sidelines of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum.

During the meeting, For-Minister Qureshi reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the

Palestinian cause and underscored the importance of two-State solution based on pre-1967 borders under the relevant UNSC resolutions for sustainable peace in the region. He also expressed strong concerns on the latest Israeli strikes

cent ceasefire. Foreign Minister Maliki briefed Foreign Minister Qureshi on the latest situa-

against Gaza after the re-

tion in Palestinian Occupied Territories.

He also conveyed deep appreciation on behalf of the Palestinian President people of Palestine and to the Foreign Minister for proactively taking up the case of Palestine at the UN General Assembly during the recent Israeli aggression against Gaza.

Continued on Page 06



ANATLYA: Shah Mahmood Qureshi Foreign Minister of Pakistan presenting a T-shirt with "Ay Arze Palestine Mey Bhi Hazir Hoon (O the land of Palestine I also stand with you) to his Palestinian counterpart Dr Riyad al-Maliki prior to their meeting in Antalya. - DNA

**RAWALPINDI:** Dr. Christian Turner, British High Commissioner called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS). - DNA

## **British** envoy calls on **COAS**

NEHAL MIRAJ

RAWALPINDI: Dr. Christian Turner, British High Commissioner called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), on Friday. According to an ISPR statement, matters of mutual interest, regional security situation including the recent developments in Afghan Peace Process and collaboration in fight against COVID-19 were discussed during the meeting. COAS said that Pakistan values UK's balanced role in global and regional affairs and we look forward to optimize strategic potential of our relationship based on convergences.

The visiting dignitary acknowledged Pakistan's continuous efforts for peace and stability in the region and pledged to further enhance bilateral relations between both the countries.

### Sindh, Punjab facing vaccine insufficiency

KARACHI: With less than 2% of the total population fully vaccinated, two of the largest provinces in Pakistan - Sindh and Punjab - are facing shortages of coronavirus vaccines, sources said Friday. In Lahore, only four out of 23 vaccination centres are administering vaccines, sources in the Punjab Health Department said, adding that the number of vaccination centres had been reduced due to a shortage of the jabs. Vaccines are now only being administered at Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute, Expo Centre, Minar-e-Pakistan, and Railway Dispensary. The sources said prior to the shortage, 60,000-50,000 people were being inoculated daily, while on June 16, 35,625 jabs were administered, and on June 17, 23,425 people were inoculated. - DNA

# Govt's economic indicators are false, misleading: Bilawal

Bilawal says the masses are aware of the fact that "claims of 4% growth are based on lies"

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said Friday that both the budget and the budget session of the PTI-led government are "illegal."

Speaking during a session of the National Assembly, which was being conducted under the chairmanship of National Assembly's Speaker Asad Qaiser, Bilawal said that it seems the government is playing the role of the Opposition instead of running the country. Criticising Prime Minister Im-

ran Khan famous rhetoric,

# Hammad lashes out at Bilawal

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar on Friday has lashed out at Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and said that immature lecture was delivered on economy.

While reacting to the speech of PPP leader in National Assembly,

the minister said that no one can wash out the stain of corruption by speaking English. The opposition parties are not digesting the four percent growth, he added. Hammad Azhar said that Sindh government is being run by an outsider. He further challenged the opposition members to listen to his whole speech.

Continued on Page 06

# Iran votes for new president with Raisi tipped to win

**AGENCIES** 



TEHRAN: Iranians voted Friday in a presidential election in which ultraconservative cleric Ebra-

him Raisi is seen as all but certain to coast to victory after all serious rivals were barred from running. After a lacklustre campaign, low turnout was expected in a country exhausted by a punishing regime of US economic sanctions that has dashed the hopes of many for a brighter future. The supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, cast the first vote in Tehran and then urged Iran's nearly 60 million eligible voters to follow suit before the scheduled close of polls at midnight (1930 GMT).

# *Iranians* living in Pak vote for

candidates

ISLAMABAD: Iranians living in Pakistan announced their participation in the 13th presidential election this morning by going to the polls. According to Peyman Rahmani, correspondent of the International Service of the Radio and Television Agency of Iran (IRIB) from Islamabad, the thirteenth presidential election of Iran started at 8 am local time on Friday, June 19 in Pakistan, and Iranians

Continued on Page 06

### Pak slams Afghan NSA's remarks

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has strongly condemned the baseless insinuations by Afghan National Security Advisor Hamdullah Mohib, alleging Pakistan's involvement in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Responding to media queries regarding unwarranted remarks by the Afghan National Security Advisor, Foreign Office Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said Pakistan's role in the Afghan Peace Process has been widely acknowledged by the international community. He said the repeated impertinent and unwarranted remarks by the Afghan National Security Advisor are deeply concerning as they are tantamount to a calculated attempt by his office to disregard and nullify the progress in the peace process so far.

### Clashes outside Balochistan Assembly

QUETTA: Chaotic scenes erupted outside Balochistan Assembly Friday as scores of protestors and Opposition lawmakers and supporters holding a protest outside the assembly were baton charged by police. Police said Opposition lawmakers had locked all four

doors of the Balochistan Assembly to prevent the budget session from taking place. Chief Minister Balochistan Iam Kamal Khan and a few lawmakers arrived at the assembly.

The budget session commenced under the chair of Speaker Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo. Opposition MPA Nasrullah Zehrav accused the police of using violent methods to disperse the "peaceful protest" outside the assembly. - DNA

# **European Union is a valued partner of Pakistan**

Joint Commission discussed the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The humanitarian assistance provided by the European Union was highly appreciated plementation of the EU-Pakistan trade and investment, improving exchanged views on priorities of

IP REPORT

BRUSSELS: The European Union (EU) - Pakistan Joint Commission was held by video conference. The plenary of the Joint Commission was preceded by sub-group meetings on Development Cooperation (25 February 2021); Trade (2 March 2021); and Democracy, Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights (1 June 2021).

The Joint Commission provided an opportunity to exchange views on all areas of cooperation between the EU and Pakistan. Pakistan underlined that the EU is a valued partner of Pakistan, being home to a large Pakistani diaspora, its biggest trading partner and a source for investment, remittances and economic assistance. The EU and Pakistan reiterated their commitment for the full and effective imStrategic Engagement Plan (SEP), signed in June 2019.

The Joint Commission discussed the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The humanitarian assistance provided by the European Union was highly appreciated. The ongoing vaccination programmes and future cooperation in vaccines were also discussed. Pakistan's efforts for sustainable economic recovery were also highlighted.

They also exchanged climate views on change where the EU informed Pakistan about European Green connectivity and isation, and briefed about various cli-

mate projects,

digital-

Pakistan

including

eco-system restoration, green stimulus and national electric vehicle policy. They also discussed cooperation in the fields of education, culture, science and technology. The Joint Commission also provided an opportunity to discuss migra-

tion and mobility and to follow up on the

of the EU-Pakistan Joint Readmission Committee, which was held on 24 February 2021. The EU and Pakistan agreed to enhance bilateral trade, including by addressing issues that are hampering the business climate, and Pakistan's efforts towards full implementation of the 27 international conventions stipulated under the EU's unilateral trade preferences scheme, the Generalised Scheme of Preferencs Plus (GSP+). Pakistan acknowl-

edged the extension of its GSP+ status as a mutually rewarding step and affirmed its full commitment to fulfil its obligations under the GSP+. Pakistan underlined the relevant measures and actions taken since September last year. On development coopera-

tion, the EU and Pakistan appreciated encouraging progress. Pakistan appreciated the EU's decision to re-orient its development assistance to support Pakistan's efforts to tackle effects of the COVID-19 pan-

demic. The Joint Commission also

national fora, and the promotion and protection of all fundamental freedoms were discussed. Both the EU and Pakistan reaffirmed their commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion and belief (including concerns about anti-Muslim hatred), the rights of persons belonging to minorities, freedom of expression, women's rights and children's rights. Pakistan informed about developments concerning the Journalist Protection Bill, the Forced, Involuntary Disappear-

future development cooperation.

Joint efforts in the fields of de-

mocracy, governance, rule of law

and human rights, cooperation

on human rights issues at inter-

ance Bill and the Anti-Torture Law. Continued on Page 06

Saturday, June 19, 2021

# **State land** retrieved from

FAISALABAD: Assistant Commissioner (AC) City Syed AyubBukhari retrieved state land worth Rs 80 million from qabza mafia on Friday. A spokesman for the administration said that AC City, along with his team and police, launched a crackdown on the land grabbers and retrieved state land at DHQ Hospital Road. The mafia was running a hotel and a nursery after grabbing the state land worth Rs 80 million. The AC City removed all kinds of structures and confiscated the material.

51 profiteers fined Special price control magistrates imposed fine on 51 shopkeepers on the charge of profiteering in various parts of the city on Friday. A spokesman for the administration said that the magistrates inspected 867 shops in various markets and bazaars to check prices of various daily-use items. They found 51 shopkeepers involved in overcharging and profiteering. Therefore, the magistrates imposed Rs 47,500 fine on them. - APP

### 27 held, drugs & weapons seized

FAISALABAD: Police Friday arrested 27 alleged criminals and recovered drugs and illegal weapons from them during the last 24 hours. According to police, the raiding teams nabbed four proclaimed offenders and six drug-pushers and recovered 0.9-kg hashish and 218 litres of liquor from them. The police also held 10 gamblers with stake money of 13,900. In a crackdown on illegal weapons, police arrested seven persons and recovered five pistols, one rifle, one repeater and a number of bullets from them. - APP

### One more die of corona in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: Another patient died of COVID-19 while four people tested positive during the last 24 hours in Faisalabad.

A spokesperson for the Health Department said on Friday that 612 coronavirus tests were conducted in public and private sector labs during the period. He said that total active cases in Faisalabad were reduced to 252, while 20,223 patients had so far recovered

from the disease.

He said that 339 beds were allocated at the Allied Hospital, 133 at the DHQ Hospital and 150 at Government General Hospital Ghulam Muhammad Abad for COV-ID-19 patients. At present, 68 patients were under treatment at the Allied Hospital, 23 at DHQ Hospital and eight were admitted to General Hospital. He said that 132 confirmed patients were isolated at their homes in the district. - APP

### Minister terms KP budget welfare oriented

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Local Government, Akbar Ayub has termed the KP budget as balanced and welfare oriented and said that it would impact the province and its people in a positive way. Sharing his views on the

budget here Friday, Provincial Minister said that it is first time in the history of province that a pro poor and welfare oriented budget was presented by the government. He said that in past previous governments deceived people by entangling them in a maze of numbers and putting them under a financial stress and added that PTI went beyond its promises and gave masses that was deemed unachievable.

Recalling efforts of government, Akbar Ayub said that record development projects were accomplished by government for welfare of people including sanitation programs, energy generation projects, promotion of tourism, development of industrial sector, Sehat Card and various education related projects. He said that mega projects were planned for Hazara Division in new fiscal including three billion rupees Gravity Water Supply Scheme, Establishment of Digital City and feasibility of medical and dental college. - APP

# Briefs Power Division, GIZ Pak sign IA to unveil REEE II project

Mr. Tobias Becker said that "as part of the Climate & Energy Initiative between Germany and Pakistan this intervention will support the increased deployment of clean energy technologies

**Z**UBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Germany shares a cordial relationship in development cooperation with the Government of Pakistan for over 60 years. It has been a key partner in supporting the GoP to achieve its national priority policies since the 1960s in different development sectors. Based on the long-lasting cooperation in the energy sector a new implementation agreement between GIZ Pakistan and the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) has been signed today at the Ministry of Energy (Power Division). Under the agreement, GIZ Pakistan will conduct the so called Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (REEE II) project, that will provide technical support to the Ministry of Energy -(Power Division) and its associated Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB).

The aim of the project is to contribute effectively to the energy transition in Pakistan. The 8.1 million EUR project is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

During the ceremony, Secretary Power Division, Mr. Ali RazaBhutta, and Mr. Tobias Becker,



Country Director GIZ Pakistan, reiterated the commitment to strengthen their cooperation. CEO AEDB, Mr. Shah Jahan-Mirza, and various other notables from both sides, were present in the ceremony.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Ali Raza Bhutta said "A major mile-

stone in the energy transition in Pakistan is the new Renewable Energy Policy approved by Council of Common Interest in August 2020 the Alternative and Renewable Energy (ARE) Policy. The Policy aims for a substantial shift in the power generation capacity

rent 6% to 20% by 2025 and 30% by 2030. He emphasized on building the capacity of Pakistan's RE &energy efficiency related organization. He also appreciated GIZ to cooperation in adopting best energy efficiency practices while learning from German experience. He expressed the desire that the current cooperation between GIZ and Ministry of Energy will go a long way towards improving Pakistan's utilization of its great renewable energy potential.

Mr. Tobias Becker said that "as part of the Climate & Energy Initiative between Germany and Pakistan this intervention will support the increased deployment of clean energy technologies, it will promote distributed solar PV power plants connected to the electricity grid, as well as the rural electrification strategy of the country".

The REEE II project responds to the national priority area of the Government of Pakistan, i.e, The Alternative and Renewable Policy 2019 and National Electricity Policy 2021. Through bilateral cooperation agreements, Germany and Pakistan have been working together to address the impacts of climate change and to ensure access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

In line with this, the Pakistan-German Renewable Energy Forum (PGREF) will continue to serve as a connecting bridge between both countries, implementing concrete actions and providing technical advice to enhance collaboration, promote dialogue, facilitate invest-

### Tax rates in 12 categories reduced

PESHAWAR: The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in budget for upcoming financial year 2021-22 has reduced tax rates in 12 categories and extension of reduced rates to 17 more categories to provide relief in taxes and catalyze economic activities in the province. In his budget speech, the Provincial Minister for Finance, TaimurSaleem Khan Jhagra here Friday announced that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) is introducing reduced rates and extending reduced rates to 17 more categories while relief in agricultural sector include removing land tax, exemptions & reduced rates on CVT & registration.

Similarly, professional tax

has been annulled on all professionals and vehicle registration fee reduced to Rs.1 or free of cost registration to encourage motor-vehicles registration. In education sector, the government will provide free of cost archives, library and hostel for higher education as well as no admission fee for both Government Primary & Secondary Education Schools for Girls and Boys. Similarly, the rate of Sales Tax on Services for 10 segments including print media, agriculture Cold Storage, & Warehouse, industrial workshops, quality assurance & inspection, cinematographic services, car wash services, auctioneers, property dealers, installation & commissioning and under writers has been reduced to only 1%. - APP

# Islamabad, Kabul urged to make joint efforts for mutual trade



### BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Traders from Pakistan and Afghanistan have urged Islamabad and Kabul to set aside the political differences and make ioint efforts to give boost to bilateral and transit trade between the two neighbouring countries.

The participants urged the government of Pakistan to devise a separate policy or mechanism for Afghan traders' to pave the way to get them registered with Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and other authorities so they will contribute their share in Pakistan's economy.

They also attributed the strict regulations, complicated laws and cumbersome procedures as main hurdles in bolstering Pak-Afghan mutual trade and

transit trade. The Pak-Af- bilateral trade between the ghan traders were addressed during a meeting chaired by Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) president SherbazBilour held here at the chamber house on Friday.

The meeting was attended by Afghan Commercial Attache in Peshawar, FawadArash, SCCI senior vice president Engineer ManzoorElahi, former SVP ShahidHussain, former vice president AbidullahYousafzai, SadarGul, senior member Ejaz Ali Shah, Khyber chamber president Syed IawadHussainKazmi, along with Pak-Afgahn traders, importers and exporters in a large number.

Participants of the meeting discussed the problems and irritants being faced by traders on both sides of the border, which have caused hampering

two neighouring countries. They urged the chamber to take up issues with Pakistani authorities, especially to play a role in devising seperate policy or mechanism for registration of Afghan traders with Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) in order to contribute their share in improving the Pakistan's economy and business ties.

The meeting hailed Pakistan's customs authorities for reduction in the number of duties, urging the Afghan government to bring further reduction on Pakistani importing items to Afghanistan. FawadArash said his country is keen to bolster bilateral and transit trade with Pakistan. In this regard, he added the Afghan government has taken pragmatic steps and resolved issues of traders'

community on priority basis. The diplomat said that the promotion of Pak-Afghan trade and economic relations is essential for bringing economic prosperity and development in the whole region. Therefore, he mentioned that Kabul is taking serious steps to resolve issues of traders' communities on both sides of the border.

SherbazBilour noted that there is huge potential to further strengthen mutual trade relations between Pa-

kistan and Afghanistan. However, he emphasized that the both countries should set aside political differences and make joint efforts to bolster bilateral trade by resolving traders' issues amicably. He added the steps can bring economic stability, peace and prosperity in the whole region.

# **KP CM terms** budget 2021-22 as historic

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has termed the provincial budget for financial year 2021-22 as a balanced, pro-poor and a historic budget and said that this is the largest budget in the history of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In a statement issued here regarding the budget for the financial year 2021-22 here on Friday, the chief minister said that all possible efforts have been made to provide maximum relief to the common man in the budget.

The chief minister that all the sectors have been fully focused in the budget which on implementation, would bring about a new era of development in the province and visible positive change in the lives of the masses. He said this was a tax free budget as no new tax had been levied

rather historical exemptions different secwere given to tors adding that despite difficult financial situation, the provincial did not comgovernment

370 billion have portfolio, and Rs. been allocated for the developmental projects which is 33% of the total budget. He said that special focus has been given to the ongoing developmental projects of public welfare so as to complete these projects well in time for which 80% of the developmental budget has been allocated.

developmental

He added that enhancement of development portfolio, reforms in provincial taxes, increase in the salaries of government employees and pensioners, relief to farmers, honorarium for Aaima-e-Karam, enhancement of education and health sector budget, increase in the monthly wages of daily wagers, subsidy for providing wheat flour on cheaper rates to public, food basket program for deserving people were the some important relief initiatives proposed in the budget. He said that Rs. 20 billion had been allocated for food basket program and wheat flour for subsidy.

The chief minister said that social sector has been the top most priority of PTI government from the very first day adding that budget of education, health, drinking water and other social sector has been increased manifold in the budget for upcoming financial year.

# UAF inks MoU for welfare of stray animals

FAISALABAD: The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) and Tahira Animal Welfare Foundation (TAWF) have inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to work together for welfare of stray animals. The MoU was signed by

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof DrAnasSarwar Qureshi and the foundation chairnerson TahiraRasool at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences. UAF spokesperson saic

that the University would engage its veterinary undergraduate students for the internship and pre-internship programme. TAWF will engage 10 internees at a time. Both parties will launch joint venture for the mass rabbis vaccination in Faisalabad. The both parties will also jointly organise seminars, workshops, symposium and other awareness activities. Vice Chancellor Prof DrAnasSarwar Qureshi said that the UAF was holding the best veterinary programme across the country. He said that the UAF graduates were proving their mettle in their respective fields due to their skills, quality education and research work. TahiraRasool said that there were no fully equipped clinics for animals in and around 100 miles of Faisalabad. This is why they had built a state-ofthe-art Animal shelter, fully equipped with advanced medical facilities. - APP

# CM Buzdar, Sarwar discuss virus situation

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar met Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar at Governor's House on Friday and discussed matters of mutual interest. The governor congratulated the CM for presenting a balanced budget, while the chief minister appreciated the efforts made by the governor for provision of clean drinking water under the platform of Punjab Aab-e-Pak Authority. Both expressed satisfaction over decreasing the ratio of positive corona cases and asked citizens to continue following the standard operating procedures (SOPs). It was further decided to take steps for overcoming shortage of corona vaccine, while continuing to jointly serve masses.

The chief minister said that conspiracies of the opposition had failed and the government would continue to counter the negative politics with an agenda of public service. "No hindrance in the agenda of providing relief to masses will be tolerated," he said and added that the era of jugglery and self-projection was over now. Meanwhile, a historic annual development programme had been announced to enter into a new era of development. Governor ChSarwar said the district development package was a unique step as every stratum had been given relief in the provincial budget. - DNA

**UAD** holds first Senate meeting senate meeting of University of Agriculture Dera

Ismail Khan took place at Governor House Peshawar to discuss the budget of the university for the fiscal year 2021-2022. On the behalf of the Governor, meeting was chaired by Secretary Agriculture Livestock and Cooperative Department, Dr. Israr Ahmad while Special secretary Higher Education Archives and Library Department, Additional Secretary Governor, Secretary Finance, Principal Secretary to Governor, Vice Chancellor UAD, Registrar, Director Finance, Assistant

other officials were part of the meeting. Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture Dera Prof. Dr. Masroor Elahi Babar (TI), presented the budget for his university and after the long discussion, the house unanimously approved the budget of UAD for the year 2021-2022.

While speaking on the occasion, the officials gave credit to the Registrar, Director Finance and Assistant Director Administration for preparing the budget and calling the senate meeting in time for approval after approving the budget in F&P meeting earlier. - DNA

### KP govt to spend Rs 1b on welfare of women

promise on the

PESHAWAR: The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would spend more than Rs. one billion for welfare and empowerment of women during 2021-2022. During budget speech. Provincial Finance Minister, Taimur Salim Jhagra informed the House that Rs. 100 million would be spend for empowerment of women and to further increase output of women commission. – APP







# **Universal Service Fund**

# Notice Inviting Tender

Procurement of Computer Hardware / Software for USF Office Tender ID: USF/TDRS/IT/2021-22/01

Universal Service Fund (USF) is a company registered under Section 42 of the Companies Act 2017 (erstwhile the Companies Ordinance, 1984) having its office at 3rd floor, Evacuee Trust Complex, F-5/1, Islamabad.

USF invites sealed proposals from bidders registered with FBR for the Sales Tax and Income Tax & must be

A Single Stage, Two Envelopes procedure shall be adopted as per Rule 36 (b) of the Public Procurement

Bid Security equivalent to five (05%) of total quoted price, in the shape of a CDR/Demand Draft/Pay Order in

the name of 'Universal Service Fund', as per Rule 25 of the Rules shall be provided in a separate envelope along with the financial proposal for each applying lot.

Bids/proposal shall be valid for period of 120 days.

. A complete set of Bidding Documents can be downloaded by interested bidders from USF & PPRA websites

(http://www.usf.org.pk) & (http://www.ppra.org.pk/).

Last date for submission of the proposal will be 06-July-2021 at 11:00 AM and will be opened on the same day at 11:30 AM in the presence of bidders and/or their authorized representatives in the office of

### **Head of Procurement Department** Universal Service Fund

3rd Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex, Agha Khan Road, F-5/1, Islamabad, Tel: 051 - 9212308-09, Fax: 051 - 9214261 Email: procurement@usf.org.pk

PID (I) No. 7008/20

# Pak-China agri co-op to boost local output: Imam

Addressing a webinar organized by China-Pakistan Agriculture and Industrial Cooperation Imam said that China possesses advancement in agriculture sector ary 26, 2021.

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam on Friday said that Pak-Cina cooperation in agriculture sector will help to boost output of local agriculture sector.

Addressing a webinar organized by China-Pakistan Agriculture and Industrial Cooperation Imam said that China possesses advancement in agriculture sector as compared to Pakistan and it can learn from China by adopting their farming techniques.

He further said that value

addition, marketing and public private partnership are some of the areas which can be worked on for the benefit of the both countries.

He said that the chilli project initiated with collaboration of China will be helpful in enhancing the chilli production in Pakistan.

He further added that bilateral cooperation will enhance agriculture productivity, which would resulted in increase of local exports. Speaking on the occasion Ambassador of China to

Pakistan NongRong said



that Chines companies have planted to bringing over 100 acre of land in Puniab province in collaboration with local farmers,

beside setting up Chilli processing factory in the future to improve the livelihood of the local farmers. The minister also announced the inauguration of Pakistan China Condiments Industry Alliance which will promote bilateral cooperation in the field of condiments.

here that under the guidance of Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, the first China-Pakistan and Industrial Cooperation Information Platform was officially launched on Janu-

It is worth mentioning na-Pakistan Agricultural

The platform has actively played its role as a communication channel to boost bilateral cooperation and exchanges in agriculture upwards. In the joint efforts of China Embassy in Pakistan, Ministry of National Food Security and Research, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority, Chi-Agricultural Cooperation and Exchange Center and the agriculture related companies from both countries, the chilli contract farming project

was launched. - APP

# **Briefs**

### Senate body passes **IRRAB 2020**

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Interior here on Friday passed Islamabad Rent Restriction Amendment Bill (IRRAB) 2020, moved by Senator Seemi Ezdi. The Committee which met with Senator Mohsin Aziz in the chair, also passed Pakistan Arms (Amendment) Bill 2021, moved by the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs. The Islamabad Capital Territory Food Safety Bill 2020, moved by Senator Fawzia Arshad was pending and a Special Committee was constituted for further deliberation. While taking up Public Petitions, an appeal from overseas Pakistanis to save their life savings was heard and the CDA was directed to submit a complete report within 10 days with complete details.

The case of an unauthorized encroachment on farm house near Dargah Shah, Mirpur Sakro, was disposed off. Among other Senators, the meeting was attended by Leader of the Opposition Yousuf Raza Gillani, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Saifullah Abro, Samina Mumtaz, Faisal Saleem Rehman, Shahdat Awan, Fawzia Arshad, Faisal Ali Sabzwari, Ahmed Khan and senior officers from the Ministry of Interior, CDA, Sindh and Punjab Police along with all concerned. - APP

### Rashid A. Malik calls on DG PSB

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former Davis Cupper and coach, Rashid A. Malik called on Director General Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), Col (R) Muhammad Asif Zaman in his office here at Pakistan Sports Complex and discussed with him the promotion of tennis in the country. Malik appreciated the steps taken by the government to uplift sports in the country, said a press release.

He expressed the hope that the government's post-corona initiatives would provide a new impetus to the sports culture in the country.

He underlined the need to set up academies to groom the natural talent and potential of the players.

The DG PSB apprised Malik about the board's plans and ongoing efforts for the forthcoming sports events.

### ED notifies transfer, posting officers

### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Establishment Division on Friday issued the notification directing transfers and postings of various high ranking officers. According to a notification, Zulfiqar Younas, a BS-21 officer of Pakistan Customs Service, presently posted as member, Federal Board of Revenue, is transferred and posted as Additional Secretary, Finance Division, under Section 10 of the Civil Servants Act, 1973, with immediate effect and until further orders.

Similarly, Ms. Hina Naik Bakht, a BS-17 officer of Police Service of Pakistan, lastly serving under Government of the Punjab, is transferred and directed to report to Establishment Division with effect from 02-06-2021 until further orders.

### 3 day WMD festival starts at Lok Virsa

ISLAMABAD: A three-day World Music Day (WMD) 2021 festival was started here on Friday at National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa). Talking to APP at the opening ceremony, Executive Director Lok Virsa Talha Ali said that a special three-day event was organized by Lok Virsa in collaboration with Hill Joint & Echo Records. He said that the festival would continue till June 20. He said that World Music Day was officially launched in 1982. It is celebrated every year on the 21st June at rooftop thea tre of Lok Virsa. - APP

# ICCI calls for withdrawal of Section - 203 (A)

President, ICCI said that there was no need to introduce provisions like Sec-203(A) as it already exists in tax laws and bringing in such new provisions would create new problems and difficulties for the taxpayers instead of improving the tax revenue of the country

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has expressed strong concerns over the introduction of Sec-203(A) in the Federal Budget 2021-22, which has given powers to FBR Officers to arrest a taxpayer on pretext of concealment of income and called upon the government to immediately withdraw it in order to save the taxpayers from unnecessary troubles.

The Sec-203 (A) grants the power to an officer of Inland Revenue, not below the rank of an Assistant Commissioner of Inland Revenue or any other officer of equal rank authorized by the Board, who on

the basis of material evidence has reason to believe that any person has committed the offense of concealment of income or any offense warranting prosecution under this Ordinance, may cause the arrest of such person. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Presi-

dent, Islamabad Chamber of Com-

merce & Industry said that there

was no need to introduce provi-

sions like Sec-203(A) as it already exists in tax laws and bringing in such new provisions would create new problems and difficulties for the taxpayers instead of improving the tax revenue of the country. He said that this provision would not serve the interest of the country, rather it would shatter the confidence of taxpayers and dis-



courage potential investors from investing in Pakistan.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that at the one hand, the Prime Minister was giving assurances to the business community that his govern-

ment would minimize the direct interaction between the tax machinery and the taxpayers through automation, but on the other hand, new provisions were being introduced in tax laws to give more discretionary powers to tax officials that would create more harassment in the business circles.

He said that the business community was the major contributor to the tax revenue of the country and the government should introduce new provisions in tax laws to give taxpayers more respect and honor instead of taking measures that would make the lives of taxpayers more difficult and create hindrances in promotion of business and investment activities in the country. Therefore, he urged that the government should withdraw Sec-203(A) introduced by the new Federal Budget in the larger national interest of the country. Fatma Azim Senior Vice Presi**Farmers** 

to get Agri inputs on

subsidized

rates

FAISAL MUNIR

ATTOCK: Special Assis-

tant to the Prime Minister

on Climate Change, Malik

Amin Aslam Friday said

Kisan card initiative would

enable farmers to get ferti-

lizers, pesticides, seeds at

He expressed these views

during a Kisan Card distri-

He said. "It would free farm-

ers from multi-step verifica-

tion processes for subsidies

making these accessible in

a single step." Malik Amin said that initially the main

focus of the Kisan cards

was to reduce the cost of

production of farmers and

make modern agriculture

accessible and profitable for

them. However, since the

Prime Minister Imran Khan

also announced agriculture

loans and crop insurance

under Kisan card initiative,

these two would soon be in-

corporated under the mech-

anism, and more banks

should be extending Kisan

Kisan cards would enable

farmers to get fertilizers of

different kinds, pesticides,

and pure registered seed

varieties of wheat, cotton,

pulses including moong,

gram, and oilseeds like ses-

ame, sunflower and other

crops at highly subsidized

PBM to

confer 50

scholarships to

5 universities

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan

Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) would

confer annual scholarships

to 50 deserving postgrad-

uate students of five major

universities of Sindh province. PBM Managing Di-

rector Malik Zaheer Abbas

Khokhar inked the agree-

ments with the vice chancel-

lors of Mehran University

of Engineering and Tech-

nology, Sindh University, Li-

aguat University of Medical

and Health Sciences, Gov-

ernment College University

and NUML University for

awarding scholarships to

price, he maintained.

card services to farmers.

highly subsidized rates.

bution ceremony here.

dent and Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI said that the prevailing tax system of Pakistan was very cumbersome and complicated due to which it was a major hurdle in promoting tax culture. They emphasized that instead of resorting to coercive tactics, the government in consultation with stakeholders should focus on simplifying the tax system and introduce new provisions in tax laws that should help in boosting the confidence of taxpayers and support the growth of business and investment activities in the country.

# Govt in the past ignored

PTS: Gill

Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communication Shahbaz Gill on Thursday said the government is making new agreements with the power plants holders. The previous corrupt regimes of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) did not pay any attention to the power transmission system. Reacting to the statement of PML-N spokesperson Maryam Aurangzeb, he said during her government, there was a transmission system of 18,000 to 18,500 watts. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries & Production, Makhdom Khusro Bakhtyar in a meeting with his counterpart Gado Sado Muctar, Minister for Industries & Commerce, Republic of Niger at Ministry of Industries & Production. - APP

# SECP issues guidelines for Green Bonds issuance in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued guidelines for issuance of green bonds in Pakistan. The Guidelines provide an easy and efficient procedure for issuance with concise offering document/prospectus. All issuers who are eligible to issue debt securities, including sukuk either by way of public offer or private placement are eligible to issue green bonds while ensuring compliance with applicable regulatory framework.



tect environment, utilize renewable energy, prevent and control pollution, use natural resources, projects related to land management, pollution free transportation, wastewater and water treatment, etc.

As per the green bond database (source: www.climate. net), Green Bonds worth US\$ 1.2 trillion have been issued by different countries till date including US\$ 297 billion in 2020 and US \$ 130.9 billion in 2021(till April) showing an increasing trend. As per International Capital Market Association (ICMA)'s database, a total of 640 issues of Green Bonds have been made by 60 countries. Green bonds can be issued based on globally accepted standards/goals such as the International Capital Market Association (ICMA)'s Green Bond Principles, the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) etc. - DNA

# PTCL group to support its employees with vaccination

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Seeing the impact of third wave of COVID-19, PTCL Group, as part of its social responsibility, has announced its commitment to support its 26,000 employees including its contractual employees and their dependents with COVID-19 vaccination in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan. PTCL Group, one of the country's largest telecom groups and backbone of connectivity in Pakistan, has the highest number of employees across the country from metropolitan cities to the smallest vil-

lages of Pakistan. Through initiative, Group will be taking care of its large employee base in both PTCL & Ufone.

This will also ensure support to the Government of Pakistan in their efforts to direct resources to more impoverishedstrata of society. As an organization that is committed to support its employees and their dependents, two major PTCL Medical Healthcare Centers in Islamabad and Karachi have been assigned with dedicated medical staff and converted a section of the facilities into government-assisted Vaccination Centers. In addition to this, PTCL Group is further assisting its employees in reimbursing the expenses for private vaccination as well. Speaking on the occasion, Syed Mazhar Hussain, Group Chief Human Resource Officer, PTCL and Ufone, said, "We are glad to see that majority of our employees have received their second dose or are in the process of getting their first dose of COV-

ID-19 vaccination. Converting our medical centers into vaccination centers is a major feat for our organization and is a testament of the trust and credibility for our Medical Services Team. As PTCL Group, we are proud of our employees who have stood with us during this tough period of pandemic and have provided seamless throughout connectivity Pakistan.

PTCL Group has already undertaken a comprehensive Coronavirus relief and support effort that helped people across the country to stay connected and also provided access to facilities, mainly food and healthcare, to the most vulnerable communities. Moreover, the Group is proud of its 12,000+ frontline workers, who are ensuring country's connectivity and business continuity round the clock, even in the remote and far-flung areas of the country.

the deserving students. Addressing the signing ceremonies, the PBM managing director said that, under the Prime Minister's Ehsaas Programme, all possible steps were being taken to keep the deserving but promising students of the country on their educational journey by removing financial barriers to their education. On the occasion of his visit to Sindh Province, Malik Zaheer Abbas Khokhar also inaugurated a 'Panahgah'

### in Asia's largest slum area Orangi Town, and one 'Panahgah' in Korangi. He also

inaugurated a 'Panahgah' for the needy persons of Hub, Lasbela in Balochistan province as well. The PBM managing director along with PBM Board Member from Sindh,

Hunaid Lakhani also met with the Chairman Saylani Welfare Trust, Muhammad Bashir Farooqi. The PBM managing director, applauding the humanitarian services of the trust, thanked the chairman for joining Prime Minister's Ehsaas program.

Dacoit gang

busted; five

# arrested

DNA

RAWALPINDI: In a crackdown against criminal elements, Jatli Police have busted a dacoit gang and arrested its five members. According to a police spokesman, Jatli police in a raid arrested Umar, Rizwan, Rukhsar, Waqar and Haris, members of a dacoit gang. He informed that the criminals have been sent to Jail for an identification parade. He informed that the Police team headed by Police Choki Incharge 'Amb', ASI Arslan, constituted under the supervision of SHO Jatli Police Station on the directives of SP Saddar conducted a raid and managed to net the gang members.

As per preliminary police record, the criminals were also involved in other crimes, he added.

# Cheques distributed among winners of PTHS

RAWALPINDI: Director Punjab Arts Council Waqar Ahmed has said that the Potohar region is rich with art and culture. Competitions like Talent Hunt nurture the creative talents of the youth. He said this while distributing cheques checks among the prize winners in the grand finale of Punjab Talent Hunt (PTHS). Assistant Director Muhammad Suleiman was also present on the occasion. Haseeb Ali, who bagged the first position in poetry competitions across Punjab, was given a cheque of Rs 2 lakh. Umbreen Fatima, who came second in Punjab in handicraft competitions, got a cheque

of Rs 1.5 lakh while Anil Ahmed, who making in Punjab, was given a cheque secured third position in short film of Rs 100,000. – **DNA** 



# NUMS, CCL to co-op in research & development "Capacity building and training with special emphasis on pharmaceutical testing including

bioequivalence studies, clinical trials and healthcare products development," which will help bolster NUMS endeavor to improve quality of life of the people

DNA

RAWALPINDI: National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) and a leading multi-national regional pharmaceutical company signed a 5-year Document of Understanding (DOU) here Friday to enhancecooperation in the field of research and development pertaining to healthcare.

The DOU was inked by NUMS vice Chancellor Lt Gen Sved Muhammad Imran Majeed (Retd) and Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer CCL Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd Lahore Dr. Shahzad Khan at a simple ceremony here Friday.It was attended among others, by the Pro Vice Chancellor Academics Maj Gen Saleem Ahmad Khan(Retd), Pro Vice Chancellor Administration Maj Gen Syed Ammar Reza Hamdani (Retd), and Director NUMS Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) Awais e Siraj

and head of Medical Affairs CCL Beena Ali. Under the DOU pharmaceutical company has expressed its willingness in "capacity building and training with special emphasis on pharmaceutical testing including bioequivalence studies, clinical trials and healthcare products development," which will help bolster NUMS endeavor to improve

quality of life of the people. "CCL actively seeks opportunities to contribute to clinical research, product, and capacity development of key stakeholders," it added. In his brief remarks on the occasion the

Vice Chancellor of NUMS said, "We and you are in the business of dispensing healthcare to the patients. We fully support you



as our success will be gauged by your success."The pharmaceutical company, with an annual turnover of Rs 8 Billion, is currently has its operations in South Asia, South East Asia, Central Asia, Middle East, and Africa and is producing a vast range of over 200 products in major therapeutic categories. Managing Director of the second biggest pharmaceutical exporters in the country Dr. Shahzad after the ceremony said, "As an organization we strongly believe that NUMS is a kind of organization which has the greatest impact in overall healthcare system of the country. It has the credibility and a voice which is heard. We can give back to the society much more from a bigger platform which NUMS has provided." "CCL Pharmaceuticals is actively engaged in the development, manufacturing, and marketing of generic pharmaceutical products with strategic industry partnerships that meet evolving needs of healthcare professionals, patients, and caregivers," said the DOU.

IHC restores lawyers' licenses

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on

Friday restored the licenses

of lawyers and sent com-

plaints against them to bar council for action in a case

pertaining to attack on IHC

A larger bench of IHC

headed by Chief Justice

Athar Minallah heard the

case pertaining to mis-

conduct and contempt of

court matter against the

The court ordered to re-

store licenses of all lawyers

and send the matter to Pa-

kistan Bar Council (PBC)

and Islamabad Bar Council

The court instructed the

bar councils to take action

in the matter without taking

influence of any observation

of Islamabad High Court

The 8th February 2021

would be remembered as

the black day in the history

of judiciary, the court said,

noting that the violent law-

yers had attacked IHC and

vandalized its building on

The court observed that

there was no such example

of Supreme Court and IHC's

lawyers' rampage at this

The order said that practic-

ing law was an old and re-

spectful profession, adding

scale in the history.

(IBA) for further actions.

involved lawvers.

building.

(IHC).

that day.

### **48th CTP** officers visits 'Safe **City Project'**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The officers of Office Management Group from the 48th Common Training Programme (CTP) visited the 'Safe City Project' here on Friday.

According to the police officials, 25 officers from the 48th CTP met with Director General 'Safe City Project' DIG Muhammad Saleem. They were apprised about how the system helps police in real-time tracking of the vehicles. They were told how the police was using modern technology to secure the capital city. DIG Muhammad Saleem told the delegation that under the project, cameras installed at different locations of the city were being used in identifying the criminals.

He said under the instructions of IG Islamabad, Qazi Jamil ur Rehman, an e-Challan system has been introduced so as to check traffic accidents and impose traffic laws in a more efficient manner. He said fine tickets were dispatched to the violators at their homes after their identification through the 'Safe City Project'. He observed that the initiative has helped in reduction of traffic violations and fatal

### SC announces vacancies of TI

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan has announced vacancies of Technical interns (TI) (Software Developers and Network Technicians) for a period of 01 Year commencing in July/August 2021.

The Technical interns Ap-

plication Form and required qualifications/Terms and Conditions are mentioned in the advertisement available on the Supreme Court www.supremewebsite court.gov.pk/careers. terested candidates could apply online after going through the advertisement. The deadline for submitting

### Hike in peak tariff for industries: Nepra

applications is June 27.

**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Friday announced to extend hike in peak power tariff for industrial consumers.

According to details shared by the regulatory body, the peak tariff for industrial consumers was extended until June 30, 2022, and it would be applicable to all power distribution companies including K-Electric

The federal government, however, aimed at facilitating the industrial units, will provide an additional subsidy to fill the gap of the hike in power tariff. The NEPRA also rejected a proposal from K-Electric and energy ministry regarding hiking power prices on their own . On June 15, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NE-PRA) deferred a decision on a petition filed by the K-Electric seeking a hike in electricity tariff for its consumers.

The port city's sole power distributor requested the power regulator to allow an increase of Rs5.97 per unit in power tariff on account of monthly fuel cost adjustments (FCAs) for a period of January to March 2021 and a reduction of Rs0.86/unit for the month of April. The National Electric Power Regula tory Authority (NEPRA) said the consumers will have to bear an additional burden of Rs5.11 per unit if the power utility's plea is accepted. The power regulator's chairman Tauseef Farooqi said this "huge" burden would take a heavy toll on the consumers and directed the K-Electric to file petitions for fuel cost adjustments for the months of May and June as well, which, he said, would ease the burden. He further directed the power company to provide evidence of non-supply of gas by SSGC. The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) would take up the matter again in mid-July.

# Briefs Indonesian envoy visits RCCI, urges to boost trade ties

Adam Tugio said that Indonesia seeks to increase bilateral trade with Pakistan and strengthen trade and business relations

SHUJAAT HAMZA

RAWALPINDI: Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan Adam Tugio during his visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has said Indonesia along with ASEAN countries are huge markets with great potential for Pakistani products and businessmen should focus on these countries to promote trade and exports.

The ambassador said that Pakistani businessmen should take advantage of Indonesia's emerging

RCCI president Nasir Mirza, group leader Sohail Altaf, former president Raja Amer Iqbal, senior vice president Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, members of the executive committee and members were also present on the occasion.



Adam Tugio said that Indonesia seeks to increase bilateral trade with Pakistan and strengthen trade and business relations. Pakistan and Indonesia share many

There are similarities in many types of food and drink. Programs will be arranged in collaboration with the Rawalpindi Chamber to

promote Batik art. Pakistan and Indonesia have historical ties based on mutual respect and friendship, he added. Indonesia attaches great impor-

tance to Pakistan in the list of ASEAN countries. The Ambassador said that the Embassy would participate in the Food Festival and Exhibition organized by the Chamber.

On the occasion, RCCI President Nasir Mirza, briefed the Ambassador about the ongoing activities of the Rawalpindi Chamber.

He said that there was a need to enhance links between the two countries at the chamber level and the private sector to increase the trade volume. We can work together on promoting religious tourism as Pakistan has rich cultural heritage.

Group leader Sohail Altaf said networking and information exchange needed to be enhanced. A joint exhibition can also be held in Pakistan, he added.

Later in the end, a commemorative shield was presented to the

# FBR starts operation against unregistered units

against against violators of Sales Tax Act, 1990, Federal Board of Revenue's Directorate of Intelligence and Investigation-Inland Revenue, Lahore has conducted proceedings against three unregistered units, manufacturing Plastic Footwear.

The units were engaged in manufacturing and making taxable supplies of Plastic Footwear involving huge consumption of electricity but were not paying sales tained sales tax registration, said a press release issued here.

During the search, relevant record was impounded which was under scrutiny and further investigation in this regard was underway. The Directorate General Intelligence and Investigation-Inland Revenue shall continue such operations in future in order to detect tax fraud and stop leakage of sales tax revenue. – APP

which is likely to happen as

the budget but ignored the

They were of the view that

if the government fulfils its

promise of providing afforda-

ble housing, it will give a

boost to dozens of industries

that fall within the ambit of

the construction industry.

However, the government's

initiative of doling out funds

through lawmakers was criti-

cized as it will only serve vest-

common man

that the founder of Pakistan was also a lawyer. Today's ISLAMABAD: In a drive tax and had also not obbars were the nurseries of future judiciary, it further said. - APP

### Kitchen Lab inaugurated at PMAS-**AAUR**

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: A Kitchen Lab for the students of Arid Literacy School was inaugurated at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), here on Friday.

The purpose of this lab is to ensure the provision of food on a daily basis to the poor students studying in the Arid Literacy School. This will also help to improve both the physical and nutritional develop-

ment of the students. The kitchen lab was set up in collaboration with German Gibbs Association under the supervision of the PMAS-AAUR department of Women Development

Studies. Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman inaugurated the Kitchen Lab and also cut the cake. He also distributed uniforms among the students of Arid Literacy School and appreciated all the charitable efforts under the supervision of Women Develop-

Qaisara Parveen, Director, Women Development Studies Center, briefed the participants on all the welfare work being done for the betterment of the students of Arid Literacy School.

ment Studies Center.

At the end, Prof. Dr. Abdul Sabur, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences thanked all the participants. The event was attended by Dean, Directors and Faculty Members of various departments.

### 14 officers kicked out of FIA

**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: The Interior Ministry has expelled a number of officers working in the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on illegal deployment. The Interior Ministry issued its order in this regard on Friday, kicking out 14 officers from the FIA. The officers working on

the posts merged into the FIA will be sent back to their parent departments. This practice has been going on in the FIA since 1988, though the Supreme Court had declared their merger into the FIA as illegal.

A list of the expelled FIA officers. Additional Director Mir Mazhar Jabbar and Nasrullah Khan Gondal were among those officers expelled from the FIA.

Two women officers -Assistant Director Lina Tiwana and Inspector Zareen Amna - were also among those kicked out of the FIA.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection Dr. Sania Nishtar on Friday said the government has allocated Rs 260 billion for 'Ehsaas Program' in Budget 201-22 for poverty alleviation and to provide relief to the low income people in the society.

Major focus of the government is to execute the Ehasaas Program with its true spirit in 14 different categories for low income people, including widows, orphans, poor, unemployed, needy students and special citizens in the society, Dr. Sania Nishtar said while addressing the Senate session in Parliament House.

The SAPM said, we have evolved the dynamic digital social protection ecosystem for the future to ensure transparency and accountability in our program. She said that a comprehensive survey was completed through big data analysis by tracking real-time information about the evolution of the beneficiary status, to make social protection adaptive.

Dr Sania Nishtar said after evolving the modern digital data system, around 800,000 beneficiaries of "Ehaas Program' registered in the previous government were disqualified from the program. She said, "We have introduced digitalization and Information Technology (IT) reforms in our system for enhancing efficiency of the

She said that through Ehsaas Kafalat Program, we were providing this financial facili-



ty in 124 districts to the low income people in different regions of the country. The SAPM said that the 'Eh-

saas under Graduate 'programme was also approved to provide thousands of Ehsaas undergraduate scholarships for students from different regions of the country in the upcoming Budget 2021-22. She said that during COV-ID-19, the government had provided relief of Rs 179 billions to 15 million people from different regions of the

Dr Sania Nishtar said that women empowerment was top priority for the government in the coming Budget 2021-22 and allocated 50 percent total resources for women to provide them health and education facilities.

She announced that in January 2022 in the coming Budget, the government has decided to increase the stipend for 'Ehsaas Program' from Rs 12000 to 13000.

While briefing the forum, she also hailed the tax relief provided by the government in the budget and said the government has waved off the tax on industrial raw material to minimize the cost of doing business in the country. - APP

# Budget long on empty promises short on sustainability

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The growth government in the budget for 2021-22 is unlikely to be sustained in the longer run given the state of the fundamentals of the economy. The proposed growth target can be short term but will pose a challenge to the government in the future as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), renewable energy, climate change and capacity-building of the public sector are not in focus.

# Police arrest 6; recover weapons, drug

RAWALPINDI: Police in its ongoing drive against drug peddlers, bootleggers and other lawbreakers conducted raids in different areas and arrested six accused besides recovering over 495 grams hashish, 12 bottles of liquor and three 30 bore pistols from their possession.

According to a police spokesman, Race Course police held Yasir Sabir and recovered 12 bottles of liquor from his possession. Sadiqabad police rounded up Rizwan for having 245 grams hashish while Westridge police nabbed a female namely Samina for carrying 250 grams charas.

Naseerabad, Airport and Kahuta police arrested three persons namely Hashim Ghafoor, Ijaz and Muhammad Nawaz and recovered three 30 bore pistols from their possession. - APP

of the economists at a webinar titled 'the federal budget 2021-22: A review', which was organized by Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad. The panelists included Dr. Mahmood Khalid, senior research economist at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Dr. Shahida Wizarat, dean College of Economics and Social Development, Institute of Business Management, Dr. Pervez Tahir former chief economist at Planning Commission, and Dr. Abdul Saboor, dean facul-

Arid Agriculture University. IPS Vice Chairman Ambassador (R) Syed Abrar Hussain the government has enterchaired the session whereas tained industry bigwigs in senior practitioners including Mirza Hamid Hassan, former federal secretary at ministry of power, and Zaigham M. Rizvi, expert consultant on housing and housing finance, also took part in the discussion.

They termed incentivizing the stock market as a way to benefit the privileged at the cost of the poor and the middle class who constitute the major chunk of the society.

ed interests and give rise to ty of Social Sciences, PMAS They warned about further corruption, the speakers said.

# Progress review visit of Margalla highway

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA Mr. Amer Ali Ahmed and DG FWO Major General Kamal Azfar carried out progress review visit of Margalla Highway Project. During the visit, Chairman CDA was briefed about the ongoing development work being executed by FWO. After completing contractual formalities, physical work started on the 10 km long Segment-1 from GT Road to Sector D-12. Presently, work has been started simultaneously on road structures and is planned to expand soon to other stretches of the road.

Prime Minister performed the ground breaking ceremony of 35 km long Margalla Highway (Northern Bypass) on 19 April 2021. Segment-1 is slated to be completed in one year. However, FWO aims to complete this segment much earlier.

# **British Council recognizes credibility of AIOU**

The Country Director of British Council in Pakistan went on to announce the awarding of laptops to selected AIOU scholarship recipients to facilitate access to their work during the pandemic

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: International Collaboration and Exchange Office, AIOU organized an award ceremony for the scholarship recipients under the Scotland Pakistan Scholarship for Young Women and Girls' at the main campus of the university yesterday. The ceremony was presided over by Prof Dr. Zia -Ul Qayyum, VC, AIOU while Amir Ramzan, Country Director Pakistan, and British Council was invited as the chief guest. Deans, Director Regional Services, AIOU Inam Ullah Sheikh, Registrar, Bibi Yasmin, Director Collaboration and Exchange Office, Dr. Zahid Majeed, Sarah Parveiz and Zoha Fatima from British Council, Islamabad also attended the ceremony.



During the ceremony, the British Council awarded scholarship to 19 young women studying in AIOU who are pursuing their education at M Phil level.

The scholarships were awarded on merit basis to the most deserving students from the underdeveloped

areas of Pakistan. Scholarship certificates and fee cheques were presented by Prof Dr. Zia Ul- Qayyum and Amir Ramzan. The British Council in partnership

with the Government of Scotland initiated Scotland Pakistan Scholarship Scheme to promote education for women in Pakistan. Many AIOU students applied for this scheme which will cover educational expens-However, 37 female students were

es of selected students for two years. shortlisted and 19 were awarded scholarships in this ceremony. While addressing the ceremony,

ents to facilitate access to their work during the pandemic. Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qavvum thanked him and said that AIOU has reserved considerable amount of funds to provide educational facilities to the underprivileged and marginalised segments of the society.

Prof Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum congratu-

lated scholarship awardees and said

that awarding scholarships to our

students reflects British Council's

confidence in academic credibility of

the university. He further suggested

that the British Council may award

scholarships to additional AIOU

students which was generously ap-

The Country Director of British

Council in Pakistan went on to an-

nounce the awarding of laptops to

selected AIOU scholarship recipi-

proved by Amir Ramzan.

# Vaccine shortage

**\( \)** HIS week, concerning reports emerged regarding the shortage of vaccines in Sindh and Punjab as Chinese and European vaccine stocks neared exhaustion. The swift action on part of the federal authorities to dispatch emergency doses to both provinces is laudable, however this shortage should not have been an issue in the first place.

Pakistan initially struggled to procure vaccines due to which the start of its inoculation drive was delayed. Now that we have finally started to gain some momentum with the vaccination drive and restrictions are being eased across the country, this breakdown in supply could bring our progress to a halt. It is crucial for Pakistan to secure its supply lines and ensure that individuals do not get to miss out on their second dose.

Statements from government officials have been far from reassuring. There are reports that a million doses of the Cansino vaccine will be arriving by the end of this week, and about 12.5 million doses of AstraZeneca will be procured by the end of this month, however some officials say that there is no confirmation of this so far.

to fulfil its commitment to provide 3 million doses of PakVac. Though the SAPM on Health Dr Faisal Sultan has stated that this is a temporary issue, and that the situation will improve after June 20, authorities should expedite the procurement process by approaching partner countries. The government has worked extremely hard over the past year to get the situation under control. Positivity numbers have been declining. To preserve the gains of its hard

work, we must rectify supply issues at the earliest and en-

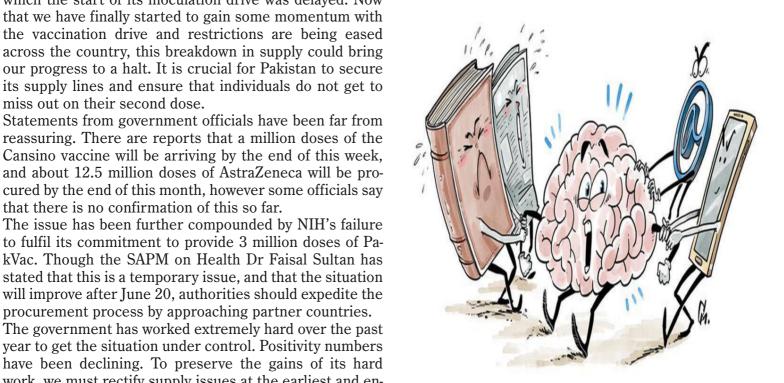
sure that such shortages are preempted going forward.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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# Swedish tech companies to invest in Pakistan

EDERAL Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque has invited Swedish tech companies to invot in Public It has been observed. country is favorable. Mr. Haque extended his invitation during a meeting with the Swedish delegation led by Ambassador of Sweden in Pakistan Henrik Persson. During the meeting, matters of mutual interests and related to IT and telecommunication, connectivity, and digitalization were discussed.

Federal Secretary Ministry of IT & Telecom Dr. Sohail Rajput, Chairman PTA Maj Gen (r) Amir Azeem Bajwa, Executive Director Frequency Allocation Board (FAB) Brig (r) Muhammad Tahir Ahmed Khan, and senior officers of the Ministry of IT were also present during this

It is indeed a positive step for Pakistan to consider collaborating with Swedish IT companies. They will bring an enriched experience and expertise in the technology and technical domains. Pakistan-Sweden can work together to enhance IT and telecommunications - fields that are significant for all nations. Pakistan must augment global connectivity and enhance national sectors of IT and telecommunication. Pakistan also has to end the digital divide and secure a leading position in IT, digital media, and telecommunications as far as South Asia is concerned. Any future agreement signed between a Swedish tech company will also add value to Pakistan's freelancing sector and the IT industry as a whole. The concerned authorities in Pakistan must also consider collaborating with tech industries and corporations from the US, Europe, Canada, Middle East, Far East, China, Australia, and New Zealand. In today's age of communication, we are only a click away from each other. Pakistan must ensure its presence in the field of tech and IT so that it not only remains relevant but grows with every passing year. This will increase our footprint on the global tech fabric, allow freelancers to broaden their business, and equip IT companies in Pakistan to increase their clientele and deliver services effectively and efficiently. This will add more to the revenue stream from this sector.

# Palestinians' censorship shows social media's flaw

Joseph Dana



It began with hundreds of employees at Google and Apple calling on their respective CEOs to condemn the violence against Palestinians and "reject any definitions of anti-Semitism that hold that criticism of Israel or Zionism is anti-Semitism." Hundreds of Facebook employees followed suit with an internal letter calling for the company to stop censoring Palestinian voices (specifically on Facebook-owned Instagram)

ORE than a decade ago, a small neighborhood in East Jerusalem became the focal point of a new type of Palestinian nonviolent resistance against Israeli occupation. Sheikh Jarrah, as it is known, is a nondescript area, but it has been at the center of Israeli efforts to "Judaize" the city by evicting Palestinian families and replacing them with Jewish settlers. As the evictions ramped up, Palestinians used social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter to share with the world the daily reality of Israel's actions.

Sheikh Jarrah is now back in the news, but Palestinians have come up against new barriers to sharing their story – this time from the very same social media companies that claim to provide free and open discussion spaces.

The suppression of the Palestinian narrative is the clearest demonstration of how social media companies are unable or unwilling to live up to their own mission statements as open platforms for unbiased conversations.

The brittle relationship between social media companies and censorship has been under the microscope for years, but the Palestinian question gets to the very heart of the issue. Last month's flare-up in violence between Israel and Hamas placed the conflict back at the top of the international news agenda. In the absence of any concrete (or coherent) political leadership, a new generation of Palestinians used their considerable skills to turn their social media accounts into powerful tools for organizing and spreading their stories.

Their success in overcoming the obstacles that prevent the international community from fully understanding the crushing reality of Israeli occupation was evident in the way this latest wave of violence was accompanied by unprecedented censorship.

From Twitter banning Palestinian journalists without explanation to the blocking of Palestinian content on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram (which is owned by Facebook), Palestinians have been censored in the last two months as never before.

But awareness of social movements such as Black Lives Matter is also higher than ever, which means it is much harder to suppress information. Since May, there have been several internal rebellions at major social media companies over Palestinian content.

It began with hundreds of employees at Google and Apple calling on their respective CEOs to condemn the violence against Palestinians and "reject any definitions of anti-Semitism that hold that criticism of Israel or Zionism is anti-Semitism." Hundreds of Facebook employees followed suit with an internal letter calling for the company to stop censoring Palestinian voices (specifically on Facebook-owned Instagram).

"As highlighted by employees, the press and members of Congress, and as reflected in our declining app store rating, our users and community at large feel that we are falling short on our promise to protect open expression around the situation in Palestine," they wrote. "We believe Facebook can and should do more to understand our users and work on rebuilding their trust."

The petition also called for a third-party audit of Facebook enforcement actions concerning Palestinian and Arab content and highlighted a post from then-Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the petitioners claimed "mischaracterized Palestinian civilians as terrorists," but was allowed to remain on the

The petition created enough pressure to force Instagram to make changes to its algorithm. Some media observers found that Facebook's algorithms labeled words such as "martyr" and "resistance" – commonly used by Palestinians in reference to their struggle – as "incitements to violence." Even content relating to Al-Aqsa Mosque was removed after the algorithm identified the third holiest site in Islam as a terrorist organization. The company later reinstated several posts, saying they had been removed in

At a time when trust in social media companies is low and all sides of the political spectrum are finding fault in how these companies handle user content, the fact that major platforms like Instagram have had to publicly confirm the bias in their own algorithm is a major confidence blow. It adds weight to the argument that these increasingly vital services either can't live up to their stated objectives of providing a free and open space to their users, or else they just don't want to.

For its part, Israel has a strong record of pressuring social media companies to adopt its positions. In May, for example, The Intercept website obtained a secret Facebook memo that outlined rules for moderating the term "Zionist" that essentially enabled it to suppress criticism of Israel. No longer satisfied with pressuring traditional media outlets like the New York Times, Israel's PR machine has shifted its focus to social media companies – and with great success, by all accounts.

How can the Palestinians respond to this wave of overt censorship? The same way they have reacted many times before, right from the beginning of the conflict.

They will continue to tell their stories using whatever means are at their disposal. The objections from social media employees show that people are more aware than ever of the mechanism of censorship at work. They understand how suppressing Palestinian content reveals a fatal flaw: That social media companies cannot regulate themselves.

The fact that Instagram was forced to admit its error and change course shows this is an issue that is not going away. Now that the conflict is falling out of the headlines, it is vital that the debate on social media and the regulation of information does not fade into the background too. Because, for all its flaws, social media remains one of the most powerful arenas of discussion we have.

-Courtesy: Arab News

# Trauma and mental health in Gaza

Kamran Ahmed



As the fragile ceasefire appears to hold, those who survived the conflict are once again trying to rebuild their lives. But the damage inflicted during those 11 days was not only physical and material. The mental health of Palestinians in Gaza was also bombarded during

those dark days

HE May 20 ceasefire between the Israeli government and Hamas brought the latest round of conflict in the region to an end and led to a collective sigh of relief from the beleaguered Palestinians of the Gaza Strip.

But the deep wounds the violence opened remain fresh.

Eleven days of Israeli bombardment on the besieged enclave left 256 Palestinians, including 66 children, dead. Nearly 2,000 have been injured. Homes, offices and hospitals have been

As the fragile ceasefire appears to hold, those who survived the conflict are once again trying to rebuild their lives. But the damage inflicted during those 11 days was not only physical and material. The mental health of Palestinians in Gaza was also bombarded during those dark days.

Living in fear of the next air attack, the spectre of death looming. Losing loved ones and homes. It is hard to imagine how utterly traumatising their reality has been.

Residents of Gaza have been enduring layer upon layer of trauma for decades. The deadly Israeli onslaughts are the most damaging - four in the last 14 years - but they occur against the background of chronic trauma imposed by the occupation.

Atrocities like the seizure and demolition of homes, oppressive policing, unlawful killings, detention without trial and torture all inflict profound psychological damage. Such perpetual subjugation can destroy self-esteem and leave victims in a state of "learned helplessness" - resigned to their fate and vulnerable to depression. Israel's illegal blockade on Gaza also amounts to a psychological stranglehold. The resulting economic deprivation has caused widespread unemployment and poverty - well-recognised risk factors for mental illness - and left health services underfunded, underdeveloped and unable to meet the demand. Each war on Gaza decimates them further – at least six hospitals, two clinics, a health centre and a Palestine Red Crescent Society facility sustained damage this time.

For most other countries, COVID-19 is currently the primary public and mental health concern. In Palestine, it is almost an afterthought, superseded by more dangerous assailants – air attacks and oppression. Nonetheless, more than 110,000 people in Gaza have been infected with the virus thus far, with more than 1,000 deaths. There are only enough doses available to vaccinate 60,200 people in a population of more than 2 million. So pandemic anxiety is also rampant in Gaza, adding to the mental burden.

All this turmoil translates to actual mental illness. In Gaza, rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) which features disrupted sleep, feeling permanently on edge and easily startled, flashbacks and nightmares of the trauma and emotional numbing – are incredibly high. A 2017 study found 37 percent of the adults living on the Strip qualify for the diagnosis.

In my work as a psychiatrist, I have treated refugees with PTSD from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It can be severe, complex and protracted. It would be almost impossible to start the healing while the root causes persist. The head of mental health services in Palestine once said her people do not suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder because their trauma is ongoing. Present-traumatic stress disorder may be a more fitting description of their experience.

As is often the case in these situations, children suffer the most in Palestine. A study conducted in 2020, before the latest conflict, found that 53.5 per cent of children in Gaza were suffering from PTSD. Nearly 90 percent had experienced personal trauma. The Norwegian Refugee Council reported the devastating news that 11 of the children killed by the recent Israeli air attacks were participating in its trauma programme. No wonder UN Secretary-General António Guterres described Gaza as "hell on earth" for children.

Of course, Israelis have suffered too. Twelve were killed by Hamas rockets in May, two of them children - a tragic loss of human life. But for the Israelis, the Iron Dome defence system and bomb shelters provide a vital safety net and sense of security that Palestinians live without. Their highly developed healthcare services are far better equipped to deal with both physical injuries and the psychological impact of rocket fire. They are not living through the mental anguish of occupation either. All this is reflected in their lower PTSD rates, ranging from 0.5 to 9 percent of the population.

Back in 2008, I went on a trip to post-conflict Somaliland to teach psychiatry to medical students. The civil war affecting the area ended in 1991 but its effects on the mental health of the population and health infrastructure were still evident some 17 years later. They still continue to this day. It will take time to rebuild the fragmented minds and health services in Gaza, but there is little hope for them until Israel ends its illegal occupation, settlement expansion and blockade on Gaza.

The oppression of Palestinians has led Human Rights Watch to the conclusion that Israel is committing the crime of apartheid. Perhaps viewing this situation through the prism of human rights violations and their grave impact on mental health might prompt the international community to pressure Israel to act. Palestinians and Israelis both deserve security and protection from trauma. The best way to achieve this is by affording Palestinians their basic human rights.

-Courtesy: Al Jazeera

# World / Sports

# **Briefs**

### **Haroon Khan** wins bronze medal

SPORTS DESK

BEIRUT: Pakistan's Haroon Khan has claimed a bronze medal at the 24th Asian Taekwondo Championship in Beirut, Lebanon.

Haroon Khan was seriously injured by a Tajik player in the quarterfinals. Haroon Khan wanted to play in the semi-finals despite being injured but doctors did not allow him to play.

President of Pakistan Taek

wondo Federation Col (retd) WasimJanjua announced a cash award of Rs 100,000 for Haroon Khan and Rs 25,000 for Hamza Saeed. "With the fearlessness and bravery with which Haroon was playing, there was a strong hope that he would

### European Union is a valued...

also qualify for the finaL,"

Wasim said.

From Page 01 The EU raised concerns regarding death penalty and the abuse of blasphemy laws. The EU welcomed the

progress made by Pakistan in the implementation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Action Plan and Pakistan's commitment to continue the engagement with the FATF to address all the remaining issues.

While recalling the joint declaration on Afghanistan during the 5th session of the Pakistan-EU Strategic Dialogue, the EU and Pakistan reaffirmed their strong support for an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process and encouraged the parties to the conflict resume negotiations in earnest to achieve lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan. The achievements of the last 20 years in socio-economic development, human rights and fundamental freedoms should be preserved. The EU and Pakistan, therefore, call on the parties to observe a lasting humanitarian ceasefire, in response to the global aperal Guterres, and to strive towards a complete elimination of violence as a clear demonstration of their genuine commitment to lasting peace and reconciliation.

The EU appreciated Pakistan's hosting of millions of Afghan refugees for past two decades. The EU assured Pakistan of its cooperation and ongoing work towards a durable solution. including through assisting and promoting the safe and dignified return of Afghan refugees to their homeland. In this regard, the EU and Pakistan emphasised the need for a well-resourced and time-bound roadmap.

### Dasu Dam to start new era...

From Page 01

The purchase of land for the dam has been finalized and the construction is continuing in compliance with SOPs, despite the coronavirus situation. Meanwhile, State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib said the first phase of 2160 MW Dasu Hydropower Project would start power generation by April 2025. In a tweet, the minister said it would be completed in two phases and the first phase will be completed at a cost of Rs511 billion. Some 80% of the project cost of the first phase will be borne by Wapda and the remaining 20% will be provided by the World Bank. Farrukh Habib said the project will inject Rs12 billion units of cheap and environ ment-friendly power in the national grid, besides creating 8,000 jobs.

# FM Qureshi reiterates...

From Page 01 Both Foreign Ministers exchanged views on rising Islamophobia and agreed on the need for evolving a joint strategy to counter discrimination against all religious faiths, particularly against Muslims. Foreign Minister Qureshi also extended an invitation to Foreign Minister Maliki to visit Pakistan. Foreign Minister Maliki accepted the invitation and responded that he looked forward to visiting Pakistan in the near future.



ABU DHABI: Lahore Qalander's Shaheen Shah Afridi celebrating after taking wicket against Multan Sultan in PSL-6 match. - DNA

# Azerbaijan's CAERC to start co-op with Pak think tank

Pakistani Ambassador Bilal Hayee who was moderating the meeting, spoke about the importance of relations between the two countries think tanks in the field of economic policy

**DNA** 

BAKU: Azerbaijan's Center for Analysis of Economic Reforms and Communication (CAERC) has invited the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) to cooperate through joint research and policy analysis on East-West transport corridor. During an online meeting Executive Director of CAERC VusalGasimli said that this cooperation would help increase trade between the countries of the East-West Transport Corridor, including Azerbaijan and Pakistan. Gasimli spoke about the new landscape created in the South Caucasus region after the liberation of Azerbajjani territories in the last year's war and the Zangazur transport corridor (that will connect Azerbaijan to Tur-



Furthermore, he told the participants about the economic reforms carried out in the country in recent years, the successful

plementation of strategic governance in Azerbaijan and monitoring and evaluation activities, as well as the Center's projects such

pact on regional trade and country in the Doing Busi-transit routes. country in the Doing Busi-ness report, successful im-Shopping Center", "Azrank-Hayee who was moderating ing.az" and "One stop shop" Export Support Center. The online meeting had been organized by the Embassy of the Islamic Repub-

the meeting, spoke about the importance of relations between the two countries' think tanks in the field of

of the Pakistan Institute of Economic Development, briefed the participants on the activities of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), which is an independent research organization of the Pakistani government that conducts theoretical and empirical research in the field of Development Economics and Pakistan-related economics. He noted that PIDE has been conducting research on social policy issues for 61 years and has gained international prestige and recognition. NadeemUlHaque gave information about the grant program "Research for Social Transformation and Advancement" (RASTA) within the Public Sector Development Program of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE).

Nadeem Ul Haque, Head

# economic policy. Indonesia: experts warn Covid surge

FOREIGN DESK

JAKARTA: Health officials in Indonesia are blaming the emergence of the Delta variant first detected in India for a massive surge in COVID-19 that has seen the number of daily new cases more than triple in recent weeks, but some of the country's leading infectious disease experts say the real reasons are closer to home. "The spread of this virus variant is very fast," Health Minister Budi GunadiSadikin admitted during an online seminar on Sunday. adding that the variant had got a foothold in Indonesia through its ports. "Because many seaports in Indonesia carry goods and many also come from India, they enter from there," he said. But experts interviewed by Al Jazeera said the Delta variant was not the primary problem. They say the surge is a result of travel at the end of the month of Ramadan - when many people ignored a travel ban to visit their hometowns, the absence of a cohesive health policy coupled with confused messaging, the privatisation of testing regimes and ineffective tracing. While travel was restricted at domestic airports and ferry terminals from April 22 to May 24, the government estimated between five and six million people still moved between cities on Indonesia's two most heavily populated islands of Java and Sumatra during the holiday period. "All COVID variants are a concern but the Delta variant has

not proven to be more deadly," said Udayana University professor GustiNgurahMahardika, Bali's most senior virologist. "It only gets a silver medal; the champion in Indonesia is still the Alpha variant. I believe the Delta variant is being used as a scapegoat because of the government's incapacity to control the pandemic." Health authorities on Thursday reported 12,624 cases - the highest daily rise since February - bringing Indonesia's total cases to nearly two million.



MINSK: Pakistan Ambassador to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan had a detailed meeting with Director Commercial of Golf ,Minsk ,Vladimir Savenko and Deputy Director Lidiya Kotkina and discussed modalities for cooperation in promoting golf. – DNA

# Pakistan, Belarus to promote Golf co-op

KARACHI: Pakistan's Embassy in Minsk and Belarus Sports Ministry were working on various joint initiatives to promote golf sport in Belarus. In line with this programme,a week-long complimentary coaching session would be conducted by renowned Pakistani Golf Coach Khalid Mehmood in July. In continuity of his diplomatic efforts to boost the relationship and cooperation of two countries in different sectors including culture and sports, Pakistan's Ambassador in Minsk SajjadHaider Khan on Friday had a detailed meeting with Director Commercial of Golf , Minsk , Vladimir Savenko and Deputy Director Ms. LidiyaKotkina and discussed modalities for cooperation in promoting golf, said a statement issued from the Embassy . During the meeting, Pakistan's Ambassador briefed the Belarusian dignitaries on the rich experience and expertise of Pakistan in this field. He also offered them to arrange a week-long golf coaching session. The Director Commercial of Golf , Minsk, highly appreciated the free golf coaching by renowned Pakistani Coach. SajjadHaider Khan further told that Pakistan was also working for signing memorandum of understanding with Belarus on cooperation in golf and had received good response. ' This public diplomacy event will help bring awareness about Pakistan as a golf playing nation," he commented adding, it would improve participation of general public and of diplomatic corps in this sport which was just taking roots in Belarus. - DNA

# Munir Akram urges debt relief for poor countries

"The pandemic has uncovered the multiple vulnerabilities and inequalities that pre-existed in this diverse group of countries," he told the UN General Assembly on Thursday

DNA

NEW YORK: The President of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Pakistani Ambassador MunirAkram, has underlined the need for concessional financing and debt relief to help the middle-Income countries recover from the economic and social impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

"The pandemic has uncovered the multiple vulnerabilities and inequalities that pre-existed in this diverse group of countries," he told the UN General Assembly on Thursday. "Additionally, crippling debt, global economic inequalities and vulnerability to the effects of climate change and natural disasters, had eroded prospects for growth in the lower echelon and even the upper echelon of middle-income countries," the ECOSOC chief said in his opening address at a high-level meeting on these nations.

The meeting was convened to discuss the gaps and challenges of middle-income countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a focus on the economic dimension of sustainable development. "Before the pandemic," Ambassador Akram pointed out, "there was a global gap of USD 2.5 trillion in financing for achieving the (Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as a result of the crisis this gap is increased to 4.2 trillion per year for all developing countries of which the middle-income countries are a

sizable proportion." "If we are to recover back bet-



ter from the pandemic what we need, first of all is equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine for all," he said, while referring to ECOSOC's special meeting on "A Vaccine for All" that spotlighted on the unacceptable inequalities in access to the vaccine between the poor and the rich countries.

"We need to expand production, distribution, waive Intellectual Property Rights in order to make sure that everyone, everywhere is vaccinated as soon as possible," the ECOSOC chief said.

But, Ambassador Akram said the biggest challenge lies in access to affordable and concessional financing and debt relief to enable middle-income countries like other developing countries to respond to the multi-faced crisis.

'The pandemic has drained domestic resources and forced many countries to divert these resources to addressing health, social and climate crises," he said, noting that many middle-income countries face serious resource constraints. While welcoming the Group of 20 (industrialized countries) Debt Service Suspension

Initiative, he said many middle income-countries have been excluded from this initiative.

The ECOSOC chief called for recognizing the multiple dimensions of their vulnerabilities in the criteria for accessing concessional resources and finance. The reallocation of a sizable proportion of the special drawing rights which are to be created will be a critical part of the solution to the financial needs of the developing countries. The early participation of private sector in the debt solution

is critical, he said. Ambassador Akram said that technology transfer and bridging the digital divide was critical to enable developing countries especially the middle-income countries to leapfrog into modern global digital economy.

### N Korea ready for 'dialogue' with US

Foreign Desk

PYONGYANG: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has said his country needs to prepare for "both dialogue and confrontation" with the United States under President Joe Biden, state media reported on Friday. At a plenary meeting of the

central committee of the governing Workers' Party of Korea on Thursday, Kim outlined his strategy for relations with Washington, and the "policy tendency of the newly emerged US administration", the Korean Central News Agency said. The comments mark the first time Kim has made a reference to the country's policy towards the US since the inauguration of US President Joe Biden.

Kim "stressed the need to get prepared for both dialogue and confrontation, especially to get fully prepared for confrontation in order to protect the dignity of our state" and reliably guarantee a "peaceful environment", KCNA reported.

# Govt's economic indicators...

From Page 01

Bilawal said that likening the country - which is being ruled by an "illegitimate government" - to the state of Madina is not appropriate. Speaking about the budget recently presented by the PTI-led government, Bilawal said the masses are aware of the fact that "claims of 4% growth are based on lies.'

"I think both this budget and the budget session are illegal," he said, adding that ever since the government has taken over, no new National Finance Commission (NFC) award has been given to provinces.

It should be noted that the NFC award is meant to distribute financial resources between the federal government and the provinces. "Every budget will be unconstitutional until the NFC award is given," said Bilawal. Shedding light on the growing inflation in the country Bilawal said that the PTI government has "abandoned people and left them in a destitute condition."

He said that people will never forgive the government for further pushing them below the poverty line.

"If the budget raises petrol, gas, and electricity prices, then every Pakistani has to bear the burden of the government's incompetence,' said Bilawal, adding that had there been economic growth, so many people would not be unemployed.

### *Iranians* living in Pak vote...

From Page 01

living in this country went to the polls to participate in determining their country's destiny. Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini, Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan said:

Polling stations for the 13th presidential election have been set up in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, Karachi, the country's most populous city, as well as in Lahore and Quetta, while Iranians living in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province are 200 kilometers away to cast their ballots. They travel to the capital and participate in the elections.

Officials from various Iranian institutions, their families, teachers, educators, businessmen, students and many other Iranian citizens living in various cities in Pakistan are among those who cast their ballots to choose the candidate. Also, the presence of a number of primary voters at the ballot box and their enthusiasm and desire to participate in determining the fate of their country was another notable scene in the voting of the 13th Iranian presidential election in Pakistan.

It should be noted that despite the threat of the Corona Virus, the active and maximum participation of Iranians living in Pakistan in the elections 2021 and their presence at the ballot box in compliance with all health measures shows their love and interest in Iranian identity and importance to their right to self-determination. According to the board of the executive and supervisory boards, the voting process will continue until 18:00 local time in all four polling stations.

# Briefs

# **Turkey** gives over 40 million vaccine

WEB DESK

ISTANBUL: Turkey has administered over 40 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines since it launched a mass vaccination campaign in mid-January, the Turkish health minister announced on Friday. "Among 206 countries, we

are the ninth country with the most vaccines administered," Fahrettin Koca said on Twitter. On some days, Turkish health personnel vaccinated 6,000 people per minute, Koca added. More than 25.7 million people have received their first doses, while over 14.2 million have been fully vaccinated, showed the Health Ministry data.

Turkey's overall case tally is now over 5.3 million, while the nationwide death toll has reached 49,012 with 62 new fatalities as of Thursday.

To fight the spread of the virus, Turkey currently has a curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. on Monday to Saturday and a full lockdown on Sundays.

Since December 2019, the pandemic has claimed over 3.8 million lives in 192 countries and regions, with more than 177.5 million cases reported worldwide, according to the US-based Johns Hopkins University.

### Azeri, Turk sappers continue to de-mine Karabakh

**DNA** 

BAKU: The Azerbaijani and Turkish sappers continue clearing of mines formerly occupied territories following the victory in the war with Armenia in 2020.

Sappers of the Azerbaijani army along with their Turkish colleagues de-mined over 7,000 hectares of liberated lands and the de-mined areas have been transferred to the relevant state structures, Defence Ministry officer Jeyhun Baghirov said. He added that Azerbaijan plans to purchase from Turkey 20 more pieces of the MEMATT mine-clearing equipment.

"Half of this consignment has already been delivered to Azerbaijan, and at the moment this equipment is already being used for de-mining," he said.

Speaking about the peculiarities of the equipment, the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry serviceman Mirsafar Aliyev said that it is controlled from a distance of 500 meters. "In the event of an explosion during the de-mining, the staff is safe. The equipment is capable of neutralizing mines located at a depth of 20-25 cm, in an area from 500 to 1,000 meters long and 170 cm wide," he said. Azerbaijani territories liberated from Armenia's occupation in the 44-war in autumn 2020 are currently being demined at a high pace.

### Norway eases Covid curbs

OSLO: Norway will lift a slew of measures to fight Covid-19 in the coming days, the prime minister said Friday, opening up travel, sport and partying. "We are on the way. It's time to move to the next level," Prime Minister Erna Solberg said. With vaccinations progressing, she announced a step up to the third of four phases of the reopening plan. Parties and weddings will also be allowed to take place with as many as 100 people attending.

And the number of guests who can attend house parties will be doubled to 20 without taking into account vaccinations against coronavirus.

Adults will no long be required to keep a safe distance from each other when they play sport and advice against travelling within the Nordic country will be lifted.

Foreign trips will also be easier although certain curbs will remain in force against the pandemic.

The foreign ministry will from July 5 lift recommendations not to visit European territo-

ry unless it is essential. Quarantine rules are being eased from June 21 when travellers from within Europe will no longer have to spend the period in a specific hotel. – APP

# Uzbek delegation in Pakistan to explore academic links

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Delegation from Nukus State Pedagogical Institute, Republic of Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan arrived in Pakistan for a two-day visit of University of the Punjab, Lahore. The delegation included Mr. Kalkhanov Jumabaevich, Vice-Rector, Nukus State Pedagogical Institute, Mr. Alimjan Bimbetiv Utarbaevich, representative of International Relations Department, Nukus State Pedagogical Institute, and Ms. Nargiza Babaniyazova, Head of English Department, Nukus State Pedagogical Institute. During the meeting between

Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar, Vice-Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Lahore and the delegation from Nukus State Pedagogical Institute, various collaborative projects under academic sphere were discussed. Furthermore, the meeting focused on initiating student exchange programs and faculty exchange programs. The meeting was also attended by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Brigadier Mansoor Saeed (Retd), Senior



Member Advisory Board, CGSS, and Dr. Fozia Hadi, Director, Regional Integration Center (RIC), University of the Punjab and other senior faculty members of University of the Punjab, Lahore.

The delegation also visited various departments of University of the Punjab, Lahore including Institute of Education Research (IER), Institute of Administra-

SAARC CCI lauds govt for

issuing funds for HQs building

tion of the SAARC Chamber

Headquarters from the EDF

fund for the construction of

SAARC Building Headquar-

ters by the Government of

Pakistan and also discussed

the early inauguration of the

The participants applauded

Mr.Abdul RazakDawood, Ad-

visor to PM for Commerce,

Secretary Commerce and

other concerned officials to work hard to fill this gap.

building.

tion Sciences (IAS), Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Department of Agriculture Sciences, and Center for Applied Molecular Biology (CAMB). During the meetings with the Deans of the departments, various projects of common interests were finalized. The meetings were followed by a Dinner organized by Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar, Vice-Chancellor,

for approving the release of

significant amount of mon-

ey for enhancing Pakistan's

prestige in SAARC coun-

tries and building SAARC

headquarters in Pakistan.

The establishment of the

Chamber Headquarters in

Islamabad is a great hon-

or for Pakistan and all the

credit goes to Trade Advi-

sor RazzaqDawood, Secre-

tary Commerce, concerned

officials and the business

Haji Ghulam Ali further

added that the Govern-

ment of Pakistan and the

business community of Pa-

kistan have always strived

to make mutual efforts to

enhance ties and relations

with SAARC countries. He

said that while the COV-

ID-19 epidemic affected the

entire world, it also created

a gap between Pakistan and

SAARC countries. The busi-

ness community will need

community of Pakistan.

University of the Punjab for the Delegation from Nukus State Pedagogical Institute. The dinner was attended by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Dr. Fozia Hadi, Director, Regional Integration Center (RIC), University of the Punjab, Lahore, deans of various departments, management of University, and other senior faculty members of University

of the Punjab. On the second day of the visit, the tour of Lahore city was organized. Few of the prominent places visited by the delegation included Mizar-e-Iqbal, Badshahi Mosque, and Shahi Qilla. Additionally, the delegation also visited College of Art and Design (CAD), University of the Punjab, Lahore. During the meeting at College of Art and Design (CAD), the delegation expressed interest in facilitating cooperation between Art department of Nukus State Pedagogical Institute and College of Art and Design, University of the Punjab. The visit of Nukus State Pedagogical Institute was facilitated by Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad. In this regard, Mr. Kalkhanov Jumabaevich, Vice-Rector, Nukus State Pedagogical Institute appreciated the instrumental role played by CGSS in establishing academic relations between Pakistan

and Uzbekistan and specifically

between Regional Integration

Center (RIC), University of the

Punjab, Lahore and Nukus State

Pedagogical Institute, Republic of

Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan.

4 dead in Canaries migrant boat tragedy

MADRID: At least four people died, including a woman believed to be pregnant and a child, and another four were missing after a migrant boat overturned off Lanzarote in the Canary Islands, rescuers said Friday. The vessel was carrying 49 people when it hit a rocky area just off the island's northern shores, with rescuers pulling 41 people to safety, emergency services said.

Three people died, among them two women, one of whom we believe was pregnant," Enrique Espinosa, head of Lanzarote's emergency services, told media. Rescuers searching for five survivors had later found another body, he said: "It was a boy, about 8 years old". Among the survivors were 20 men, 17 women, two children and two babies, the emergency services said.

The boat overturned close to the shore near Orzola, a village on the northern tip of the island, in a dangerous area to navigate, he said. "It is a very rocky area and..

if you don't know it well, you will go straight to the reef.' The incident happened late on Thursday when there were a lot of people out in the streets who all rushed to help. "It was at 10:00 pm on a summer evening and a lot of people were in the street. Thanks to that, everyone jumped into the water to try to rescue them," he said. - APP

# Chinese scholar lauds 70-year Pak-China friendship

BEIJING: Since the establishment of diplomatic ties 70 years ago, no matter how the world and domestic politics have evolved, China and Pakistan have always understood, respected, trusted, and helped each other.

This was stated by Prof. Tang Mengsheng, Director of Center for Pakistan Studies at Peking University, in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

The friendship between our two countries, which has always been rock-solid and vigorous, is exemplary among state-to-state relations. In the past 70 years, China-Pakistan friendship has always taken firm and strong steps, step by step more steadily. That is what we often say, China-Pakistan friendship is unbreakable," Tang said.

After he graduated from Urdu Major, Department of Eastern Languages and Cultures, Peking University in 1974, Prof. Tang Mengsheng participated in the construction of the Karakoram Highway, also called "Pak-China Friendship Highway" in Pakistan, as a translator.

As Tang recalled, the highway builders riding in openbacked trucks left from Xinjiang Province, China. On the road full of potholes, their trip was extremely hard. But to their great relief, upon their arrival, they were warmly greeted by long-waiting local people.

Despite the tough living conditions, the local people always took good care of them. Back in those days, they lived in areas near Hunza and Gilgit, where the roads were built along the mountains with little farmland nearby.

In order "neither to interrupt local people's daily lives, nor to bring harm to interests of local people", the construction team's food supply was brought from China. - DNA

# Myanmar

WEB DESK

coup

displaces

thousands

YANGON: A record 82.4 million people have been displaced around the world in 2020 due to violence and persecution, including an estimated 680,000 in Myanmar following ethnic conflict and the recent military coup, according to the United Nations refugee agency. Indrika Ratwatte, director of the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, said in Bangkok on Friday that an estimated 200,000 people were added to the number of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Myanmar in the last four months, since the removal of Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government in Feb-

ruarv. Most of the recent IDPs are from the states of Kavah and Kayin, where ethnic groups are engaged in armed fighting with the military. Tens of thousands are also displaced in Shan and Kachin states.

"It is a rather complex map of internal displacement and the situation is of extreme concern to us," Ratwatte said, adding that it is crucial for the international community to deliver life-saving assistance to the Myanmar refugees.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims were forced to flee to neighbouring Bangladesh in 2017 following a military crackdown, while more than 100,000 of the persecuted minority remain in camps in Myanmar's Rakhine state. Ratwatte was speaking at the presentation of the annual UNHCR Global Trends Report on refugees, during which he also said that in the last 10 years, the number of refugees worldwide had doubled.

# Businesses can help Govt achieve revenue target

meeting

NAZIR SIYAL

**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: Consultations

on better utilization of gov-

ernment approved funds

and early opening of SAARC

Chamber of Commerce and

Industry Headquarter is a

great honor for Pakistan and

chaired by Haji Ghulam

the business community.

important

KARACHI: 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 Friday said on average Pakistan growth rate has remained 1.8 percent less than the South Asian countries over the last three decades.

The business community play a central role in improving the growth rate and the absence of enabling environment for them will never help increase growth and revenue while the achievement of revenue target of Rs5800 billion will remain a far cry. Mian Zahid Hussain said

that cornering businessmen will never help reduce the miseries of the masses and help the government overcome financial difficulties. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the recent budget has focused on industry, agriculture, SMEs and documentation but some decisions have resulted in discontent among the businessmen representing different sectors. He said that government

Ali, Vice President, SAARC

Chamber of Commerce and

Industry was held at the

FPCCI Capital Office yes-

terday. The meeting delib-

erated on the building of the

SAARC Chamber Headquar-

ters, relations with SAARC

countries and promotion of

bilateral trade. Haji Ghulam

Ali appreciated the move to

approve the release of a fund

of 100 Million for the comple-

plans to push growth rate to five percent which will require imports of \$65 billion while exports will remain \$27 billion and remittances will hit the mark of \$30 billion. The current account defi-

cit will reach to a level of eight billion dollars as billions will be needed in debt servicing, he added.



ANTALYA: Foreign Minister, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, was received by the Chairman, Afghan High Council for National Reconciliation Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, on the sidelines of Antalya Diplomacy Forum. - DNA

# China's success a result of CPC's competent leadership

VLADIMIR NOROV

HE Communist Party of China is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The CPC has come a long way to establish itself as a leading force promoting



the cause of national revival. In 1949, when the People's Republic of China was founded, it was a less developed country with hundreds of millions of people living in poverty and illiteracy. After passing through a series of critical tests and crises, the CPC has become even stronger and more confident in leading the Chinese people on the path to the country's great rejuvenation.

In 1978, the Party led and supported the discussion that "practice is the only test of truth", which has been of great importance in lifting the country out of chaos and turning the country into the world's

second-largest economy.
Especially since the CPC initiated the policy of reform and opening-up in 1978, which enabled China to lift more than 800 million people out of abject poverty, ac-

cording to the World Bank's international poverty standard. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres praised this feat, saying: "China is the country that has made the greatest contribution to reducing poverty in the world", as it accounted for more than 70 percent of the global population lifted out of poverty over the same time period.

While previously most people in China did not have access to health insurance, today more than 96 percent of the population is covered by it. As the world's largest developing country, China's successful experience in poverty eradication and providing health insurance coverage has attracted worldwide attention.

Achieving the goals and objectives in the state-building of any country is impossible without a solid economic foundation. From 1952 to 2019, the volume of Chinese industrial production increased almost 1,000 times with an average annual growth rate of 11 percent. Per capita income has increased 70 times. In addition, in 1978 China's exports amounted to \$10 billion, which is less than 1 percent of world trade, by the end of 2020 exports had increased to a record \$2.49 trillion, which made China the world's largest country

in the world has ever experienced such dynamic development. As a result of the ongoing reforms, China's GDP per capita has grown from less than \$200 four decades ago to more than \$11,000 today.

Over the past decades, China's achievements have been notable, not only because of their scale, but also because of the global economic shocks that have recurred during this period. The Chinese leadership has coped with these very successfully, and after each crisis, the economy has become stronger and narrowed the gap with the biggest economy in the world, the United States.

The 1997-98 Asian crisis, an event that set back a number of other Asian economies for many years; the bursting of the dot-com bubble in financial markets in 2001; the devastating financial crisis of 2007-08, from which many economies and their societies may not have really recovered; and, of course, the current COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to the largest economic downturn worldwide since the 1930s.

During the pandemic, against the backdrop of a sharp decline in global transnational direct investment, foreign direct investment in China in 2020 increased

by 6.2 percent and reached about 1 trillion yuan (\$144.38 billion). At the end of 2020, analysts at the British Center for Economic and Business Research said in a report that China's economy will become the largest economy in the world in 2028, five years earlier than previously

It must be recognized that China's outstanding economic success is the result of the CPC's competent leadership and a carefully thought-out development model implemented through "trial and error". China's leaders are well-educated and capable civil servants, many of whom have postgraduate degrees from leading universities at home and abroad.

The Chinese way of careful planning and review of the results of each five-year plan is a good example of how to achieve high global development results in all areas of the country's socioeconomic life. The competence of China's leaders is evidenced by their approach to economic development: a pragmatic, experimental, gradual and strong leadership style.

The CPC has achieved overwhelming domestic recognition and approval. Polls from the Harvard Kennedy School show that more than 90 percent of Chinese people trust the CPC-led government. A recent study published by York University in Canada in May 2021 shows that the new coronavirus outbreak has further increased Chinese citizens' confidence in their governments: 93 percent at the county level, 94 percent at the city level, and 95 percent at the provincial level.

In November last year, President Xi Jinping said that by 2035, the size of the national economy and GDP per capita will double, and the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) will lead China toward becoming a high-income country.

By the end of the 14th Five-Year Plan, China aims to be one of the most innovative countries in the world, and its longer-term goal is to make significant breakthroughs in innovation by 2035. As part of the dual-circulation development paradigm, technological innovation will boost China's manufacturing industry and propel it up the global value chain, while ensuring strategic supply in the domestic

The author is secretary-general of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The author contributed this article to China Watch, a think tank powered by China Daily. The views do not necessarily reflect those of China Daily.



# Islamabar POST



SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2021 | WWW.ISLAMABADPOST.COM.PK

# **Briefs**

### Hajj: No entry without smart card, permit

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD: In an effort to ensure compliance with coronavirus safety measures, the Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah confirmed that no one will be allowed to perform Hajj without a smart card and a documented official permit. Dr. Abdulfattah Mashat, deputy minister of Hajj and Umrah, said that the permit will be matched with the electronic card and the pilgrim's ID, noting that there is no platform to apply for Hajj except the official website of the ministry, Arab News reported.

"Any company that offers service packages outside the ministry's platform is violating the system," he said. "At the first stages of the 'Eatmarna' application, we noticed some violations by some entities and individuals, but with the passage of time, community awareness began to increase."

Mashat said this year's Hajj will use permits through the "Absher" platform only. Information for those who purchased their Hajj packages on the ministry's platform will be linked to Absher and their ID.

### Israeli police fire stun grenades at **Palestinians**

FOREIGN DESK

JERUSALEM: Israeli police fired stun grenades and rubber bullets at Palestinians who turned up in large numbers on Friday at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem, leaving at least three demonstrators wounded.

A series of far more violent clashes at the site in April and May helped ignite last month's 11-day Gaza war. The site is the third holiest in Islam and the holiest for Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount because it was the location of the biblical temples.

It has frequently been the scene of Israeli-Palestinian violence. This time, the police refrained from entering the compound and appeared to act with more restraint, possibly on the orders of Israel's newly sworn-in government.

The Red Crescent emergency service said two Palestinians were wounded by rubber bullets and a third by a stone that was thrown.

Young Palestinians could be seen throwing stones at police stationed at an entrance to the compound. who fired stun grenades and rubber-coated bullets.

### Boris suffers embarrassing by-election defeat

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson suffered an embarrassing defeat when his Conservative Party lost a parliamentary by-election on the outskirts of London, just a few miles from his own seat.

Since its creation in 1974, the Conservatives had comfortably held the leafy, affluent Chesham and Amersham constituency, capturing more than 50 per cent of the vote on every occasion.

However, in an astonishing turnaround, the candidate for the Liberal Democrats - a centrist, pro-European Union party – won a majority of 8,028 votes over the Conservative candidate in results announced on Friday morning. Asked about the huge swing, junior interior minister Kit Malthouse said: "It's tough

and disappointing". "We would have hoped for a better result," he told Sky News. The Conservative Party last month won a stronghold of Britain's opposition Labour Party in Hartlepool in northeast England, which Johnson credited in part to delivering Brexit.



ISLAMABAD: Charge d Affaires of the Malaysian High Commission Deddy Faisal hosted a farewell lunch for the outgoing Deputy Head of Mission of Japan Yusuke Shindo. Also seen in the picture are envoys from Australia, Malaysia, India, France, Brunei, The Netherlands, Indonesia, China, Myanmar. - DNA

# Govt taking steps to ensure free elections: Farrukh

The Minister was of the view that the opposition had interest only in the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) like concessions to get relief in their corruption cases

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib Friday said the government was taking all possible steps to ensure free, fair, and transparent elections in line with the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Addressing a news conference along with Prime Minister's Advisor on Parliamentary Affairs Babar Awan, he described the opposition's attitude towards the electoral reforms as 'non-cooperative and against the will of masses'. Free, fair, and transparent elections were the essence of a strong democracy, he added. The minister said it was Prime Min-

ister Imran Khan, who had introduced the culture of 'neutral umpire' for fair play in international cricket.

# Shehbaz urges CEC to hold inclusive dialogue

plaints about the rigging in 2018 general elections, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President ine will of the electorate". Shehbaz Sharif on Friday urged the Election Com- "In view of the complaints of rigging in the 2018 mission of Pakistan (ECP) to invite all opposition 
Elections, there is a dire need for evolving a national

In a letter to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, the Opposition Leader called for a consensus-based reform plan to be presented

credibility, he added.

He said the three major political par-

The electoral reforms initiated by ties, including Pakistan Peoples Party (PTI), Jammiat Ulema Islam-Fazl him were to ensure free and fair elections in the country so that no (JUI-F) and Pakistan Threek-e-Insaf one could raise an objection on their (PTI) had termed the 2013 general

elections were termed. Therefore,

there was a need to use the Elec-

elections are fair, transparent and reflect the genu-

parties for consultation on electoral reforms. consensus on electoral reforms to ensure that next general elections are held in fair, free and transpar ent manner, without any interference," Shehbaz Sharif wrote in the letter. - DNA

before Parliament for passage to "ensure that future

tronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in future elections to prevent the chances of rigging, he added. The minister recalled that a judi-

cial commission was constituted as a result of his party's 126-day sit-in which had expounded 40 recommendations that highlighted shortcomings in the election system, he Mentioning the Charter of Democra-

against the 2013 election results,

cy, signed by the PPP and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), he said both the parties agreed to introduce open and traceable ballots in the Senate elections. Despite being in the government for almost 10 years, both the parties had done nothing to ensure free and fair elections in the country, he added.

He said the PTI government had got passed 110 laws from the National Assembly and still dozens of such laws were pending in the House due to the opposition's non-serious attitude. Various bills, passed by the National Assembly in recent days, had been pending since 2020, he added.

### EU lifts travel curbs for US travelers BRUSSELS: US travelers will finally be allowed to visit Europe again this summer. The European Union's governing body has recommended that the bloc lift restrictions on non-essential travel from 14 countries, including the US, a move that would

allow visitors from these destinations to vacation in Europe far more easily. In a statement announced on Friday, the European Council said member states "gradually lift the restrictions at the travel external borders" for residents of the following countries: Albania, Australia, Israel, Japan, Lebanon, New Zealand, Republic of North Macedonia, Rwanda, Serbia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, USA and China, subject to confirmation of reciprocity. - Web Desk

### Pak envoy interacts with **US** Congress members

**DNA** 

WASHINGTON: Ambassador of Pakistan to United States Dr. Asad Majeed Khan held meetings with members of the US Congress including Congresswoman Lisa Mc-Clean of Michigan, Congressman Peter Meijer of Michigan and Congressman Jerry Carl of Alabama.

Congresswoman McClean and Congressman Jerry Carl are members of the House Armed Services Committee while Congressman Meijer serves on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The Ambassador highlighted long history of Pakistan-US relationship and how it has contributed over the decades to the promotion of peace, prosperity and economic development of both our people. The members of the US Congress agreed to work together for further strengthening Pakistan-US bilateral relations, enhancing parliamentary exchanges and for contributing towards regional peace and stability.

### Rasheed terms opposition as "dead"

**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed has said that the opposition is already dead, adding that it

should be given the right of speech.

Addressing a launching ceremony of the Police Eagle Squad ceremony in Islamabad, the interior minister said that the PTI government would complete its constitutional tenure. He said that the opposition parties could not dislodge the incumbent government as it was making hectic efforts to alleviate the inflation and poverty in the country.

On the occasion, the minister directed the IGP Islamabad to make capital territory drug free area and launch a crackdown against the dealers involved in the drug business particularly heroin and Ice. The gangs supplying drugs in the city should be eliminated, he added. He asked the officers of Islamabad police to take strict action against criminals without any discrimination.

Sheikh Rasheed said that new police stations would also be established in different areas of the capital territory as the city has expanded towards Tarnol, Bara Khau, and Loi Bher. He further said they were going to issue an E-Passport to facilitate the people. A Visa facility for foreigners has been provided online, he said and added that the government had extended the visa period for Chinese citizens from 90 days to two years. Urgent passport is being issued in one day on an additional payment of Rs2000, said the minister. He said, "We will take strict action in accordance with

the law against land mafia. The cases of the illegal housing societies which had looted the citizens, are being sent to FIA."



ISLAMABAD: Editor The News Aamir Ghauri hosted lunch for the outgoing Ambassador of Azerbaijan Ali Alizada. Also seen in the picture are fromer ambassador Asif Durrani, Ms. Aysha from Voice of America, Mr. Elchin from the Azerbaijan embassy, Aniq Zafar and Editor Islamabad POST Ansar M Bhatti. - DNA

# Antonio Guterres re-elected as UN chief

term of office beginning on

AGENCIES

NEW YORK: The United Nations General Assembly on Friday appointed Antonio Guterres as the UN Secretary-General for a second term beginning January 1, 2022, saying he takes his responsibility with "deep commitment to work together to advance the UN Charter at a time of great peril and prom-

The 193-member Assembly took action days after the powerful Security Council had unanimously recommended his name to it. The President of the 75th

session of the UN General Assembly, Volkan Bozkir, announced that Guterres "has been appointed by acclamation Secretary-General of the

United Nations for the second

January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2026." Bozkir then administered the oath of office to 72-year-old Guterres at the podium of the iconic UN General Assembly



hall. Guterres, nominated by the Government of Portugal was the only official candidate for the position of Secretary-General and his re-election was a foregone conclusion. "We are at a crossroads. with consequential choices way: breakdown or breakthrough. Breakdown and perpetual crisis - or breakthrough leading to a greener, safer and better future for all," Guterres told reporters. "I will do everything in my power to push for breakthroughs," he said.

'There are reasons to be hopeful. The pandemic has revealed our shared vulnerability, our inter-connectedness and the absolute need for collective action. "Our biggest challenge - and

at the same time our greatest opportunity - is to use this crisis as a chance to turn things around, to pivot to a world that learns its lessons, recovers fairer, greener and more sustainably, and forges ahead with much more effective global cooperation to address global concerns."

# **JUNE 2021**

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