



# Islamabad POST

Saturday, June 19, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

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

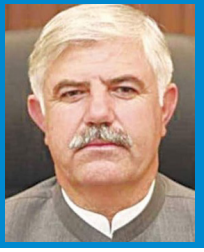
Detailed News On Page-07

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

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice president Maryam Nawaz has said that the speech of party president Shehbaz Sharif in National Assembly represented the pain every Pakistani feels while watching the shameful hoiganism and street vandalism as truly remarkable. 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 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

## Dasu Dam to start new era of development

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

ongoing work and lauded their efforts towards 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 electricity, thanks to Manga and Tarbela dams." 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 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, Foreign 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 against Gaza after the recent ceasefire. Foreign Minister Malik 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 against Gaza after the recent ceasefire. Foreign Minister Malik reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support for the

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.

## 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

## Hammad lashes out at Bilawal

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said Friday that both the budget and the budget session of the PTL-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 Imran Khan famous rhetoric,

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



## 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 jobs. 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 jobs were administered, and on June 17, 23,425 people were inoculated. - DNA

## Iran votes for new president with Raisi tipped to win

AGENCIES



TEHRAN: Iranians voted Friday in a presidential election in which ultra-conservative cleric Ebrahim 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 bated 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 Khan Nasrullah Zehray 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

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 im-

plementation of the EU-Pakistan Strategic 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 views on climate change, where the EU informed Pakistan about European Green connectivity and isation, and briefed about climate projects,

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 migration and mobility and to follow up on the discussions 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

trade and investment, improving 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 Preferences Plus (GSP+). Pakistan acknowledged 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 cooperation, 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 pandemic. The Joint Commission also

exchanged views on priorities of future development cooperation. Joint efforts in the fields of democracy, governance, rule of law and human rights, cooperation on human rights issues at international 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 Disappearance Bill and the Anti-Torture Law.

Continued on Page 06



## 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. - Editor

## Inside...

- Power Division, GIZ Pak sign IA to unveil REEE II project - Page 02
- ICCI calls for withdrawal of Section - 203 (A) - Page 03
- Indonesian envoy visits RCCI, urges to boost trade ties - Page 04
- Palestinians' censorship shows social media's flaw - Page 05
- Azerbaijan's CAERC to start co-op with Pak think tank - Page 06
- Uzbek delegation in Pakistan to explore academic links - Page 07
- Govt taking steps to ensure free elections: Farrukh - Page 08







Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti  
Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

ABC CERTIFIED

Vol: 02 Issue: 41

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

## Vaccine shortage

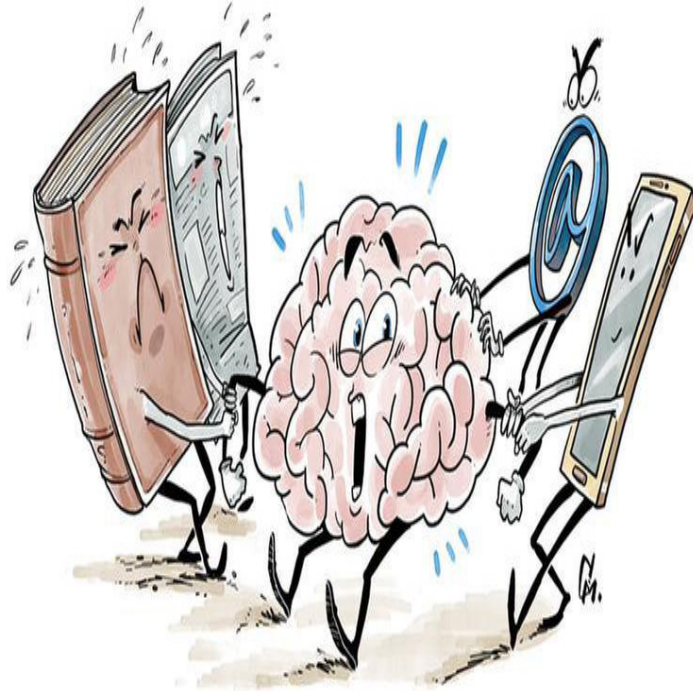
**T**HIS week, concerning reports emerged regarding the shortage of vaccines in Sindh and Punjab as Chinese and European vaccine stocks neared exhaustion. The swift action on part of the federal authorities to dispatch emergency doses to both provinces is laudable, however this shortage should not have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

The issue has been further compounded by NIH's failure 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 ensure that such shortages are preempted going forward.



## Swedish tech companies to invest in Pakistan

By MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

**F**EDERAL Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque has invited Swedish tech companies to invest in Pakistan. It has been observed that the environment for investment in the 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 meeting.

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)

**M**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 platform.

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

error.

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

**T**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 destroyed.

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 serv-

ices 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 Coun-

cil 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

## 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 Taekwondo Federation Col (ret) Wasim Janjua announced a cash award of Rs 100,000 for Haroon Khan and Rs 25,000 for Hamza Saad. "With the fearlessness and bravery with which Haroon was playing, there was a strong hope that he would also qualify for the final," Wasim said.

## European Union is a valued...

## 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 to 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 appeal by UN Secretary General 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 environment-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 Qalanders' 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 Vusal Gasimli 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 Azerbaijani territories in the last year's war and the Zangazur transport corridor (that will connect Azerbaijan to Tur-



key via Armenia) and its impact on regional trade and transit routes. Furthermore, he told the participants about the economic reforms carried out in the country in recent years, the successful

reformist position of the country in the Doing Business report, successful implementation of strategic governance in Azerbaijan and monitoring and evaluation activities, as well as the Center's projects such

as "Azexp.az", "Enterprise Azerbaijan.com", "Digital Shopping Center", "Azranking.az" and "One stop shop" Export Support Center. The online meeting had been organized by the Embassy of the Islamic Rep-

ublic of Pakistan in Azerbaijan. 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.

Nadeem Ul Haque, Head 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. Nadeem Ul Haque 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).



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 Sajjad Haider Khan on Friday had a detailed meeting with Director Commercial of Golf, Minsk, Vladimir Savenko and Deputy Director Ms. Lidiya Kotkina 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. Sajjad Haider 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

## 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 Gunadi Sadikin 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 Gusti Nugrah Mahardika, 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.

## N Korea ready for 'dialogue' with US

## FOREIGN DESK

PYONGYANG: North Korea's 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.

## 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 Munir Akram, 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 ech-

elon 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.



## 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

### 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 McClean 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 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.



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

## Shehbaz urges CEC to hold inclusive dialogue

ISLAMABAD: While highlighting the string of complaints about the rigging in 2018 general elections, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif on Friday urged the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to invite all opposition parties for consultation on electoral reforms.

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

before Parliament for passage to "ensure that future elections are fair, transparent and reflect the genuine will of the electorate."

"In view of the complaints of rigging in the 2018 Elections, there is a dire need for evolving a national consensus on electoral reforms to ensure that next general elections are held in fair, free and transparent manner, without any interference," Shehbaz Sharif wrote in the letter. — DNA

The electoral reforms initiated by him were to ensure free and fair elections in the country so that no one could raise an objection on their credibility, he added.

He said the three major political parties, including Pakistan Peoples Party (PTI), Jamiat Ulema Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) and Pakistan Three-e-Insaf (PTI) had termed the 2013 general elections were termed. Therefore, there was a need to use the Elec-

tronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in future elections to prevent the chances of rigging, he added.

The minister recalled that a judicial commission was constituted as a result of his party's 126-day sit-in

against the 2013 election results, which had expounded 40 recommendations that highlighted shortcomings in the election system, he added.

Mentioning the Charter of Democracy, 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.



ISLAMABAD: Editor The News Aamir Ghauri hosted lunch for the outgoing Ambassador of Azerbaijan Ali Alizada. Also seen in the picture are former 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

### 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 should "gradually lift the travel restrictions at the 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

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."

## Antonio Guterres re-elected as UN chief

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 promise."

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 as Secretary-General of the second

term of office beginning on 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

before us. It can go either 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

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:

www.centrelines.com.pk  
www.dnanews.com.pk  
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@ Postislamabad / @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,  
G-8 Markaz, ISLAMABAD-PAKISAN  
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165

