



# Islamabad POST

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**New growth points of Andijan region identified: Mirziyoyev**

Detailed News On Page-06

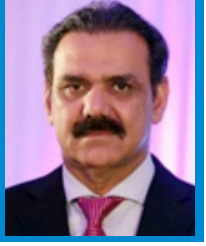
**Pak NSA not to meet Indian counterpart**

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**Pilot project of chilli farming completed**

Detailed News On Page-08



## Briefs

**Gov't efforts coming to fruition: PM**

**SAIFULLAH**  
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday said that the government's water conservation policies were showing results as Punjab government had stopped depletion of Lahore's groundwater for the first time during last four decades. "Our water conservation policies showing results. Usman Buzdar-led Punjab government has stopped fall in Lahore's groundwater for first time since 1980," the prime minister said on Twitter. He said the depletion of water table had been stopped through effective water recycling policies, new aquifer charges, underground rainwater storage, timed well pumping and other targeted actions.

**Fawad seeks funds utilization record**

**NAZIR SYAL**  
KARACHI: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry on Sunday said that PTI-led federal government has transferred Rs1800 billion to the Sindh government during the past two years and asked as to where the money has been utilized. Addressing media at Karachi Press Club, Fawad Chaudhry said that Karachi elected 16 PTI MNAs and they have all the right to ask as to where the Rs1800 billion given to the Sindh government has gone.

**Fazl announces new rallies**

**BUREAU REPORT**  
PESHAWAR: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUIF) chief and Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) head Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Sunday that third round of rallies against Prime Minister Imran Khan's government in Karachi and Swat. While addressing a press conference in Peshawar, the PDM head said that the government of PTI had selected the ineligible people through rigging in the general elections.

## Inside...

- KP government increases 100 percent sports budget - Page 02
- PMC announces admission policy to facilitate students - Page 03
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- Oceans and environment: Addressing threat of invasion of plastic waste - Page 05
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- Gerry's diplomatic football league closing ceremony - Page 08

# 'Islamic system only way to Afghan peace'

Taliban co-founder and deputy leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar said Sunday that the group was committed to the peace talks; calls for ensuring rights - including for women

**Pak to help recover US hostage**

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: Pakistan will help as a "moral and humanitarian responsibility" in the ongoing efforts to recover a Taliban-held American hostage, Mark Frerichs, a Pakistani embassy spokesperson has said, responding to a media report that expressed fears that United States' hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan has dimmed hope for his release.

**Ghani, Abdullah to visit US**

AGENCIES

KABUL: The Taliban said Sunday they remain committed to peace talks but insisted a "genuine Islamic system" in Afghanistan was the only way to end the war and ensure rights - including for women. Talks between the militants and the Afghan government have been deadlocked for months and violence has surged across the country since May when the US military began its final withdrawal. Fears are also growing that if the Taliban return to power they will reimpose their harsh version of Islamic law, under which girls were banned from school and

**Pak NSA not to meet Indian counterpart**

DNA

WASHINGTON: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Afghanistan's head of the peace process Dr Abdullah Abdullah will meet Joe Biden at the White House on Friday, as the American military's withdrawal from the war-torn country continues. Biden has ordered the withdrawal of all US forces from Afghanistan by this year's 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks

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# Jawan martyred, two terrorists killed in IBO

Nazakat Khan, 32, resident of Attock, lost his life during the operation; terrorists killed were involved in terror plots against the security forces

ZUBAIR AHMAD

RAWALPINDI: A Pakistan Army soldier embraced martyrdom and two terrorists were killed in a gunfight between security forces and Tehreek-i-Taliban (TTP)-backed militants during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Spinwam area of North Waziristan, the military's media wing said on Sunday. The ISPR statement said the Pakistan Army

soldier, identified as Nazakat Khan, 32, resident of Attock, lost his life during the operation, adding that the terrorists gunned down by security forces were active members of the TTP in the area. "The IBO was launched by the security forces on reported presence of the terrorists." The ISPR said the terrorists killed in the operation were involved in terror plots against the security forces.

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**ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Canada Wendy Gilmour handing over coordinates to the official of the Interior Ministry. Canada has partnered with UNODC Pakistan to help FIA improve border and immigration management, prevent exploitation of vulnerable populations and deter irregular migration. - DNA**

# Shipment of vaccine from China reaches Islamabad

- Asad Umar says 2.3 million received COVID jabs between June 12-18

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A special flight of National Flag Carrier - Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) - carrying 1.55 million doses of vaccine from China has landed at Islamabad airport, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said on Sunday. The shipment of Sinovac corona vaccine arrived in Islamabad on board a special PIA flight, the NCOC stated. The NCOC said that Pakistan has purchased the vaccine from China's Sinovac and another two to

**Pakistan to begin PakVac production on large scale**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The government authorities have decided for large scale production of the locally made coronavirus vaccine PakVac. The decision has been taken to initiate preparations for mass scale production of the single-dose PakVac from the next month, sources said. The NIH Islamabad will prepare monthly three million doses of PakVac and the government have been informed about the decision, according to sources. The decision to produce vaccine in large scale, has been taken in view of the increased demand of the vaccine, sources said. "Monthly production of three million vaccine doses will ensure sufficient availability of the corona vaccine jabs.



**ANTALYA: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi in a meeting with Foreign Minister of Turkey Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu. DNA**

# Pakistan, Turkish FM's discuss Afghan peace

FM Qureshi congratulated his Turkish counterpart on successfully organising Antalya Diplomacy Forum

ANNOUNCEMENT

Ambassador of Republic of Indonesia Adam Tugjo has written a detailed piece on Oceans and environment: Addressing threat of invasion of plastic waste. The article appears on the Opinion page of Islamabad POST today.

**Pak NSA not to meet Indian counterpart**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's National Security Adviser (NSA) Moeed Yusuf will not meet his Indian and Afghan counterparts in Dushanbe on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting. According to a spokesman for the NSA, Moeed Yusuf has left for Dushanbe to attend the SCO meeting and will sign a protocol for the meeting. He will be meeting his counterparts from other countries on the sidelines of the meeting, however, the spokesman said that there is no meeting scheduled with the Indian NSA Ajit Doval and Afghan counterpart Hamdullah Mohib. "Pakistan has already conveyed that no contact will be established with the Afghan NSA after his tirade against the country," he said. On May 24, National Security Adviser (NSA) Moeed Yusuf met his US counterpart Jake Sullivan in Geneva, in what was termed as the first major official contact between Pakistan and the United States after the Biden administration assumed power in January 2021.

NEWS DESK

ANTALYA: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met with Foreign Minister of Turkey Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu in Antalya. Foreign Minister Qureshi congratulated his Turkish counterpart on successfully organising Antalya Diplomacy Forum, which saw high-level attendance of global leaders. He noted that the Forum provided

an excellent opportunity to discuss and to engage on various contemporary global issues. While taking stock of the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries, the two sides discussed the ongoing preparations for the 7th Session of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) that will be held in Turkey this year. The two Foreign Ministers exchanged views on the latest developments in the Af-

ghan peace process and the withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan. Foreign Minister Qureshi lauded Turkey's valuable efforts and its outreach to various Afghan parties. Underscoring Pakistan's abiding interest in a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan, Foreign Minister Qureshi illustrated Pakistan's consistent efforts to facilitate the Afghan peace process.

Continued on Page 06

# President felicitates Raisi

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Sunday felicitated newly elected President of Iran Syed Ibrahim Raisi on his victory in the Presidential Elections. In a letter of felicitations, the president said that Iranian people had affirmed their trust in his leadership for peace, stability and prosperity. He said under President Raisi's leadership, the fraternal ties between Iran and Pakistan would be further strengthened. The president also expressed his best wishes to the newly elected president and the Iranian people. Ebrahim Raisi, a hardliner and fierce critic of the West, won Iran's presidential election on Friday and will take office in early August, replacing pragmatist Hassan Rouhani, under whose aegis the 2015 deal was struck. - DNA

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Continued on Page 06



## Briefs

### Three-day 'World Music Day' festival concludes at Lok Virsa

ISLAMABAD: A three-day World Music Day 2021 festival on Sunday concluded with mesmerizing performance here at rooftop theater of National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage, Lok Virsa.

Number of music bands and artists performed in three-day music festival included Ashbel soul-John, Eastern Crossroads, Rebel Club, 21 the Band, D Code, Abdul Sabor, Arsalan Jamel, Shamir Qudwai, Saptak Mustafa, Zain Bin Qaiser, Sad Nasir, Raja Shehryar, and Ahmed Satti. Executive Director Lok Virsa Talha Ali Kushvaha and his band also performed during three-day festival. The festival was organized by Lok Virsa in collaboration with Hill Joint and Echo Records.

Talking to APP, Executive Director Lok Virsa Talha Ali said the World Music Day was officially launched in 1982. Each year, people are encouraged to listen to their favorite music and share it with others, he said and added that the festival was aimed to entertain the youth and provide them an opportunity to enjoy their favorite musicians. Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) of COVID-19 was strictly observed at the venue, he told. He also informed that the students of Documentary Filmmaking also participated and shoot a live Musical Festival. A large number of music lovers from twin cities also participated in three day festival. - APP

### SPARC organizes rally against Child Labour

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Society for Protection of Rights of the Child (SPARC) organized rally on Tuesday against Child Labour in collaboration with Save the Children. SPARC held awareness rally to highlight the problem of child labour and to find ways as how to eliminate it. Large number of students and trainers from different skill centers participated in the rally. Participants of the rally held banners, placards and raised slogans to raise their voices against social evil - child labour etc. They also raised voices about the harmful mental and physical problems faced by children forced into child labour. Speakers highlighted the prevailing child labour laws in Pakistan. They talked about lack of awareness and poverty as a root cause of child labour. Underprivileged parents send their children to earn, rather than sending them to school. The speakers demanded the government to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, and human trafficking.

### IRSA releases 258,100 cusecs water

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 258,100 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 231,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1458.23 feet, which was 74.23 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 100,100 and 155,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1152.40 feet, which was 114.40 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 48,700 and 20,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 175,300, 152,200 and 44,800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 45,800 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 6,600 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala.



ISLAMABAD: Musicians perform during prize distribution ceremony of diplomatic football league. - DNA

### First PIA Air Safari flight takes to skies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PIA launched on Saturday its Air Safari flight to boost tourism in the country. According to details, the airline's first scenic Air Safari flight took off from the Islamabad International Airport with 91 tourists, including foreign nationals from as many as 13 countries, on board. Minister for Power Hamid Azhar was also among the tourists abroad the inaugural Air Safari flight that flew over the country's breathtaking snow-capped peaks, including K2, Nanga Parbat and Broad Peak before landing in Skardu. Named after the prominent mountaineer Ali Sadpara, "Sadpara Air Safari" will operate every Saturday from the Islamabad airport and its one-way fare will cost Rs25,000.

### 3 arrested, weapons recovered

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested three accused and recovered weapons, arms and ammunition from their possession, informed police spokesman on Sunday. The cantonment police on a picket stopped a suspected vehicle Toyota Land Cruiser and recovered 01 Kalashnikov, an M4 rifle, 8 magazines and 600 bullets from the vehicle. The arrested were identified as Chaudhry Sajid Mehmood, Junaid Khan and Zeeshan. Police have registered separate cases against the arms holders and started investigation. CPO Muhammad Ahsan Younas commended police team for arresting the arm holders.

## PMC announces admission policy to facilitate students

MDCAT exam will be conducted from 30th August to 30th September 2021

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Taking into account the COVID-19 pandemic and interruptions in the academic year, the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) has announced steps to facilitate FSc (Pre-medical) and A2 Cambridge students in the admission of public and private medical and dental colleges of Pakistan.

Curriculum and Conduct) Regulations 2021, all students who wish to seek admission in medical and dental colleges can take the MDCAT examination even if they have not yet taken their FSc pre-medical or A-Level examination. It said that due to disruptions faced by education systems in Pakistan and around the world due to the pandemic, all relevant authorities have put in place special provisions to cater the affected students during the medical and dental college admission processes.

MDCAT exam will be conducted from 30th August to 30th September 2021. All students who are taking their A-Level examination in October 2021 can take the MDCAT in September 2021 while applying for admissions to medical colleges before taking their examinations.

As per the admission regulations of PMC, the admissions are to be finalized by January 15, 2022. However, to accommodate the students taking their A-level examination in October 2021 with expected results in January 2022, every medical

and dental college will be directed not to finalize the admissions on the seats equal to the number of A-level students who have applied to said colleges and awaiting their results. For this purpose, PMC will permit medical and dental colleges to finalize admissions for those A-levels students on the special category seats by February 10, 2022. This year's elective subject results will be utilized for merit as the FSc examinations are being held for elective subjects

only. Additionally, PMC will be outlining a policy on the same premise for private medical and dental college admissions shortly. A joint meeting was also held in this regard under the co-chair of Federal Education Minister Shafiq Mehmood and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services Dr. Faisal Sultan to discuss the admissions of FSc. (Pre-medical) and A2 Cambridge students in public and private medical and dental colleges of Pakistan.



### MNA Lal Chand Malhi's driver found hanged

ISLAMABAD: Body of the driver of a minority MNA belonging to ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaaf was found hanging from the ceiling fan of a room in Parliament Lodges. According to sources, the dead body was found in a room of Parliament Lodges on Saturday. The body was hanging from the ceiling fan of the room. The sources said the deceased's name was Santosh Kumar and he worked as a driver for minority MNA and Parliamentary Secretary Lal Chand Malhi who belongs to the ruling PTI. The man was wearing a vest and shalwar at the time of his hanging. MNA and Parliamentary Secretary Lal Malhi said that his driver Santosh had committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling fan. He said before his hanging, Santosh had recorded a video in which he discussed his domestic tensions. The MNA informed that his driver held his wife and mother-in-law responsible for his suicide. The MNA cited his alibi saying he was in Umar Kot and his driver was alone in the Parliament Lodges. Police have started an investigation into the case. SP Rana Wahab along with his team reached the scene and the investigators collected evidence from the driver's room. - DNA

### PHA vows to plant millions of trees

SHAHEEN HANIF

RAWALPINDI: Malik Abid Hussain, Vice Chairman, Parks and Horticulture Authority, Rawalpindi has said that under the Clean and Green Pakistan Vision, we have achieved a great deal of successes and millions of trees will be planted in the coming Tree plantation campaign. He expressed these views while talking with the concerned staff during his visit to Allama Iqbal Park Murree Road and Rawal Park Rawal Road on Sunday morning. Malik Abid Hussain said

that all 53 parks located in Rawalpindi city and cantonment areas have been turned into lush green. Led by Asif Mehmood, Advisor to the Chief Minister of Punjab and Chairman PHA, for the first time chambers, businessmen and companies joined hands with us to beautify the city which was not done by our predecessors in the past under the pre-text of non-availability of funds. With the cooperation of the citizens, we will make Rawalpindi an ideal and model city of the country in terms of natural green environment. He said that various types

of plants are also being developed in the nurseries inside most of the parks. "PHA is providing these plants to the citizens at very affordable rates while during the tree plantation campaign these plants will be given to the citizens free of cost" he added. Malik Abid Hussain said that the Punjab government has set aside ample funds in the New Year financial budget for the success of Clean and Green Pakistan and 10 Billion Tree Tsunami with the help of which we will further advance the efforts to eradicate environmental pollution.

### Beware of individuals posing as attestation agents: HEC

ISLAMABAD: Higher Education Commission (HEC) has warned the individuals seeking attestation of their documents to beware of the fake agents who are offering their assistance in getting their degrees and transcripts attested through fraudulent means.

According to a public alert issued by the Students Affairs Division of Higher Education Commission, it has been brought to Higher Education Commission attention that some individuals posing as "agents" offer to assist applicants in getting their degrees and transcripts attested. In some cases, these individuals cheat the applicants by pasting fake Higher Education Commission stamps or tickets on original degrees and transcripts. All such degrees and transcripts, with fake stamps, are liable to be confiscated when submitted to Higher Education Commission. All concerned are advised to be extremely careful in this regard and follow the prescribed procedure for attestation instead of engaging potentially fraudulent agents, the public alert said. - APP

### AIUO: ICT finalizes the process of online admissions

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIUO)'s Department of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has completed the process of online admissions for the educational programs to be offered in the 1st phase of autumn 2021 semester. It is pertinent to mention here that ICT has completed the process of automation of key academic, administrative and financial operations of the university. Now, the students will avail all educational facilities of the university online. Admissions for autumn 2021 semester will commence from July 15 and prospectuses and admission application forms will be available online on the university website and students

will be able to apply for admission and deposit fee online. However, students will be allowed to apply for admissions manually for the programs including matriculation, intermediate and BA (Associate Degree) besides online method. Students can also deposit admission fee through Easypaisa, Upaisa, Jazz Cash and mobile applications. Course books will also be available online. According to the Director, ICT all educational matters will be dealt online ranging from submitting admission application to applying for degrees resulting not only into saving precious time of the students but also overcoming unnecessary delay in problem handling. - DNA

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For further information please contact the following.

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Mobile: 0300 8553342

### Pak investors to get opportunities in Niger to link with Africa

ISLAMABAD: Chairman FPCCI, Capital Office Islamabad on Sunday hoped that Pakistani investors and exporters would acquire huge opportunities for economic activity in Niger and also connect to all African regional economies. "Pakistani investors can work in infrastructure, agriculture, including textiles, pharmaceuticals, medical devices and other industries" Chairman Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Qurban Ali said this while business delegation of Republic of Niger, led by Minister for Commerce and Industry Gabo Sabo Mocrat, visited the capital office of the Federation of Pakistan



Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI). While Ex. President FPCCI Senator Haji Ghulam Ali and Coordinator FPCCI Capital office, Mirza Abdur Rehman along with senior business leadership participated in the negotiation. The other members of Niger delegation included Minister for Investment

Zakaria Wergo, Secretary Industry Abdoulaye Boubacar, prominent businessman Saleem Gado Sabo and Pakistan's ambassador to Niger Ahmed Ali Sirohey also participated in Business to Business negotiation. Visiting delegations signed agreements with Pakistani companies to promote bilateral trade, and

business-to-business meetings were also held. While Chairman FPCCI Capital Office, Qurban Ali that exploration of new markets and regional trade integration are the key elements for economic and trade expansion to materialize the industrial policy. Whereas exploration of the untapped markets likes Africa region and additional potential market of European Union (EU), North American countries besides Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are the major potential for increasing the connectivity and trade integration with regional and world economy, he said. - PR





Briefs

‘Islamic system only way to Afghan peace’

FROM PAGE 01  
women accused of crimes such as adultery were stoned to death in stadiums. Despite the rise in violence, Taliban co-founder and deputy leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar said Sunday that the group was committed to the peace talks. “Our very participation in the negotiations... indicates openly that we believe in resolving issues through (mutual) understanding,” Baradar said in a statement. He said the only way to end the conflict in Afghanistan was to establish an Islamic system after the departure of all foreign forces. “A genuine Islamic system is the best mean for solution of all issues of the Afghans,” Baradar said. His statement acknowledged the fears in Afghanistan and abroad about the kind of system that would emerge - and its impact on women - saying that fell “within the ambit of the intra-Afghan.

Pak to help recover US hostage

FROM PAGE 01  
ABC News said that the location of Frerichs, a 58-year-old civil engineer, who was kidnapped in January 2020 from Kabul, is unknown. “Pakistan has always regarded any assistance it can provide in helping the United States and other foreign countries with the recovery of their hostages from Afghanistan as a moral and humanitarian responsibility,” Spokesperson Maliha Shahid said in a statement to ABC News. ABC News, citing experts, said the U.S. will lose most of whatever leverage it might have to free the hostage through one of the limited number of tracks the government has already contemplated or acted upon during his 17 months of Frerichs’ captivity after American military and special operations personnel leave Afghanistan expected to be by July Fourth. The report said the options that have been considered for freeing Frerichs include trying to arrange a controversial prisoner exchange involving an Afghan druglord, ask Pakistan to influence the Haqqani network, or staging a high-risk rescue operation if the hostage can be located. But ABC News said the hostage-rescue option was seen as even less likely than the prisoner exchange. In her response to ABC News report, Spokesperson Maliha Shahid, who is a press attaché at the Pakistan Embassy in Washington, said that Pakistan had always extended its assistance in recovering hostages “in good faith, and not driven by ‘incentives’ or ‘pressure.’” Ms. Shahid also said that Pakistan has “no evidence to suggest that Mark Frerichs is being held in Pakistan” and that Pakistan “remains committed to play any role it can” to reunite Frerichs with his family.

Ghani, Abdullah to visit US

FROM PAGE 01  
that triggered the invasion. In moving to end America’s longest war, the president said he believes that no more can be achieved. “The visit by President Ghani and Dr Abdullah Abdullah will highlight the enduring partnership between the United States and Afghanistan as the military drawdown continues,” spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in a statement on Sunday. As the US military presses ahead to meet the September 11 deadline, the Taliban have fought daily battles with government forces and claim to have captured 40 districts. The growing fear and uncertainty about the future have left many Afghans desperate to leave, including thousands of men and women who fear reprisals because they worked with foreign forces. The Taliban said Sunday they remain committed to peace talks but insisted a “genuine Islamic system” in Afghanistan was the only way to end the war and ensure rights - including for women.



LAHORE: Fighters in action during Punjab Fighting Trial Tournament organized by SA Garden and Mixed Martial Arts at SA Garden stadium. - DNA

New growth points of Andijan region identified

This year, an additional US\$100 million will be allocated from the Fund for Reconstruction and Development to support small and medium-sized businesses and finance investment projects in the region

DNA

TASHKENT: Andijan city hosts a meeting with the participation of hokims of the region and districts, heads of state agencies, deputies of the local council, and public activists. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev assessed the current state of affairs in Andijan region and outlined the tasks for the comprehensive development of the region. “We are in Andijan to analyze people’s problems, draw up clear plans, increase per capita income, and improve living conditions in mahallas. We should look critically at each outcome. It is necessary to understand what

other growth points are there in Andijan, what worries people, and take appropriate measures. For this, heads of executive bodies and local deputies need to change their worldview. Everything will change if they change their outlook and work selflessly”, the President said. The main attention was paid to the development of economic sectors, poverty reduction, and job creation. It was noted that the possibilities were studied in 882 mahallas of Andijan region. Based on the historically established types of activity of the population, the most effective growth points were determined - handicrafts, gardening, vegetable gardening, floriculture and



poultry farming. Entrepreneurs will be attached to each mahalla and the necessary funds will be allocated. This year, an additional US\$100 million will be al-

located from the Fund for Reconstruction and Development to support small and medium-sized businesses and finance investment projects in the region.

In 2021-2022, 584 investment projects worth about 20 trillion soums will be implemented in the region, 60 thousand new jobs will be created. The “drivers” are the textile, construction, electrical, leather and footwear, food and pharmaceutical industries. This year, new capacities will be launched at Asaka Textile enterprises in Asaka district and Zumrad Textile in Jalalabad district, a cement plant and a cluster of building materials in Khojaabad district, as well as a syringe production plant in Andijon Pharm free economic zone. Instructions were given in agriculture. Due to the secondary lease of 70 thousand hectares of land freed from the grain har-

vest, it is possible to employ 220 thousand people. The Head of the state paid special attention to the floriculture potential. It was noted that growing orchids on 10 acres can bring income up to 850 million soums, growing lilies up to 450 million soums, peonies up to 320 million soums. An instruction was given to turn Andijan Flower Garden enterprise in Andijan district into a cluster. To lay a 30-hectare flower and ornamental plant garden and to open a floriculture school at the Vocational Training Center in Shakhrikhan district. The need was noted for creating greenhouses and supporting the cultivation of flowers on household lands.

Oosthuizen, Hughes and Henley share 54-hole US Open lead

Four-time major winner Rory McIlroy and defending champion Bryson De Chambeau shared fourth on 210

LA JOLLA (United States): South Africa’s Louis Oosthuizen closed with a stunning 52-foot eagle putt to grab a share of the lead with Canada’s Mackenzie Hughes and American Russell Henley after Saturday’s dramatic third round of the US Open. Oosthuizen, the 2010 British Open champion, fired a one-under par 70 to stand on five-under 208 after 54 holes at Torrey Pines with Hughes, who fired a 68, and Henley, who saved par from a bunker at 18 to shoot 71. Four-time major winner Rory McIlroy and defending champion Bryson DeChambeau shared fourth on 210, charging into contention to set the stage for an intense final round. “There are a lot of great players up there that have a chance of winning this,” Oosthuizen said. “I just need to go out and play as good as I can. “You’re going to have nerves. You’re going to feel it. It’s just about how



you handle it.” After sinking a 30-foot birdie putt at the par-3 16th, Oosthuizen - who has five major runner-up finishes since his win 11 years ago at St. Andrews - made his incredible closer at the par-5 18th. “I was talking too to it to slow down a little bit,” Oosthuizen said. “It was a good line and good speed.” On a day of electric shotmaking, Hughes sank a 63-foot eagle putt at the par-5 13th and blasted out of a bunker to five feet to set up a birdie at 18. Hughes, who missed the cut in his past five PGA

World Test final hit by another weather delay

SPORTS DESK

SOUTHAMPTON: The ill-fated World Test Championship final between India and New Zealand was hit by another weather delay on Sunday as a wet outfield prevented the third day’s play at Southampton from starting on time. The match should have resumed at 10:30 am local time (0930 GMT) but the umpires ruled the outfield was too wet, with a further inspection planned for 10:20 am (0920 GMT). India are currently 146-3 in their first innings after losing the toss, with captain Virat Kohli 44 not out and Ajinkya Rahane 29 not out after New Zealand’s all-pace attack kept things tight in favourable, overcast conditions. Friday’s first day was washed out without any play at all and there were three interruptions due to bad light on Saturday, even though the Hampshire Bowl’s floodlights were on full beam. Only 64.4 overs out of 180 scheduled for the first two days have so far been bowled.

French far-right eyes gains in regional polls

PARIS: France went to the polls for the first round of regional elections on Sunday that could see Marine Le Pen’s far-right party make gains and step further into the political mainstream. The election will see new assemblies elected for mainland France’s 13 regions and 96 departments, with Le Pen’s National Rally (RN) tipped to win at least one region for the first time in what would be a major coup. Le Pen is not standing as a candidate, but she has been campaigning hard ahead of presidential elections next year that surveys show could end up being a close race between her and centrist President Emmanuel Macron. “What would be great for her (Le Pen), and would spark some momentum in the pre-presidential campaign, would be if the National Rally won a region,” Stéphane Zumbsteeg from the Ipsos polling firm told AFP. Though far-right politicians preside over a handful of towns, running a region with a budget of billions of euros and powers over schools, transport and economic development would lend it the sort of legitimacy that Le Pen craves, analysts say. The one most likely to tip is the southeastern Provence-Alpes-Cote d’Azur - home to Marseille, Saint-Tropez and Cannes - where the RN is fronted by Thierry Mariani, a former minister who defected from the centre-right Republicans party. - APP

Iran reports 6,448 new COVID-19 cases

TEHRAN: Iran on Saturday reported 6,448 new COVID-19 cases, taking the country’s total infections to 3,086,974. The pandemic has so far claimed 82,854 lives in Iran, up by 108 in the past 24 hours, the Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education reported. A total of 2,736,013 people have recovered from the disease or been discharged from hospitals across the country, while 3,307 remain in intensive care units, according to the ministry. By Saturday, 4,374,729 people have received coronavirus vaccines in the country, with 906,546 taking two doses. Iran reported first cases of the disease in February 2020. - APP

China vaccine doses pass one billion mark

National Health Commission says it aims to have fully vaccinated 70% of the population by end of the year

MONITORING DESK

BEIJING: China has administered more than a billion Covid vaccine doses, officials say - more than a third of all vaccine doses given globally. The country’s vaccination drive began slowly after authorities successfully suppressed virus cases. But incentives such as free eggs and concern over an outbreak of the Delta variant have seen jabs accelerate. Chinese authorities aim to have fully vaccinated 40% of the country’s 1.4 billion population by July. People in China are being offered

domestically made Chinese vaccines, including the Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines. Both require two doses. After lockdowns and mass testing prevented the virus from circulating, many Chinese felt little need to get vaccinated. Previous vaccine scandals had also left some people wary. However the pace of vaccinations has rapidly increased and China’s National Health Commission said it had taken just five days to administer the latest 100 million doses. An outbreak of the Delta variant in the southern province of Guangdong has also convinced some

Chinese to be vaccinated. Doctors in the southern city of Guangzhou told the New York Times that symptoms from the new variant appeared to be different and more dangerous than those linked to the initial form of the virus that began spreading in the city of Wuhan at the end of 2019. The newspaper quoted a resident of Shenzhen, a city near Guangzhou, who said she had not wanted to be vaccinated because of possible side effects but had now changed her mind. “I want to get vaccinated, but it’s really hard to make an appoint-

ment now,” the 27-year-old said, adding that incentives such as free eggs or free rides to vaccination centres were no longer being offered. Other regions have been offering a range of modest incentives. The central province of Anhui has also been offering people free eggs while some in Beijing have received shopping vouchers. The National Health Commission says it aims to have fully vaccinated 70% of the population by the end of the year. Three Chinese vaccines have been authorised for emergency use within the country. Two - the

Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines - have been approved for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO). They are both already in use in a range of other countries, including the Philippines, Chile, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Thailand and Turkey. The WHO said the Sinopharm vaccine’s efficacy for symptomatic and hospitalised cases of Covid-19 was estimated to be 79%. It said the Sinovac vaccine prevented symptomatic disease in 51% of those vaccinated and prevented severe symptoms and hospitalisation in 100% of samples.

India’s Covid-19 tally rises to 29,881,965

NEW DELHI: India’s COVID-19 tally rose to 29,881,965 on Sunday, with as many as 58,419 new cases recorded in the past 24 hours, said the federal health ministry. Less than 60,000 daily cases were reported in a day after 81 days, added the federal health ministry. Besides, 1,576 COVID-19 deaths since Saturday morning took the death toll to 386,713. This was the 13th consecutive day when less than 100,000 cases were registered across the country, after peaking to over 400,000 for several days in April-May which was dubbed as the pandemic’s second wave. Still there are 729,243 active cases, after a decrease of 30,776 active cases during the past 24 hours. The country’s active caseload is the lowest in nearly 80 days. A total of 28,766,009 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals across the country, with 87,619 of them discharged since Saturday morning. Delhi, which has been one of the worst-hit COVID-19 hotspots in India since last year, witnessed as many as 135 new pandemic cases and seven deaths through Saturday. - APP

Shipment of vaccine from...

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the major cities including Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Mardan, Hyderabad, Bahawalpur, Mianwali and Dera Ghazi Khan while the government was saying the shortage will be ended as the Federal Minister for Planning and Development has assured that 1.5 million doses were arriving Sunday. In Hyderabad, almost all vaccination centres have been shut down. According to Health Ministry, as many as 6,000 people were being inoculated at 21 centers in the city which are now closed. In Nawabshah, people had to leave the vaccination centres without getting vaccine jabs. In Mardan, 20 vaccination centres were closed due to vaccine shortage. DHO Kachkol said that the vaccine supply would arrive on Sunday night. He said from Monday more inoculation would be done than usual. As the shortage of coronavirus vaccine worsened, most of the vaccination centres have been shut down in Karachi. Sources in Sindh Health Department divulged that the small vaccination centers have been closed down to maintain the vaccine supply to the main vaccination centers in all the districts. Thirty of the 40 vaccination centers of Karachi’s District South have been shut down, said DHO South Office.

Pakistan, Turkish FMs...

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He expressed hope that the Afghan parties would seize the opportunity and workout an inclusive politically-negotiated settlement. It was Foreign Minister Qureshi’s third visit to Turkey in three months upon the invitation of Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu. The frequency of high-level interaction between the two sides reflects the strength of the bilateral relationship.

Jawan martyred, two...

FROM PAGE 01

Three days ago, a Pakistan Army soldier was martyred in a terrorist attack near Turbat airport. The military’s media wing had said that terrorists using “small arms” attacked the troops near Turbat airport, as a result of which a “brave soldier, Naik Aqeel Abbas, embraced shahadat (martyrdom)”. Following the attack, Frontier Corps personnel had launched a large-scale operation in the area to hunt the attackers. In its statement, the ISPR had said that “such cowardly acts by inimical elements, backed by anti-state forces could not sabotage the hard-earned peace and prosperity in the province. In a similar attack on June 14, at least four Frontier Corps soldiers were martyred in an improvised explosive device explosion on the Margat-Quetta road in Balochistan.



