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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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President Ilham Aliyev lauds Pakistan's support in international forums

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Need to boost up Pak-China bilateral ties

Detailed News On Page-08



Harry Maguire ready to return for England

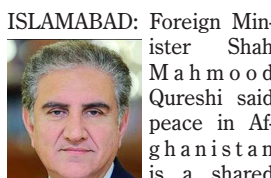
Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Peace in Afghanistan a must: FM

STAFF REPORT



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said peace in Afghanistan is a shared responsibility of all stakeholders. Talking to media in Islamabad Monday, the Foreign Minister has expressed concerns over speedy withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan. The Minister said sixty percent of foreign troops have already been pulled out. He said Pakistan wants that withdrawal of the forces and peace process occur in tandem. Terming Afghanistan a divided house, Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Afghan government and Peace Council do not seem focused in their approaches.

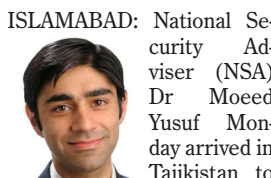
Budget will bring 'economic revolution'

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Perviz Khattak has rebuffed the opposition's criticism on government's economic policies, saying that budget 2021-22 would bring "economic revolution" in the country. Addressing the ongoing budget session in the National Assembly on Monday, the minister said that construction and industrial sectors were booming due to the incentives given by Prime Minister Imran Khan-led government. The world economy suffered a lot due to Covid-19 pandemic however Pakistan's economy did not suffer a lot owing to prudent policies adopted by the PTI government, he added.

Dr Moeed arrives in Tajikistan



ISLAMABAD: National Security Adviser (NSA) Dr Moeed Yusuf Monday arrived in Tajikistan to participate in the 16th meeting of the Secretaries of the Security Council of the SCO member states being held on June 22, 23. The NSA would officially start his visit on Tuesday following the commencement of the SCO meeting and would also meet with his Tajik counterpart.

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Yerevan's refusal of minefield maps aggravates situation
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'World should stop India from illegal actions in IIOJK'
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PM warns of civil war sans a peace deal

We only want peace and don't want to be part of any confrontation, says Imran

Afghan leaders visit to US bilateral issue: FO

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday describing the visit of Afghan leaders to Washington DC as a "bilateral issue", hoped that the United States would continue its engagement and efforts for the success of Afghan peace process. "The visit by the Afghan leaders to Washington DC is a bilateral issue. However, I wish to reiterate our hope that US will continue its engagement and efforts for the success of Afghan Peace Process. Peace in Afghanistan remains a shared objective," FO Spokesperson said.

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that Pakistan only wants peace and don't want to be part of any confrontation and urged the United States should first establish a political settlement before leaving Afghanistan. In an interview with Jonathan Swan of Axios on HBO aired on Monday, the Prime Minister said that Pakistan has suffered the most due to the war against terrorism. "Over 70,000 Pakistanis embraced martyrdom due to US-Afghan war. We have given sacrifices more than anybody else in this war." "In case the Taliban go for an all-out victory, there is going to be an incredible amount of bloodshed and, let me tell you, the country that is going to suffer

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Ghani meets political leaders

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani (Monday) held a meeting with prominent political leaders, including former mujahideen figures, to discuss the peace process. In a statement, Presidential Palace said that the participants also emphasized the importance of focusing on the peace process as a priority for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Participants of the meeting called the upcoming trip by Afghan leaders to the US essential. President Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah are scheduled to visit the United States on Friday.

Bilawal regrets poor remains deprived

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Monday that his party wanted that type of Pakistan where poor could afford 'Roti, Kapra aur Makan'. Addressing a function held in connection with the birthday celebrations of his mother and former prime minister Benazir Bhutto (BB) in Karachi, he regretted that 'Naya Pakistan' as had been promised by the PTI government deprived the poor even of a loaf of bread. Bilawal said that PPP had raised voice for giving due share to the provinces in water and other resources.

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PIA to resume flights to Canada

DNA

KARACHI: A PIA spokesperson announced Monday that the national carrier will resume its direct flights to Toronto, Canada. The announcement came after Canadian officials allowed PIA to resume its flights to Toronto, which were earlier restricted to cargo flights only, due to the surge in coronavirus cases. However, other travel-related advisories relating to Canada will remain

in place. In the first phase, PIA will start with three direct flights per week from Pakistan to Toronto. The approval was given after the PIA CEO assured the Canadian government that the airline will be following strict standard operating procedures. It would be worth mentioning that the PIA has already vaccinated its entire crew and ground staff against COVID-19 and is now in the process to vaccinate all airline employees.

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PM Khan's UK visit postponed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has postponed his visit to the U.K. that was scheduled for next month. The Prime Minister was recently invited to the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson in the telephonic conversation between the two leaders. Sources claimed that the Prime Minister decided not to visit Britain at this time due to the country's internal security, political and security situation in the region. Now sources claim that PM Imran Khan will travel to the U.K. at the end of this year. Sources claimed that the Prime Minister has decided that he would himself monitor the post US troops withdrawal from Afghanistan ending the 20-year long war.

COVID-19 claims 30 more lives

Thirty corona patients have died during past 24 hours

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The national tally on Monday of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 34,020 with 907 more people tested positive for the deadly virus and 829 people recovered from the disease during the last 24 hours. Thirty corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 28 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and two out of the hospitals.



BAKU: President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev received Chief of Army Staff of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, General Qamar Javed Bajwa. Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Ali Alizada and Pakistan's Ambassador to Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee are also present on the occasion. — DNA



BAKU: Army Chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa meeting with the Azerbaijan Defence Minister.



BAKU: Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa paying respects to martyrs. — DNA

President Ilham lauds Pakistan's support

COAS Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa expressed Pakistan Army's desire to further enhance bilateral military cooperation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BAKU/RAWALPINDI: The Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev has thanked Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa for Pakistan support to Azerbaijan at all international forums. General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) on a two days long official visit to Republic of Azerbaijan called on His Excellency Mr Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and His Excellency Colonel General Hasanov Zakir Asgar Oglu, Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan at Baku, on Monday. According to an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement, matters of mutual interest, regional security situation including recent develop-

Army Chief pays respect to martyrs

BAKU: Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited the Alley of Martyrs and laid floral wreath there. The army chief paid his respects to the martyrs. Alley of Martyrs formerly known as the Kirov Park, is a cemetery and memorial in Baku, Azerbaijan dedicated to those killed by the Soviet Army during Black January 1990 and in the First Nagorno-Karabakh War of 1988-1994. — DNA

ments in Afghan Peace Process and bilateral defence and security cooperation in various fields were discussed during the meetings.

Chief of Army Staff said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan share common values based on rich cultural, religious and historical affinities and have tremendous geo-strategic significance / potential for mutually beneficial and enhanced cooperation at all forums, the statement said.

Chief of Army Staff also expressed Pakistan Army's desire to further enhance bilateral military cooperation and regional partnership between the two countries.

Earlier on arrival at Ministry of Defence, Chief of Army Staff was also presented a Guard of Honour by a smartly turned out military contingent.

Pfizer to supply 13 million vaccine doses to Pakistan

Deliveries are planned during course of 2021

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pfizer Pakistan and BioNTech on Monday announced an agreement with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to supply 13 million doses of their COVID-19 Vaccine (BNT162b2) to Pakistan. "Deliveries are planned

during course of 2021 and we are deeply honored to work with the Pakistan government and to line up our scientific and manufacturing resources toward our shared goal of bringing a COVID-19 vaccine to the people of Pakistan as quickly as possible," said Syed Muhammad Wajeehuddin, Country Manager Pfizer Pakistan in a statement.

"In the face of this global health crisis, Pfizer's purpose 'breakthroughs that change patients' lives' has taken on an even greater urgency. Our hope is that our vaccine will help make this happen." Pfizer and BioNTech aim to manufacture more than three billion doses of their

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Pakistan condemns Houthi attacks

Pakistan reaffirms its full support and solidarity with the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday strongly condemned the recent attacks launched by Houthis towards the Southern region of Saudi Arabia and reaffirmed its support to the Kingdom's security. "Pakistan reaffirms its full support and solidarity with the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against any threats to its security and territorial integrity," a FO statement said. It said the attacks threatened the lives of innocent people besides violating the territorial integrity of the Kingdom, adding that "we call for immediate cessation of such attacks". "It is commendable that the coalition forces successfully intercepted the explosive-laden drones and destroyed them," the statement added.

Pak, Japan mull cooperation in science & tech

Ambassador Kunninori Matsuda conveyed that Japan is more than willing to cooperate and work towards diversifying the relationship in various fields

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Science and Technology Shibli Faraz has said that Pakistan enjoys excellent relations with Japan and is desirous of diversifying this relationship in various fields especially Science and Technology. Talking to the Ambassador of Japan Kunninori Matsuda who met him in Islamabad on Monday, the minister said that Japan is the pioneer in the field of Science and



Technology and has made commendable contributions in this area. Shibli Faraz added that Pakistan would like to benefit from its expertise especially towards the increase in exports of engineering goods. The federal minister emphasized that Science and Technology provides the main foundation of any Country's economy and there can be no better country than Japan for cooperation in this field.

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Briefs

443,857
people
vaccinated

FAISALABAD: As many as 443,857 people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in Faisalabad district. District Health Officer Dr. AtaulMun'im said on Monday that 336,371 citizens had been given the first dose while 69,051 were administered second dose of vaccine. He further said that 24,667 health workers were also given first dose while 13,768 received second dose of vaccine. Sufficient stock of anti-coronavirus vaccine was available in the district, he said and added that 24,113 first doses and 16,076 second doses were in the stock at Faisalabad. He said that 34 vaccination centers were operational in Faisalabad where registered persons were also getting anti-coronavirus vaccine doses. He said that vaccination centers had been established in various areas of the city including, Allied Hospital, District Head Quarters Hospital, Government General Hospital, Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology, Government General Hospital Samanabad, Children Hospital, Sports Complex Samanabad, Tehsil Head Quarters Hospital Jaranwala, Samundri, Tandlianwala, ChakJhumra, Sports Complex ChakJhumrah, Sports Complex Jaranwala, Government General Hospital Chak 224/R-B New Building RHC Khurrianwala, New Building THQ Samundri, New Building THQ Tandlianwala, Social Security Hospital Madina Town, Wapda Hospital, Rural Health Centers MureedWala, Chak 174/J-B, Chak 134/J-B, Chak 229/R-B, Chak 65/G-B, RHC Lundianwala/Jaranwala, RHC Khurrianwala/Jaranwala, Pindi Sheikh Musa, Kanjwani, Mamukanjan, RHC Chak 400/G-B, RHC Chak 153/R-B, RHC Chak 374/G-B and Chak 469/G-B. He further said that timing of these vaccination centers was 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. except Sports Complex Samanabad center which would remain open 24 hours. – APP

KP receives
consignment
of Sinovac
vaccine

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Monday received consignment of 240,000 doses of Sinovac vaccine said Director General Health Services. He said the newly received vaccine has been dispatched to districts concerned adding the process of vaccination against COVID-19 continued uninterrupted in the province. The KP Health Department said so far 398,724 citizens have completed their course of vaccination across the province while the number of those administered the first jab of vaccine has reached 139,000. Till date a total of over 171,100 vaccine doses have been administered to people. It further said that vaccination was underway at 675 centers across the province of which 597 were ordinary centers while 36 were mass vaccination centers. At the far-flung areas, 42 mobile vaccination teams were also functional. – APP

43 held;
drugs,
weapons
seized

FAISALABAD: Police claimed on Monday to have arrested 43 criminals and recovered drugs and illegal weapons from their possession in the district during last 24 hours. According to police, raiding teams nabbed 17 drug pushers and recovered 6.23 Kg hashish, 0.1 Kg heroin and 148 litres liquor from their possession. The police also held 19 gamblers with stake money of 21,210. In a crackdown against illegal weapons, police arrested 7 persons and recovered 6 pistols, one rifle and a number of bullets from them. Further investigation was underway. – APP

Food Safety Authority to be
extended to whole province

Atif Khan said that automation system would be introduced to enhance working of food safety authority with the assistance of KP Info Technology Board. The minister also directed measures for extension of food safety authority to whole province

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Food and Information Technology, Atif Khan Monday said that KP Food Safety Authority would be extended to whole province and Food Testing Laboratories would be established at Divisional level. He was chairing a meeting regarding performance and working ambit of the food safety authority. The meeting among others

was attended by Secretary Food, Khushal Khan, Secretary Information Technology, Ambar Ali Khan, Director General Food Authority, Shah Rukh and concerned officials. Chairing the meeting, provincial minister appreciated the performance of food authority and said that legal shortcomings would be removed to improve its performance. He said that automation system would be introduced to enhance working of food



safety authority with the assistance of KP Information Technology Board. The minister also directed measures for extension of food safety authority to whole province and to establish a state-of-the-art food testing laboratory in Peshawar. On the occasion, minister was briefed that food safety authority started operation in seven divisional headquarters from March 2018 and its working ambit has been increased to fifteen more districts.

He informed that food authority conducted 71,000 raids in last six months and discarded 700,000 kilograms of substandard food items while more than one thousand notices were served to business owners for improving cleanliness conditions. He said that mobile teams have been given mobile testing kits to analyze food samples on scientific basis while food items are also tested in testing laboratory following modern guidelines.

Central, KP budgets
to benefit citizens
at grassroots level

STAFF REPORT

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Local Government, Elections and Rural Development, Akbar Ayub Khan on Monday said under the passionate leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief Minister KP, Mahmood Khan balanced and people-friendly federal and provincial budgets were presented that would benefit the citizens at grassroots level. The PTI would sweep the 2023 general elections on the basis of its performance, he said while addressing a gathering in the far-flung village of his constituency, Kalenger after inaugurating Bair-Kalenger Road and other communication projects. The gathering was also addressed by Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, UmerAyub Khan, PTI leader, Yusuf Ayub Khan, local elders including Malik Khan Bahadur, Khushal Khan, Shiraz Abbasi, Aurangzeb, Kala Khan and Abdur Rashid Tanoli. On the occasion, Akbar Ayub Khan said Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf did not believe in hollow slogans and speculations, adding his party would address all the basic issues of its people before the next elections. He said the chapter of those who ruthlessly looted the national money, has been closed.



PESHAWAR: SCCI President Sherbaz Bilour presenting shield to Ambassador of European Union to Pakistan Mrs. Androulla Kaminara during her visit to SCCI. – DNA

Govt gave balanced
budget: Yousafzai

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Labor Shaukat Yousafzai on Monday said that the government has given a welfare oriented and balanced budget in challenging situation that includes developmental funds of 371 billion rupees. Addressing in the provincial assembly, he said that government has achieved milestone by presenting a welfare oriented budget despite the fact that economy of the whole world is shrinking due to corona pandemic. Highlighting the salient features of the provincial budget, he said that KP receipts have reached to Rs. 54 billion and the government is eyeing a target of Rs. 74 billion in current fiscal year. He said informed the house that Rs. 23 billion have been allocated for Sehat Card with inclusion of liver transplant facilities for patients. – APP

FPC introduces
digital parking

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali inaugurates the parking card system at parking site of Allied Hospital under digital QR system. The vehicles will enter and exit from parking lots only after scanning the parking card while motorists will pay parking fee after receiving a message on their cell phones under the new digital system. Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali, during his visit to the parking area of Allied Hospital, said

that the step would help to control overcharging issues as well as motorcycle/car lifting incidents from parking stands. He said that a modern and digital parking system was a good step under which motorists would be provided a tension free parking facility. The DC said the system would be extended to other parts of the district. Additional Deputy Commissioner General Khuram Pervaz, AC city Syed Ayyub Bukhari, Manager Parking Company Amir and other officers were present on the occasion.

Water Testing Kit production
unit inaugurated at GCWUF

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Government College Women University Faisalabad today launched its first ever production unit of Water Testing Kit (SINOW) in Department of Chemistry under project TDF-03-013 funded by HEC, Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Robina Farooq (PI of the project) and her research team introduced and demonstrated the working and efficiency of the testing kit to the Chief Guest and all other guests of honour. The chief guests appreciated the efforts of HEC for funding such projects as have a very positive social impact. He lauded the genius efforts of Prof. Dr. Robina Farooq for her successful



industrial linkage project in the university.

SINOW is trademark name of the microbial testing kit developed by Prof. Dr. Robina Farooq under project titled "Development of Inexpensive, User-Friendly Wa-

ter Alert Test Kit to Detect Harmful Bacteria". This kit is very user friendly, and a common person can easily perform microbial test using this kit. Now, GCWUF is going to commercialize the SINOW in collaboration with

the Water Care Services Pakistan (WCSP). Installation and development of such useful products at GCWUF is commitment of the Vice Chancellor with the research and uplifting the university to international standard.

PPP fails to fulfill Sindh people's
mandate, says Farrukh Habib

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Monday lashed out at Pakistan People's Party (PPP) for bad governance and massive corruption in Sindh, where, he said, people were deprived of basic amenities including health, education and clean drinking water. In a statement, he said the PPP had completely failed to fulfill the mandate given by the people of Sindh in the last general elections, suggesting "corruption" as an electoral symbol for the party which was only expert in misappropriation of public funds.

The minister said PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari should explain as to where he had spent Rs 1,900 billion given to the province by the federation under the National Finance Commission (NFC) award. He said Sindh was not only marred by corruption but also incompetency as the PPP-led government had even failed to utilize 59 per cent of the development budget during the ongoing financial year. It also missed its current year's revenue target by collecting less than 53 per cent of taxes, he added. Farrukh said the education sector in Sindh also became victim of sheer neg-

ligence as 50 per cent of the total 12.5 million children were still out of the school. The socio-economic condition of people of Thar was even worse than of other areas as they were deprived of basic amenities including health and clean drinking water. He said the province would be grappling with deadly diseases like stunting growth and HIV / AIDS in future due to incompetency and bad governance of the Sindh government. The minister asked Bilawal as to when he would apologize to the people of Sindh for the negligence and carelessness of the Sindh government. – APP

Boats
removed
from Saiful
Malook,
Kunhar

PESHAWAR: Following the vision of PTI government to provide clean and green visiting spots to the tourists and in the wake of recent visit of the Chief Secretary & Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police, Hazara Commissioner Riaz Khan visited the Naran area and lake Saiful-Malook on Monday. On the occasion, the commissioner noticed that despite a ban on boating, 28 boats were sailing on the waters of Saiful-Malook. The commissioner ordered for removal of the boats in order to revive the ecosystem and marine life in the area including trout fish. As many as 13 boats were removed by the owners voluntarily while 15 others were confiscated by the administration and handed over to the Wildlife Department. It is pertinent to mention here that the people who were attached to the business of boating will be provided alternate business. Similarly, 28 rafting boats which were illegally plying in the River Kunhar were also confiscated. In addition to this, all the encroachments alongside the River Kunhar and Mansehra-Naran-Jhalkhad Road were being removed. The Kagan Development Authority was being fully strengthened to do away with all the pitfalls prevalent in the region and to restore the natural beauty of this valley. – APP

Molped
announces
Esra Bilgiç
as Brand
ambassador

DNA

LAHORE: Hayat Kimya – a leading Turkish FMCG and Market Leader of Pakistan's Baby Diaper Category with Molfix baby diapers, has now launched a new brand in the Feminine Care segment: Molped. A globally renowned sanitary pad brand, Molpedis now in Pakistan with Esra Bilgiç as the face of the brand. Molped's innovative sanitary pads aim to provide Pakistani women with long-hours of hygiene so they can live life uninterrupted, even during menstruation. Menstrual hygiene is not an openly talked about subject in Pakistan and, in most circles, discussing such matters is considered to be highly inappropriate. The natural process of menstruation, a blessing for all women, is considered a taboo- something to be kept secret or talked about in code words. As a consequence, there is little that is done with regards to creating adequate awareness of menstrual hygiene. Molped seeks to empower Pakistani women by not only providing them with a hygienic and stress-free menstrual cycle, but also by opening up conversations around menstrual hygiene and related issues. Commenting on her appointment as brand ambassador, Esra said, "I am extremely excited to be a part of this brand. We have started a journey from Turkey to Pakistan."

11 stolen
motorbikes
recovered

PESHAWAR: The Machani Police in a successful operation on Monday busted a three-member dacoit gang involved in many incidents of robberies including snatching motorbike at the gun point. The SHO Machani Police Station, LalZada Khan said that arrested accused were involved in snatching motorcycles at gunpoint in different areas of inner city including Shah Qabul, Kotwali and Gulbahar and recovered 11 stolen motorcycles and spare parts from their possession. He said that three arrested Arshad, Mohammad Manzar and Gul Nawaz were expert of changing engine chassis numbers and setup a workshop for tempering engine chassis in their house. The accused used to sell the motorcycle after changing the engine chassis numbers. The police are also interrogating another group involved in snatching valuable items from citizen on the identification of the arrested gang. – APP

Kashmir issue top bone of contention in Indo-Pak ties

Sardar Masood observed that the international community, world leaders, and Int'l organizations had been part of all instruments right from Tashkent Accord and Simla Accord up to Indus Water Treaty. Therefore, it is not correct that Pak and India could bilaterally resolve all major issues including Kashmir

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan has said that mediation by any third party for the settlement of the Kashmir conflict was not a new phenomenon and several world leaders had been made efforts to defuse tension between Pakistan and India and ensure peace and security in the region. "Many international leaders have also tried to defuse tensions and bring peace in the region. President Dwight Eisenhower urged both India and Pakistan to resolve major outstanding issues and offered to designate a special envoy for the purpose. President John F. Kennedy picked up the thread during his presidency and in fact, he was the force behind the Bhu-

to-Swaran Singh talks," he said. He expressed these views in his lengthy article titled "Quest for Peace" published in a leading English language journal of Pakistan, AJK President office said on Monday. Similarly, the Rann of Kutch Accord was facilitated by British Prime Minister Harold Wilson; and Russian Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin hosted India-Pakistan talks in Tashkent following the 1965 War. The AJK president while touching upon the world efforts to resolve issues in South Asia said that in the 1999-Kargil war, the US President Bill Clinton had intervened and had averted a nuclear clash between the two countries while in 2019, former

US President Donald Trump had offered to mediate between Pakistan and India on the Kashmir issue. However, he went on to say that this was not a sincere offer nor had the Indian prime minister taken it seriously. Sardar Masood Khan observed that the international community, world leaders, and international organizations had been part of all instruments right from Tashkent Accord and Simla Accord up to Indus Water Treaty. Therefore, it is not correct that Pakistan and India could bilaterally resolve all major issues including Kashmir. He said that Pakistan and the people of Jammu and Kashmir had always supported international diplomacy and they had also co-

operated when the UN Security Council had approved a number of resolutions on Kashmir after deliberations from 1948 to 1957. "Multilateral diplomacy on Pakistan has been an abiding track on Kashmir, especially in the initial phase of the dispute. The UN Security Council started its deliberations on the issue in January 1948 and by 1957 it had passed a dozen resolutions mandating a plebiscite to ascertain the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir", Masood stated. Similarly, four UN mediators include Gen. McNaughton, Josef Korbel, Sir Owen Dixon, and Frank Graham had hectorically tried to bridge the gulf between Pakistan and India in order to

pave the way for holding a plebiscite in Kashmir, But India always gained time to consolidate its illegal hold on Kashmir. The president said that the inhabitants of occupied Kashmir had been valiantly resisting the Indian oppression including their systematic ethnic cleansing since 2019, and they were looking towards Pakistan for help. "Pakistan should seriously conduct a proper performance audit of previous rounds of talks on Kashmir before plunging into a new one. In the past, every incumbent leader in Pakistan had the illusion that he alone had the magic wand to tame or outwit the Indians. Let's not repeat that mistake", he asserted.

Briefs

Int'l Widows Day to be marked on June 23

DNA

ISLAMABAD: International Widows' Day will be marked on June 23 (Wednesday) across the globe including Pakistan to address poverty and injustice faced by widows and their children in many countries. The day raise awareness of the violation of human rights that widows suffer in many countries following the death of their spouses. The ultimate goal of the day is to develop resources and policy to empower widows and allow them to have access to education, work, healthcare and lives free of violence and abuse. Enabling them to create a life for themselves and their children following the death of their husband and ending a cycle of poverty and abuse. In many countries with traditional societies, women find themselves left in poverty when their husband dies. In some countries, these women find themselves denied of inheritance and land rights, evicted from their homes, ostracized and abused. The children of widows also often find themselves affected, withdrawn from school and more vulnerable to abuse, especially in the case of girls. International Widows Day works to encourage action in achieving full rights for widows, highlighting the need for more research and statistics into violence, discrimination and poverty suffered by widows and develop policies and programmes to address the problem.

IRSA releases 257,400 cusecs water

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 257,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 223,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1455.31 feet, which was 71.31 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 97,800 and 155,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1153.50 feet, which was 115.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 48,400 and 25,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 180,300, 163,200 and 44,900 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 42,800 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 5,100 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala.

PNCA announces result of talent hunt

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Monday announced the result of week-28 of 'talent hunt music edition'. The first Jury award secured by Singer Sohail Ahmed Pingzaro, second by Ghayas Haider and third award titled people's choice won by Ali. The Arts council announced the result on its official page online. Director General PNCA Dr. Fouzia Saeed said PNCA would also provide opportunities to the winners and special nominees in its upcoming concerts and music functions. She congratulated the winners of week-28 talent hunt edition. PNCA had started the programme for the promotion of classical and semi-classical to folk, modern tunes and pop singing among the younger generation and to groom their hidden talent at the National Art Gallery. Renowned professionals' artists in different specialized music fields were taking auditions of registered participants at PNCA. - APP

Plantation efforts to revive lost butterflies in twin cities

The colorful and delicate insect species with its unique patterns of wings has a crucial role in our environment where it played a significant role in cross pollination of buds among various fruits and crops yielded in the various ecosystems

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The residents of the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad have embraced the once endangered species of Butterflies after massive plantation launched by the government under Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Plantation (BTTP) programme. The colorful and delicate insect species with its unique patterns of wings has a crucial role in our environment where it played a significant role in cross pollina-

tion of buds among various fruits and crops yielded in the various ecosystems, told media the Head of Entomology Department of Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi Dr. Imran Bodlah. Dr. Imran said the Butterfly used to feed on nectar of flower bore by various plant species that provide a favorable and conducive environment to breed in the environment. "Many birds, insects and vertebrates of different kinds feed on butterfly larvae, pupa and adults which continue to sustain the food cycle. Its absence from the

ecology breaks the cycle of food chain leading to disorder in species existence," he said. He said the plantation being carried in the garrison city of Rawalpindi and Islamabad had not only helped in reviving butterflies rather provided alternate host trees or plants bearing flowers with conducive nectar for its nourishment. Margalla Hills National Park, Dr. Imran said, had a thriving population of diverse plant species whereas increase in its number had supported the nurturing of butterflies that were dying or go-

ing extinct due to global warming and anthropogenic activities. To a query, he responded that raising temperature was one of the factors driving the decline of butterflies whereas pollution levels spike and galloping urbanization was leading to disastrous impacts resulting habitat loss of the butterflies. He went on to mention that the public should plant fruit trees in their surroundings that used to bear flowers for long duration along water resources as it would help revive massive population of butterflies. Responding to another

query, he said loss of butterflies was not a positive omen as they used to help in cross-pollination of various fruits and crops leading to good yield and extinction of butterflies would mar crop and fruit cultivation. He said it was a healthy and soothing sight to see butterflies hovering from flower to flower and nestling in the two rapidly urbanized mega cities after massive plantation. Public should take ownership of the precious ecology being depleted for a sustainable and pollution free environment, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan interacting with Builders during visit to New Blue Area. - APP

Biometrics for transfer of vehicle mandatory

RAWALPINDI: In order to ensure transparency during the transfer of ownership, the Excise and Taxation Department will make the process of biometric verification mandatory for the transfer of vehicles from July 1. According to an Excise and Taxation (E&T) Rawalpindi spokesman, under the new system, it will be mandatory for the buyers and sellers to appear at the office of Excise and Taxation to get their vehicle transferred, which would be implemented here from July 1. He also advised the vehicle owners to avail the opportunity and get the vehicles transferred to the buyer's name without biometric verification before the deadline. To a question he said, the biometric verification system would help eliminate the tout mafia involved in preparing fake registration documents as the buyer and sellers would have to appear physically at the excise office to get their vehicle registered or transferred. The fingerprints of the owners of the vehicles shall be verified in real time from the online database of NADRA. According to Assistance Excise and Taxation Officer (AETO) Rawalpindi Sohail Shahzad, Excise and Taxation Department, Punjab on the special directive of the Punjab government had announced a policy to facilitate the vehicle owners and property tax payers. They can pay their property and vehicle token tax through e-pay online service to avoid hassle in the offices, he added. He said that on the directives of Director Excise and Taxation Rawalpindi and MRA Rawalpindi, solid steps were taken to facilitate the citizens who wanted to pay the taxes. - DNA

IHC extends stay order against land acquisition

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday extended its stay order against acquiring of land from residents of Sihala for Defence Housing Authority (DHA). The court summoned the representative of Capital Development Authority (CDA) and DHA on next date of hearing. Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the case regarding the above matter. The court remarked that only the Federal Government Housing Authority (FGHA) and CDA could acquire the land in light of the directives of Supreme Court. The court questioned that under what law the DHA had acquired land directly from the residents. The court adjourned hearing of the case till July 12. It may be mentioned here that two widows had challenged the notification regarding acquiring of land by the DHA. The land acquisition collector had issued the notification for acquiring of 188 kanal land on Sihala for DHA.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: More than 33 million children under five years of age received their vaccination during the sub-national anti-polio campaign. The campaign was conducted from June 7 to 11 in 124 districts of the country including all four provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the federal capital Islamabad. The sub-national campaign was inaugurated by Prime Minister Imran Khan reaffirming the Government's commitment to

eradication. Congratulating the provincial government and partners for the successful polio campaign, the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr. Faisal Sultan said, "This is the most critical time for the programme, reaching and sustaining zero polio cases and transmission requires even greater efforts. "We must work in close integration with broader routine immunization services to tackle all vaccine-preventable diseases." More than 225,000 SehatTahafuz frontline workers visited families and caregivers during the cam-

campaign and ensured vaccination of children against the poliovirus. As a result, the programme successfully achieved its target to build children's immunity amid the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, the frontline workers strictly followed the COVID-19 standard operating procedures during the campaign. "With the great support of parents and communities, the programme achieved the campaign target; however, now is not the time for complacency. The current gains of the programme are fragile and can easi-

ly be reversed, especially during the upcoming season when the virus is especially active," said Dr. Shahzad Baig, Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre, Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI). He urged everyone to continue their hard work and concerted efforts to overcome the hurdles in the last mile to polio eradication. The SehatTahafuz Helpline 1166 and 24/7 WhatsApp Helpline 0346-777-65-46 helped parents during the campaign, and all reported missed children received the vaccination.

Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by poliovirus mainly affecting children under the age of five years. It invades the nervous system and can cause paralysis or even death. While there is no cure for polio, vaccination is the most effective way to protect children from this crippling disease. Each time a child under the age of five is vaccinated, their protection against the virus is increased. Repeated immunizations have protected millions of children from polio, allowing almost all countries in the world to become polio-free.

Rs5.8 trn tax target is quite achievable

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Dr Waqar Masood Monday said the government had not imposed any new tax and the revenue target of Rs5.8 trillion for the upcoming fiscal year 2021-22 would be achieved by expanding tax base in the country.

Addressing a press conference here along with Minister for Energy Hamid Azhar, he dispelled the negative impression about the tax target set for the next fiscal year and said it was quite achievable despite taking into account the impact of current fiscal year but it could also surpass the target. Dr Waqar said the nominal growth - real gross domestic product and inflation - would materialize 13.2 percent growth in tax revenues to Rs5.3 trillion, however the remaining Rs500 billion would be collected by bringing more people specially the retail sector into the tax net. - APP

Police course held to enhance capacity

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad police held a course at the Police Line Headquarters to enhance capacity building of the officers and personnel when it comes to investigating drug cases. According to the details, phase-wise courses have been started for the personnel to enhance their capacity-building. In the first phase, a course was organized so that the personnel investigate the drug cases on scientific lines.

The participants of the course were apprised about modern investigation techniques in cases related to drugs. The experts from the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) shared their experiences regarding investigation into such cases on scientific, technical and modern lines. Commandant ANF Brig. Akhtar Aleem was attended the concluding ceremony as chief guest.

DIG (Operations) Afzaal Ahmed Kousar, SSP (Headquarters) Muhammad Umar Khan, AD ANF Muhammad Ghayas, Principal Training School Tahir Mahmood Khan and other police officers were present on the occasion. Speaking to the participants, DIG (Operations) apprised them about the benefits of the training courses. Commandant ANF appreciated the police performance against the drug-peddlers in the city and termed the police helping hand of the ANF. He said the ANF could do a little without the support of the police. - APP

Citizens being vaccinated in 71 centers

RAWALPINDI: The citizens of Rawalpindi division are being vaccinated in 71 mass corona virus vaccination centers while 16 patients are under medical treatment in different hospitals and 151 are in home isolation in Rawalpindi district. According to a health department spokesman, so far 590,785 persons including 560,842 citizens and 29,943 front line health workers have been vaccinated in the district. Out of total 24,638 patients infected with corona virus 23,525 have been discharged in the district while so far 991 persons lost their lives due to the pandemic. At present, there are total 167 active cases. During last 24 hours, a total of 13 confirmed patients were reported in the district out of which 10 are from Rawalpindi district and three from other districts of the division. Four confirmed cases of corona virus have been reported in Pothohar Town while six in Rawalpindi city. Two patients are being treated at Benazir Bhutto Hospital, four at Fuji Foundation, three at Holy Family Hospital and seven at Rawalpindi Institute of Urology. Fortunately, during last 24 hours, no death was reported from the virus. - APP

8bln for projects in Attock during next financial year

FAISAL MUNIR

ATTOCK: Provincial Minister for Social Welfare and Bait ul Maal Syed Yawar Abbas Bokhari on Monday said that Rs 8 billion will be spent on different development projects in Attock during the next financial year. These projects include establishment of 200 bedded Mother and Child Hospital, upgradation of DHQ Hospital, upgradation of nursing school to college level and many other projects. He was addressing a gathering at village Dakhner after the ground breaking of a carpet road which will be built

at the cost of Rs 50 million.

He said that the state of the art mother and child hospital will be completed in two years and soon its foundation stone will be laid while the upgradation of DHQ Hospital will be started in the coming August. He said that a trauma center will be built in DHQ Hospital and Gondal where all facilities will be available to handle any type of medical emergencies. Bokhari said, a house for the orphans will be built at the cost of Rs 400 million in Attock having all facilities and said that Attock to Haji Shah and Jhala Khan Chowk to Bahtar road will be car-

peted at the cost of millions of rupees which will benefit thousands of families of the area. He said that Punjab Govt has given approval for establishment of Attock University and work on this project will be started soon. He said, Punjab Govt will gradually upgrade eight thousand Public sector school to ensure better educational facilities especially in remote areas. He said, a sports stadium will be built in DhokFateh and said that hockey stadium has been completed while work on cricket stadium is in progress. Yawar said, this Govt is committed to provide facilities to the people

at village level to stop and discourage the trend of migration to cities. While talking about the performance of Punjab Govt under the leadership of Chief Minister Usman Buzdar, he said that when we took over Punjab was under debt of Rs 2500 billion while today we have Rs 125 billion in surplus and said that by the end of this year every citizen of Punjab will have Insaaf Health Card which is a big achievement of this govt. Syed Yawar Abbas Bokhari emphasized upon the people not to believe in rumors, shun sectarianism and remain united for the development of the country.

32 PHF officials to join AHF courses

ISLAMABAD: A total of 32 Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) officials were participating in various courses in online education workshops organized by the Asian Hockey Federation this month to improve the capacity and performance of the coaching staff, umpires and technical officials. The 32 officials include 16 coaches, 7 umpires and 9 technical officials, said a press release issued here. PHF nominated the officials in these courses to improve the skills and performance of the players as well as coaches, umpires and technical officials. PHF also nominated four female coaches, one female umpire and three female technical officials in Asian Hockey Federation courses. Seven Olympians were also participating in the coaching workshops this month, including head coach National Junior Hockey Team Olympian

Danish Kaleem, Olympian Sameer Hussain, Olympian Zeeshan Ashraf, Olympian Kashif Jawad, Olympian Muhammad Saqlain, Olympian Muhammad Waqas and Olympian Rehan Butt. The officials taking part in the workshops include Head Coach National Junior Hockey Team Olympian Danish Kaleem (Customs), National Hockey Coaches Ajmal Khan Lodhi International (Sialkot), Rana Zaheer Ahmed Babar (Sui Southern Gas), Olympian Sameer Hussain (PEF), Mudassar Ali Khan International (WAPDA), Olympian Muhammad Waqas (Wahda), Moin Alam (Karachi), Ali Azlan Khan (Karachi), Olympian Kashif Jawad (Port Qasim), Olympian Muhammad Thaqleem (Allied Bank), Olympian Zeeshan Ashraf (National Bank), Olympian Rehan Butt (WAPDA), Azra Nasir (WAPDA), Saba Saeed (WAPDA), Amna Arshad (Punjab) and Sedrah Pervez (Army). - APP

Over 33m children vaccinated in anti-polio campaign

The sub-national campaign was inaugurated by Prime Minister Imran Khan reaffirming the Government's commitment to eradication

DNA

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eradication. Congratulating the provincial government and partners for the successful polio campaign, the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr. Faisal Sultan said, "This is the most critical time for the programme, reaching and sustaining zero polio cases and transmission requires even greater efforts. "We must work in close integration with broader routine immunization services to tackle all vaccine-preventable diseases." More than 225,000 SehatTahafuz frontline workers visited families and caregivers during the cam-

campaign and ensured vaccination of children against the poliovirus. As a result, the programme successfully achieved its target to build children's immunity amid the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, the frontline workers strictly followed the COVID-19 standard operating procedures during the campaign. "With the great support of parents and communities, the programme achieved the campaign target; however, now is not the time for complacency. The current gains of the programme are fragile and can easi-

ly be reversed, especially during the upcoming season when the virus is especially active," said Dr. Shahzad Baig, Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre, Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI). He urged everyone to continue their hard work and concerted efforts to overcome the hurdles in the last mile to polio eradication. The SehatTahafuz Helpline 1166 and 24/7 WhatsApp Helpline 0346-777-65-46 helped parents during the campaign, and all reported missed children received the vaccination.

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Briefs

AIOU uploads PDF books for all programs

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has uploaded PDF books for all educational levels, ranging from Matric to Ph.D. on its website. Now, the students of these programs can download their books from the given URL 'Books' on the university website (www.aiou.edu.pk). This initiative of uploading of PDF course books would not only ensure provision of books to university students in time but would also enable students to perform various academic activities efficiently ranging from writing of course assignments to preparation of final term examinations. Furthermore, university has also dispatched printed course books to the students enrolled in matriculation and intermediate programs. Moreover, it is circulated for the information of all students enrolled in various programs offered in spring 2021 semester including B Ed, M Ed, MA, M Sc, BS and Associate Degree that they are strictly required to upload typed/composed assignments on Aaghi LMS. Handwritten assignments or their scanned copies/images are not acceptable at all. Moreover, students are advised to follow the deadlines for the submission of assignments as late submissions will not be entertained. However, students enrolled in matriculation, intermediate and BA programs will follow the previous method and dispatch their assignments to their respective tutors on or before the prescribed deadline (s). The schedule for submission of assignments of all programs is available online on the university website.

IESCO secures 7,447 dangerous points so far

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) Chaudhary Andul Razaq has said as many as 7447 dangerous points have been secured by IESCO Operations and construction directorates costing Rs 1252.742 million. He said that the IESCO field formation and customers highlighted 8140 points so far. The company secured all the said point through its own resources, he added. The IESCO Chief directed field formation to complete remaining works without any delay. He said in the light of instructions given by Ministry of Energy (power Division) power line passing over or close to the houses were being shifted to safer locations and the company was bearing all expenses of said safety works. He said safety of human life and their belongings was top priority of the company. He requested valued IESCO customers to avoid constructions under or close to the power installations and if such power lines were found in their surroundings report to relevant SDO office so appropriate measures could be taken in time. — APP

25,000 URLs over anti-Pak content blocked

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority has blocked more than 25,000 internet URLs for carrying anti-state material, it said Monday. The telecom authority had these URLs blocked by internet giants like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. According to officials, Facebook blocked 25,000 accounts, Twitter 307 and YouTube removed 224 links. Twenty four websites were blocked too in the process, the PTA said.

NAHE holds first round of provincial consultations

Participants agreed that in order to provide capacity building for faculty and staff at the volume and frequency required, establishing NAHE regional hubs is a step in the right direction

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The National Academy for Higher Education (NAHE) concluded the first round of provincial consultations with stakeholders in order to structure bespoke regional hubs in all the provincial capitals. Dr. Shaheen Sardar Ali, Rector NAHE, travelled with team members to Lahore, Karachi, Quetta, and Peshawar in order to hold consultations with secretaries of all Higher Education Departments, and university leadership. Vice Chancellors, Pro-VCs, Provosts and Deans representing at least 50 univer-

sities participated in the discussions and provided their valuable input. NAHE has been delivering specific as well as generic trainings to higher education faculty and HEC employees across Pakistan over the past year. Moving forward, NAHE intends to set up four provincial regional hubs for capacity building practice, research, and promotion. Participants agreed that in order to provide capacity building for faculty and staff at the volume and frequency required, establishing NAHE regional hubs is a step in the right direction. Nevertheless, in order to improve the qual-

ity of the higher education sector, university-level needs assessments need to be conducted and trainings tailored and prioritized accordingly. The majority of participants agreed that Vice Chancellors and top-tier leaders also required trainings, particularly ones that target financial and procurement management skills as administrators had been left out of capacity building opportunities. Unique needs also emerged in the provinces. In Punjab, there are at least 25 existing dedicated professional development centers within HEIs; Vice Chancellors attending were

keen for NAHE to play the role of the convener and create networking opportunities. Sindh is also home to at least 22 dedicated professional development centres in universities – in Karachi and Lahore, universities offered their expertise and years of experience in the capacity building field, especially for faculty members. Participants in Karachi were eager for NAHE to explore mentorship and pairing programmes for experienced university faculty and administrators and ones working in newer universities. It was suggested that these pairings need not be limited within provinces. In Quetta, VCs pointed out

the distance between universities in Balochistan, particularly Lasbela, Sibbi and Khuzdar. Lasbela and Sibi VCs particularly suggested Karachi regional centre be their training resource due to distance. Distances and topography were also a major challenge highlighted for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. VCs recommended trainings not be limited to Peshawar but be hosted in different districts for better access. One major outcome of this round of consultations was the decision to ensure at least two NAHE regional hubs are operational by the end of the financial year. Dr. Shaheen Sardar Ali, Rector NAHE, stressed the

importance of NAHE as conceiving, developing, delivering, and evaluating capacity building programmes but also as a collaborator and partner with other institutions with similar scope and remit. She stressed the importance of utilizing existing pools of excellence in dedicated professional development centers across Pakistan, working collaboratively and working together off each other's strengths. This was the first round of consultations – the NAHE team is working on a plan for the second round of consultations in Upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, South Punjab, and Interior Sindh.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Sania Nishtar interacts with recently supported Ehsaas Rehrihaans in G-10 Markaz. — DNA

Tariq Malik appointed NADRA chairman



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Monday notified Muhammad Tariq Malik as the chairman of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Interior, he has been appointed the NADRA chairman for a period of three years. "In exercise of powers conferred under section 3 (3) of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) Ordinance 2000, the Competent Authority has been pleased to appoint Mr. Muhammad Tariq Malik as Chairman, NADRA for a term of three years

in terms of Section 3 (5) of NADRA Ordinance, 2000, with immediate effect and until further orders," the notification read. On June 8, the federal cabinet gave a go-ahead to the appointment of Tariq Malik as the NADRA chairman. Briefing the media on decisions taken by the federal cabinet, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said the cabinet approved the Ministry of Interior's summary regarding the appointment. Taking to Twitter following the cabinet's approval for his appointment as the NADRA chief, Tariq Malik said: "I am grateful to Prime Minister @ImranKhanPTI for reposing his trust in me, and arranging a transparent and highly competitive selection process." Tariq Malik has also served as the head of NADRA during the PPP government. However, during the PML-N era, due to differences with the then Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, he resigned from the post of Chairman NADRA.

Script distribution ceremony of play "Adhori Tasveer" held

Naheed Manzoor and Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed were present on the occasion. The play has been written and directed by famous playwright Naheed Manzoor

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: A script distribution ceremony of the play 'Adhori Tasveer' was held at Punjab Arts Council here on Monday to distribute the script among the artists of the play. Naheed Manzoor and Di-

rector Arts Council Waqar Ahmed were present on the occasion. The play has been written and directed by famous playwright Naheed Manzoor. Drama artists Masood Khawaja, Rabia Tabassum, Effat Chaudhry, Mumtaz Khan, Shama Niazi and others will perform in the play.

New talent has been introduced in the play 'Adhori Tasveer'. Addressing at the occasion, Naheed Manzoor said that she wanted to improve the society by removing the veil of social issues through drama as dramas on social issues not only highlight social issues but also help in

solving these problems. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that introducing new faces and providing them platform is one of the objectives of Arts Council. At the end of the function, Naheed Manzoor and Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad distributed scripts among the artists.



Imran Khan today's Saladin

MUNAZA KAZMI

SALADIN the name that needs no introduction. The greatest of the warriors, the keeper of faith, the defender of Jerusalem, Sultan Saladin Ayyubi. He was the man who unified the Arab and Muslim world for the holy cause, he with grace of Almighty saved the Medina from the evil of infidels. Although he died hundreds of years before, but the soil of Muslim land give birth to him after each period for uniting the Muslim world to stand against the all wrongs of infidelity and for empowering the nations. Pakistan, a South Asian country, a land once lush and beautiful inhabited by people amazing intellect and skills, thawed by the tales of extremism, corruption and Taliban which made its image as a horrified old black and white movie, and mostly known as a lonely planet. However, the country shed its

old torn clothes and emerged as a twinkling star from the darkest of mountains under the charismatic leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. Imran Khan, born October 5, 1952, Lahore, Pakistani cricket-player, politician, writer, philanthropist, and Prime Minister of Pakistan who became a national hero by leading Pakistan's national team to a World Cricket Cup victory in 1992 and later entered politics as a critic of government corruption in Pakistan. Here I relate him with Sultan Saladin since Sultan was the one who united the Arab and Muslim world to regain Jerusalem, so here is our Imran Khan who's striving hard to improve the image of Pakistan in the global community, also struggling towards the unity of the Muslim community not in Pakistan but around the world and not ignoring the Palestine cause. The very next day of Palestine massacre Imran Khan had met the secretary general of

the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and called for the OIC to take a stand on it and raise the issue in the UN. His call for unity with King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz of Saudi Arabia that "we should raise our voice



regarding the injustice against Palestinians and what happened in Al Aqsa. In the scenario of Pakistan Imran Khan's voice like Saladin echoes in every corner that "He will never let his nation let

down". For youth Khan have initiated different empowering projects and scholarships which are helping in shaping the Naya Pakistan. In the time of early COVID, Khan have aided the community with stipend in the flagship of "Prime Minister Fund". Early he has launched a project under the name of "Ehsas Program" for helping the poor community in the way that they become self-sufficient. Moreover, the fame of "Shokat Khanmum Cancer Hospital" is a lot much familiar. Imran Khan came with change, change of politics, change of the old norms with a new color of transformation. He is transforming Pakistan, to say the province of Gilgit-Baltistan, making the transportation and communication channels improved, digital library, safeguarding of eco-diversity and a lot more. Khan is also known by people as Tsunami Khan reasoning his ruling of plantation of 10 billion trees that's why

Pakistan hosted World Environmental Day this year, according to the eye-witness he have transformed much weather and condition of the KPK which was his first spot. More to say our Prime Minister had outdone the black and white picture of Pakistan by giving it a new color of emergent Tourism, Pakistan came in the 2020 Best Holiday Destination then the recent royal visit from Cambridge, theses all accompany in making a colorful and brighter picture of Pakistan. People are coming and going back with a suitcase full of memories of hospitality and amazing tales to tell, much thanks to our today's Saladin. It is true that Pakistan is facing difficulties but as said by Almighty in Quran Verily, along with every hardship is relief". I believe if we forget about Punjab, Sindh, Pathan, Balochi or Kashmiri and stand together as Pakistani who could stand in front of us, in front of the league of Saladin.

IESCO issues power suspension programme

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Monday issued a power suspension programme for Tuesday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 08:00 am to 01:00 am Chakral, Khanabad, Munirabad, Lallazar, Lala Rukh, Purmiana, Industrial Estate, Garhi Afghana, Kohistan, Kashif Gul, Max Industrial, Model Town, Ghazi Kohli, Industrial Estate, Hussainabad, Islamabad, KSB, Col. Sher Khan, Sarai Kharboza, Pind Padian, ECHS (D-18), Sangiani, Paswal, Shah Allah Ditta, Taxila, Nawazish Shaheed, Salar Gah, Museum, Ghauri, Haro, Boi Garh, Mort, Dharnal, Kot Sheera, Kot Gullah feeders, 09:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. NIH, AQ Khan, CM Pak Zong, Rehara, Bahria Enclave, Chatha, Iqbal Town, Air Force, Tarlai, Highway, Gulshana, Major Masood Kayani, BB Shaheed, Rata, Race Course, Mangtal, D. M. Mills, Industrial Area, Carriage Factory Feeders, Half Feeders from 09:00 AM to 01:00 AM, Rama, Nishan Haider feeders, From 06:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Fatehpur, Khor feeders, 07:00 AM to 11:00 AM New Rawat, Ammar, Bhagwal, Padial feeders and surrounding areas.

CPO holds 'Khuli Kutchery' at CPO office

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younas on Monday held a 'Khuli Kutchery' here at CPO office. The 'Khuli Kutchery' was attended among others by a large number of citizens, while police officers concerned were also present on the occasion. 52 citizens recorded their complaints and presented applications to the CPO. He also listened to the complaints of the citizens and issued orders to the police officers concerned. According to a police spokesman, the CPO is holding Khuli Kutchery on daily basis to provide relief to the citizens. The police officers had also been warned of strict action on negligence and directed to address complaints of the citizens particularly marked by the CPO within shortest possible time, he added.

Lok Virsa reference against Robina Khalid

ISLAMABAD: An Accountability Court (AC) on Monday adjourned hearing till July 7, on Lok Virsa corruption reference against Senator Robina Khalid and others. ACI Judge Muhammad Bashir hearing the case filed by National Accountability Bureau (NAB) regarding the above matter. At the outset of hearing, the judge continued recording the statement of prosecution witness Khalid Islam. The court instructed the accused to also appear on next hearing on adjourned the case. The reference had alleged the accused has caused a loss worth Rs30.13 million to exchequer through corruptions in the funds of Lok Virsa. — APP

Police bust bike lifter gang

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Police have busted a bike-lifter gang and arrested its four members besides recovering three stolen motorcycles and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, police team under the supervision of Station House Officer City Police Station was constituted which netted four accused namely Muhammad Kamran, Sohail, Muhammad Rameez and Kamran Haider, involved in bike lifting and also involved in number of other cases. Police recovered three stolen motorcycles and other valuables from their possession.

SCO meeting

THE next Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting will be taking place on June 22-23 where NSA Dr. Moeed Yusuf will be representing Pakistan. The 16th meeting of the secretaries of the security council comes at a time when the region is undergoing significant developments, most notably the departure of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

The Indian NSA Ajit Doval will also be in attendance, however Dr. Yusuf has dispelled any rumours of a bilateral meeting taking place between the two counterparts. One cannot say with certainty whether a meeting will be held because of how talks have taken place in the past despite public refusals. However, at its face value we should commend Pakistan's insistence on refusing dialogue till the actions of August 5, 2019 are reversed. Maintaining this stance is even more important in light of reports that the Modi government may be considering further divisions, bifurcation and demographic changes to IIOJK.

Another meeting that seems unlikely to take place is with the Afghan NSA Hamdullah Mohib, who is also expected to attend the conference. Given the Afghan NSA's recent diatribe and attempts to sabotage bilateral relations and the peace process with his rhetoric, Pakistan officials have rightly made it clear that Dr. Yusuf will not be engaging with Mr. Mohib on the sidelines of the SCO meeting.

There are other key meetings that will be taking place however, as representatives from Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and China will be present. Considering how the western forces are seeking a hasty exit from Afghanistan, Kabul will require the support of neighbours going forward. Pakistan along with China, Russia, and other key regional actors will have to ensure that Afghanistan does not plunge into anarchy post-September. The spillover of violence from Afghanistan is not just Pakistan's concern, which is why regional cooperation will be key going forward.

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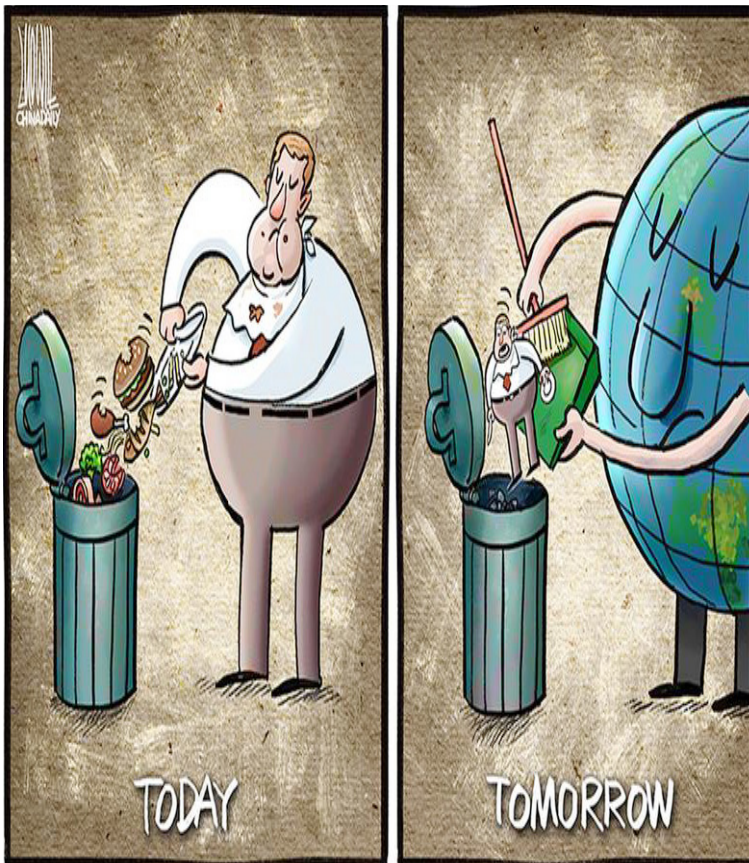
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An interim province

IN November 2020, Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan announced that Gilgit-Baltistan would attain provisional provincial status after the 2020 Assembly election, a long-standing demand of the people from the region. Since then, the government has made several legislative strides towards establishing Gilgit-Baltistan as an interim province, with the last few weeks being particularly eventful.

For starters, the government has made Gilgit-Baltistan one of its priorities on the infrastructure side and has allocated a lot more funds than the region has seen in the past. The incumbent government provided 300 billion rupees to Gilgit-Baltistan to improve its infrastructure. There are also several structural changes being made to distinguish Gilgit-Baltistan as a separate province—the region has been given a separate share within the budget. The PSDP has envisaged hydel power generation and transmission projects, connectivity projects for tourism, youth skill and scholarship programmes, and upgrading of health systems and water and sanitation projects in the region. Focusing on water and sanitation is particularly imperative since the lack of proper infrastructure makes the area unliveable for residents. These issues also impact the landscape by contributing to pollution, acting as an obstacle in the government's plan to increase tourism by promoting the region's unique beauty.

The government is aiming to boost GDP through strategic development in Gilgit-Baltistan to make it a tourist hotspot in the world. For that purpose, new flight tracks have been introduced by the Pakistan International Airlines in Skardu, and steps will be taken to establish a training centre in Skardu Press Club to train young journalists about digital media. All in all, these are hopeful signs that indicate that the government will live up to its promise of legislation to make Gilgit-Baltistan an interim province of the country. Yet it needs to move faster. The government needs to handle the bickering and conflicts in the parliament, along with the stress of passing this historic legislation which the people of Gilgit-Baltistan have long advocated for.

Russia's global outreach and Agenda 2030

Khalid Taimur Akram



A well-functioning, modern infrastructure is a central requirement for inclusive economic development and sustainable growth. The three dimensions, i.e., social, environmental and economic, have been reflected by a profound analysis of the May Decree

RUSSIA is among one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. Progressive and sustainable in its development goals, the country has been constructively working to bring nations together via an enhanced regional integration. In contemporary times, Russia's global outreach amid 2030 targets has been efficaciously adding for its socio-economic and political development. Russian foreign policy has been strengthening up to its present expansive phase. Moreover, its ambitions reflect through its foreign or regional policies, objectives and targets. It relies on more advance and transforming goals. Since the adoption of 2030 goals, Russia has reaffirmed

its commitment to fulfilling the targets and advanced its civil society through progressive measures. Russian President, His Excellency, Vladimir Putin has been stressing to actively work on the 2030 goals, cooperating with regional countries, and implementing joint progressive projects to ensure sustainable growth, foster economic integration, and upgraded industrial & transport infrastructure. Moreover, Russia has been actively expanding its capacities through foreign assistance and facilitation to developing countries. Broader assistance is also one of the essential parts of the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, the study essentially highlights Russia's startling policy framework for sustainable growth. The article also discusses the development strategies of Russia and its constructive input in sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The 2020 Strategy and May Decrees:

Russia has adopted a well-structured and cohesive policy framework. It can be envisaged that the country under its visionary leadership will continue to pursue efficacious strategies for industrial development, environmental sustainability, technological transformation and other priorities over the decade. While discussing Russia's beneficial adapted strategies, it is significant to highlight the May Decrees. In 2018, Russian President, His Excellency, Vladimir Putin signed a decree setting the national development targets to 2024. The documents set certain significant goals to be adopted for the socio-economic well-being of the state. The Decrees' goals reflect some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as well. The ambition is amid achieving broader goals, i.e., to ensure economic growth rates above the world's level while keeping macroeconomic stability. The 2024 goals also include stabilizing and securing Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure for high-speed transmission, processing and storage of data bank easily accessible to all organizations and households.

In this aspect, the government is highly ambitious to establish and strengthen the digital economy's legal regulation system, relying on a feasible approach in each domain. The 2017 program of "Digital Economy of the Russian Federation" was designed for 2024. It is based on five aspects, i.e., normative regulation, robust education program, cybersecurity, establishing research competencies and Information Technology (IT) infrastructure. Most of these initiatives and broader targets have been already implemented to empower Russian progressive civil society. Russia's National Project is an exceptional roadmap of state-driven investment across 12 major areas. The outlined five development goals are as follows:

- Maintaining the population (health and well-being)
- Providing a safe living environment
- Facilitating effective workforce
- Ensuring feasible business climate and

- enhancing entrepreneurship
- Technological transformation

Integration of Trilateral Dimensions of Sustainable Development and Policy Coherence:

A well-functioning, modern infrastructure is a central requirement for inclusive economic development and sustainable growth. The three dimensions, i.e., social, environmental and economic, have been reflected by a profound analysis of the May Decree. In this regard, Russian federal ministries and agencies are well coordinated with one another and with regional authorities to execute the adopted programs. Russia is a social state and always endorsed and encouraged Human and civil rights and freedoms. Since 2012, many trends have been advanced in Russia for sustainable development. The country has been working hard to achieve the Global SDGs by 2030. Therefore, the structural reforms have given new impetus to many sectors, especially the agriculture sector, to sustain food security. Therefore, as the world's leading strategic hub and growing economy, Hunger is not an issue for Russia. According to the estimation of 2014 onwards, domestic agriculture capacity and production has been growing. Therefore, the country ensures not only its food security but also provide other countries with massive assistance. According to the Federal Customs Service of Russia (FCS), in 2018-2019, vegetable products' exports were approximately \$14.5 billion, weighing more than 69 million ton. This ratio indicates that the export in this sector would be further increased in the near future.

One of the Sustainable development targets is to maintain plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. In this aspect, Russia has strong expertise. The genetic diversity of seeds is preserved due to the Vavilov seed bank and Kuban genetic bank of seeds. Russia has the world collection of plant genetic resources, including 400 thousand samples. Therefore, the research institute, Vavilov Institute of Plant Industry (VIR) facilitates the production of hundreds of new species and hybrids annually. Moreover, Russia has been assisting other countries with shared knowledge through its huge expertise in the research and development (R&D) sector. Certain accomplishments by the Russian federation are pertinent to highlight in this area:

- Under the prudent and dynamic leadership of President Vladimir Putin, the federation has adopted robust legislative amendments ensuring societal well-being.
- Allocating special grants for the industrial composting of food waste.
- Providing pervasive assistance to farmers and rural communities and advancing the agriculture sector.
- Establishing warehouse logistics and the industrial processing of agricultural commodities, construction of storage networks.
- Mobilizing efforts to mitigate adverse impacts of

- climate change on socio, political and economic fabrics of society.

- Ensuring implementation of SDGs and maintaining low carbon footprints.
- Supporting funds that assist vulnerable social groups.
- Facilitating working group and leading commissions
- Monitoring the provision of societal well-being.

Russia, one of the leading ideas of state policy is the modernization of education. Education provides easy access to education and improves its quality and efficiency. Furthermore, society's demeanor to the future changes is cooperative and optimistic. Thereby, the society has welcomed to extend the sphere of the educational system, focusing on the best foreign practices while adhering to sustainable development goal four 'quality education'.

Russia and Pakistan Broader Cooperation: Prospects for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Since the start of the new millennium, the strategic graph of Russia-Pakistan bilateral relations has followed an upwards trajectory. Russia's outlook towards South Asia has dramatically evolved in the past decade. Moscow has highlighted its "Pivot to Asia" strategy as a central part of its Foreign Policy objectives. These objectives aim at diversifying diplomatic and economic relations with the Asian states. In the contemporary era, the global pendulum of the economy has shifted its course towards the Asian region. The contemporary geopolitical setting appears to be immensely encouraging in terms of the Russia-Pakistan relationship. There are multiple sectors such as geo-economics, defense, information technology, counter-terrorism in which both countries can extend their cooperation and extract maximum benefits out of the alliance. Russia and Pakistan recognize each other's geopolitical significance, especially regarding the Afghanistan conflict's durable solution. Moreover, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) provides yet another opportunity to strengthen Pak-Russia relations. Russia has announced its full support for the CPEC program. By the above-mentioned profound analysis of Russian global outreach and agenda 2030, it has been clear that the country can pave the way to attain common goals together and assist Pakistan in this regard. Therefore, Pakistan can extend its partnership with Russia to achieve global SDGs and add constructively into global alignments and cooperation. Collaboration to achieve the sustainable development goals would provide a new impetus for Pakistan and Russia to enhance their bilateral ties and foster people-to-people connectivity. The result-orientated policies by the visionary Russian leadership have ultimately proved to be a driving force for the amicable resolution of common global challenges and move towards regional cooperation.

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Iran's Presidential Election 2021

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan



The western media as usual in shock and labeled the new Iranian president a hardliner and ultra conservative. He is currently under the US sanctions. They fear that the victory of Raisi would put hard-liners firmly in control across the govt. It seems that tensions will remain high with both the U.S. and Israel

PRaise and disdain for newly elected president of Iran Ebrahim Raisi have been poured. All other presidential candidates conceded even before official results were announced. The 13th presidential election was contested on the issues of economic survival and political instability. As per constitution of Iran Raisi will take over from Rouhani in August 2021 as Iran seeks to salvage its tattered nuclear deal with major powers and frees it from punishing US sanctions that have driven a sharp economic downturn. Former Central Bank chief contested the election as the moderate candidate but could not win the hearts and souls of the voters as outgoing President Hassan Rouhani, who is term-limited from seeking the office again.

The western media as usual in shock and labeled the new Iranian president a hardliner and ultra conservative. He is currently under the US sanctions. They fear that the victory of Raisi would put hard-liners firmly in control across the government. It seems that tensions will remain high with both the U.S. and Israel, which is believed to have carried out a series of attacks targeting Iranian nuclear sites as well as assassinating the scientist who created its military atomic program decades earlier.

According to Iranian interior ministry (June 19, 2021) With Raisi secured 17.9 million from the total votes of 28.9 million. Turnout in the presidential election 2021 was contested among the four candidates which recorded turnout of 48.8 percent.

Prime Minister Imran Khan congratulated Iran's new president, Ebrahim Raisi, on securing a landmark victory in the country's 13th presidential elections. He said he looks forward to "working with him for further strengthening of our fraternal ties and for regional peace, progress and prosperity". He was appointed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to the high-profile job of judiciary chief in 2019. Iran's regional allies, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Islamist groups Hamas and Hezbollah welcomed Raisi election. However, Amnesty International's Secretary General Agnès Callamard said his victory was "a grim reminder that impunity allegedly reigns supreme in Iran".

Outgoing pragmatist President Hassan Rouhani, barred by the constitution from seeking a third term, visited Raisi at his office to congratulate him, and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said he would lead Iran well.

"We will stand by and cooperate fully with the president-elect for the next 45 days, when the new government takes charge (in early August)," state media quoted Rouhani as saying. Iran and six major powers are in talks to revive their 2015 nuclear deal. Donald Trump, U.S. president at the time, abandoned the deal in 2018 and reimposed crippling sanctions that have squeezed Iran's oil income. It seems that worsening economic hardships, Raisi's win will not disrupt Iran's effort to revive the pact and break free of tough U.S. oil and financial sanctions. However, newly president's hardline policies would deter foreign investors.

During his campaign to win over voters preoccupied by bread and butter issues, Raisi promised to create millions of jobs and tackle inflation, without offering a detailed political or economic program.

Religious father figure, Khamenei had urged people to turn out and vote on Friday, but simmering anger over economic hardships and curbs on freedoms kept many Iranians at home. Another deterrent for many pro-reform voters was a lack of choice, after a hardline election body barred heavy-weight moderates and conservatives from standing.

A U.S. State Department spokesperson said on Friday: "Iranians were denied their right to choose their own leaders in a free and fair electoral process. Many pro-reform Iranians fear Raisi's presidency could usher in more repression."

It is predicted that the election win could increase Raisi's chances of succeeding Khamenei, who himself served two terms as president before becoming supreme leader in 1989. Raisi, the head of the judiciary, is seen as close to the 81-year-old supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has ultimate political power in Iran. Friday's voting was extended by two hours past the original midnight deadline amid fears of a low turnout of 50 percent or less.

According to Western media many Iranians feel sidelined by Iran's authoritarian clerical establishment. Millions boycotted the election. Contrary to this ongoing pandemic of COVID-19 reduced the overall turn-out in the election.

The political system of Iran is unique in the world in which Guardian Council play very important role however, interestingly common people (voters) hold the final power to elect anybody in the election and same is the case of Iran's presidential election in which economic hardship, political instability and numerous social matters pertaining to new jobs, better health, housing, drinking water and schooling

remained dominant.

Being prominent regional geopolitical analyst I predict that newly elected Iranian president, Raisi will face several daunting challenges. He will have to negotiate America's reentry into the 2015 nuclear deal with the United States. He will have to address both the sharp economic meltdown and the coronavirus plaguing his nation.

President-elect Ebrahim Raisi has promised to improve Iran's economy and raise living standards for families by focusing on the country's domestic resources, trade ties with regional allies, and strengthening industrial output. Unfortunately, Iran's currency has lost 80 percent of its value against the dollar since the U.S. abandoned the nuclear deal in 2018. Iran's economy contracted sharply after former U.S. President Donald Trump re-imposed sanctions on the country and pulled Washington out of the nuclear deal in May 2018, triggering a major slump in the rial.

The U.S. economic and trade sanctions badly damaged sales of Iranian crude oil by threatening other countries with sanctions if they purchased energy from the Islamic Republic. The drop in oil revenue and productivity in the sector and the scarcity of foreign currency damaged economic growth. Prior to Trump's sanctions, the International Monetary Fund had expected Iran's GDP to grow by about 4 percent in 2019, but instead it shrank by more than 6 percent.

The European Union, which is leading negotiations in Vienna to revive the nuclear deal, was one of Iran's biggest trade partners before U.S. sanctions were re-imposed. Rouhani's government was keen for the bloc to resume its position as the country's top foreign trade partner after the nuclear deal came into effect in 2016. But those plans came to an abrupt halt after sanctions were reinstated and Iran's imports from the EU were down 80% by the last quarter of 2020.

To conclude fixing the economy, improving foreign relations, emerging from the pandemic, regaining the people's trust and last but not least tackling environmental problems would be foremost duties of the newly elected president of Iran in the days to come in which China-Iran Strategic deal of US\$400 billion would provide a cushion to his economic policies.

Moreover, further enhancing of bilateral relations in diverse sectors of economy, trade & commerce, science & technology, joint venture, energy cooperation, and cultural cooperation with Pakistan, Oman, Qatar and realignment with Turkey and other regional countries would be value-addition to Iran.

Briefs

Sri Lankan lifts travel restriction

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan authorities on Monday temporarily lifted a nationwide travel restriction which was imposed in May to allow essential work of people. Army Commander and Head of the National Operations Center for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak Gen. Shavendra Silva told Xinhua that the country-wide travel restriction was lifted for three days from Monday to allow the public to leave their homes for essential work. However, he said only two people from every house were allowed to leave home for essential work while private and state-owned companies were urged to operate on very minimum staff. Silva said Sri Lanka continued to report a very high number of COVID-19 patients and deaths, calling the public to behave responsibly till the nationwide travel restriction is re-imposed again on Wednesday night. According to fresh guidelines issued by the Health Ministry on Sunday, supermarkets across Sri Lanka can function on a 25-percent capacity per time while grocery stores will be allowed to take in only three people per time. – APP

Bilawal regrets poor remains...

FROM PAGE 01

He complained that Sindh and other provinces were not given their share due under the NFC Award. "We will not back down on somebody's orders. We will snatch our rights from the Center," he vowed. He further said that 10,000 people were fired from Pakistan Steel Mills. "I am surprised that Sindh Public Service Commission is closed at a time when there is a financial crisis in the country," he said, and added, "PPP has never introduced such policies which rendered the youth jobless." PPP chairman stressed the need for working in the light of vision of BB. Making it clear that he would not tolerate allegations of bad governance in Sindh, he said whether one admitted it or not, PPP government in the province had delivered. "Other provincial governments should emulate our performance," he boasted. Admitting there were issues in the province," he said, "Had we been given our rights our provincial government could have performed much better." Bilawal said Sindh was the only province where the poverty rate had dropped contrary to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) where, as per his claim, poverty rate had increased.

Pfizer to supply 13 million...

FROM PAGE 01

COVID-19 vaccine globally in total by the end of 2021, assuming updated six-dose labeling, continuous process improvements, expansion at current facilities and contingent upon adding new suppliers and contract manufacturers. The vaccine, which is based on BioNTech's proprietary mRNA technology, was developed by both BioNTech and Pfizer, and the marketing authorization holder is BioNTech in the United States, Europe, UK, Canada, and other countries.

PIA to resume flights...

FROM PAGE 01

It's the first airline in the region to do so. PIA CEO Air Marshal Arshad Malik has instructed PIA officials to immediately start processing the sale of tickets and it is expected that the first flight will resume from Sunday. Passengers will be required to receive COVID vaccination certificates as well as a negative COVID tests prior to their travel. The temporary restrictions were earlier placed by Canadian authorities due to the COVID-19 pandemic around the world. Passengers buying new tickets or in possession of those bought earlier, can utilise their tickets subject to meeting the terms and conditions of travel.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan met Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)'s chairman Ehsan Mani to discuss international and domestic cricket. – DNA

Sultans qualify for PSL 6 final after win over United

SPORTS DESK

ABU DHABI: Multan Sultans registered a 31-run win over Islamabad United on Monday to qualify for the final of HBL PSL 6. Defending a target of 181 runs, Sohail Tanvir struck early for Sultans as he clean bowled Colin Munro on the second ball of the innings. Muhammad Akhlaq had a brief stay on the crease as well as he was run out for 10 after from a direct hit by Imran Khan. United was banking on their captain to step up but Shadab Khan handed an easy catch Shan Masood at point. Usman Khawaja kept rotating the strike as wickets kept falling at the other end for United. Ifthikhar Ahmed was caught behind on the bowling of Blessing Muzarabani, whereas Asif Ali was outfoxed by Imran Tahir and stumped for 1, thereby reducing United to 61-5. Khawaja sprinted to his fifty in just 33 balls, keeping United alive in the chase. With United needing 90 runs from 42 balls, Khawaja decided to up the ante and hit Muzarabani for a six before completing a hat-trick



of boundaries. Sohail Tanvir returned in the 15th over to remove Khawaja for 70 and pick his third wicket of the match. Imran Tahir

finished his four-over spell by removing Hasan Ali, who was looking to tee off from the get go. Muzarabani and Tanvir picked

three wickets each to bowl out United for 149. Earlier, brisk knocks from Sohail Masood and Khushdil Shah helped Multan Sul-

tans post 180-5 against Islamabad United. Sultans were dealt an early blow as they lost their captain in the second over as Mohammad Rizwan was caught behind without opening his account.

In-form batsman Sohaib Maqsood made his intentions clear as he smashed three boundaries in Faheem Ashraf's first over. Maqsood continued to accelerate as he dispatched Akif Javed for two sixes inside the powerplay.

After the powerplay, Shan Masood welcomed Shadab Khan into the attack with back to back boundaries. However, Shadab had the last laugh as he trapped Masood lbw on the next ball. Rilee Rossouw didn't hang around for long as he was also trapped lbw for a duck in the same over. Two quick wickets didn't slow down Maqsood, who hit consecutive boundaries in the first over of Mohammad Wasim Jr. Johnson Charles took a particular liking to Wasim Jr, hitting the emerging pacer for couple of sixes. Maqsood brought his fifty in style as he dispatched Hasan Ali for a six over cover.

Harry Maguire ready to return

LONDON: Harry Maguire says he is fit to feature for England in their decisive Euro 2020 Group D clash against the Czech Republic on Tuesday. Manchester United defender Maguire did not play in England's first two matches against Croatia and Scotland as he recovers from ankle ligament damage sustained against Aston Villa in May. England manager Gareth Southgate included the centre-back in his Euro squad in the belief he would be back in time to play some part in the tournament. Maguire was on the bench for Friday's 0-0 draw against Scotland and now he is ready to return to action for the Czech showdown at Wembley. "I'm feeling good. Obviously with the ankle injury, it's getting stronger, I'm getting more confident," Maguire told The Lions' Den. "The more sessions I do, the more games I play, I'm sure I'll get more confidence and that's the thing with these type of injuries. – DNA

Norway rules out boycotting football world cup 2022

SPORTS DESK

OSLO: Norway's football federation has ruled out boycotting the 2022 World Cup in Qatar despite pressure from its grassroots over accusations of human rights abuses of migrant workers in the Gulf state. At an extraordinary congress called by the NFF on Sunday, 368 delegates voted for a motion rejecting a boycott while 121 were in favour. In the run-up to the vote, Ole Kristian Sandvik, spokesman of the Norwegian Supporters' Alliance (NSA), said the

matches in Qatar will "unfortunately be like playing on a cemetery", a term commonly used by opponents of Norway's participation. Norway has not qualified for a major international competition since Euro 2000 and is currently fourth in its World Cup qualifying group. So although qualification seems an uphill task, the result of the vote could have had an impact on whether Norway continued to play qualifying matches. The movement calling for a boycott began when the Tromsø IL club spoke out in February. "We can no longer sit and watch people die in the name of football,"

the first division club said. Tom Hogli, a footballer-turned-public-relations-officer for Tromsø IL, told the AFP news agency: "There is no doubt that this World Cup should never have been awarded to Qatar. The conditions there are abominable and many have lost their lives." Qatar's treatment of migrant workers and its human rights record have been under the spotlight since it was awarded the hosting of the tournament in 2010. The country said it has carried out several labour reforms in the run-up to the mega event that takes place in November and December next year.

Azerbaijan restores religious monuments

BAKU: Azerbaijan is working on the restoration of religious monuments in the territories liberated from the Armenian occupation. Chairman of the Azerbaijani State Committee on Work with Religious Structures Mubarriz Gurbanli told reporters that Armenian occupants destroyed all religious monuments in these territories during the occupation "Work has already begun on the restoration of mosques in these territories. Visits of the Albanian religious community to religious churches dating back to the period of the existence of Caucasian Albania are being organized as well. Important steps are being taken to restore these churches. The restoration is carried out by the relevant state bodies," he said. Meanwhile, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation has recently restored historic mosques, namely, Ashaghi Govhar Agha Mosque, Yukhari Govhar Agha mosque and Saatli Mosque in Shusha. The mosques have been included in the list of historical and cultural monuments of national importance. The religious monuments were designed by architect Karbalayi Safikhon Karabakhli, one of the representatives of Karabakh architecture schools. As a result of Armenian vandalism, the interior of Yukhari Govhar Agha Mosque was destroyed, the decor of the minarets was damaged as well. The covering and other architectural elements were destroyed as well. – DNA



COLOMBO: Pakistan's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Amb Saad Khatak handed over 2 cheques worth LKR 66M & LKR 8.027M to Gotabaya Rajapaksa, President of Sri Lanka. LKR 66M was announced by PM Imran during his visit for promotion of sports through training & equipment, while LKR 8.027 M is being donated to SL State Pharmaceutical Corp. for relief assistance. – DNA

EU extends sanctions against Russia

FOREIGN DESK

BRUSSELS: EU foreign ministers on Monday decided to extend economic sanctions against Russia over illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol for another year. European companies involved in telecommunications, transport and energy sectors are also not allowed to export goods and services to local firms under the measures.

The decision maintains the ban on import of goods from Crimea and Sevastopol, and targets financial investments and tourism in the area as well. The sanctions, which have been in place since 2014, are renewed until June 23, 2022. The EU-Russia relations have deteriorated significantly over the past years. Last week, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell revealed his proposal for guiding the bloc's rela-

UN rights chief raises concerns

WEB DESK

GENEVA: The UN rights chief on Monday raised the issue of political rights in Russia and China when she opened the 47th session of the Human Rights Council, alluding to the imprisonment of political figure Alexey Navalny and a "chilling impact" on civic space in Hong Kong. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said she was opening the June 21-July 13 UN Rights Council on its 15th anniversary, which is "sadly a time of grave setbacks in human rights."

tions with Russia. He recommended that EU leaders base their policy on three key principles, namely "push back, constraints and engaging Russia." EU heads of states and governments are expected to adopt their position on relations with Russia at their upcoming summit, starting on Thursday. The bloc has been applying different sanction regimes since 2014, including asset freeze and travel restrictions in response to

the violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and Moscow's reluctance to fully implement the Minsk agreement meant to establish a cease-fire in Eastern Ukraine. The EU also imposed sanctions on four Russian high-ranking officials over opposition figure Aleksey Navalny's arbitrary arrest, prosecution and sentencing under its Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime in March.

PM Khan, Mani meet to discuss cricket

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan met Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)'s chairman Ehsan Mani to discuss international and domestic cricket. Mani briefed former Pakistani captain about the improvement being made to the country's cricket and league cricket including the Pakistan Super League (PSL). It must be noted here that PSL was held completely in Pakistan in 2020 after the directives from the Premier. South Africa toured the country earlier this year and England will come for the first time in 16 years to play international cricket here. The English side is scheduled to play two T20Is on October 14 and 15 in Karachi.

Pakistan, Japan mull cooperation in science...

FROM PAGE 01

The minister said that Pakistan has not been able to properly explore its maritime resources, thus would require cooperation in this area for the optimal utilization of these resources and the development of aquaculture in the Country. The minister highlighted that Human resource development in Science and Technology is also an area where Pakistan can utilize the expertise of Japan. The Japanese ambassador congratulated the federal minister on assuming the charge of the Ministry of Science and Technology. Ambassador Kuninori Matsuda conveyed that Japan is more than willing to cooperate and work towards diversifying the relationship in various fields. The ambassador informed that Japan would be increasing its scholarship to the Pakistani students. Moreover, he said that Japan is looking for Pakistani talent and youth especially in the field of Information Technology.

PM warns of civil war sans a peace deal

FROM PAGE 01

the most after Afghanistan is going to be Pakistan," he said. PM Imran Khan said, "We only want peace and don't want to be part of any confrontation." "Before leaving Afghanistan, the US must find a political solution," he said. He noted that his country is currently hosting three million Afghan refugees. Imran Khan has said that the West is ignoring the atrocities in Kashmir with hundreds and thousands of Kashmiris been killed by the Indian troops. "This is such a big issue in the western world as why are the people of Kashmir ignored," the prime minister said. The prime minister said the Kashmir issue was "much more relevant" where 800,000 Indian troops had literally put the nine million Kashmiris under jail. "Why is this not an issue? This is hypocrisy," he said, referring to the apathy of the West towards the plight of Kashmiri people facing the humanitarian crisis for decades. Prime Minister Imran Khan in conversation with Jonathan Swan of 'Axios on HBO'. On Islamophobia, the prime minister termed a "big communication gap" between the Islamic world and the western societies as the main reason. He said after 9/11, the term 'Islamic terrorism' was coined that misguided people in the West who started believing that Islam led to terrorism. He pointed that with involvement of a few Muslims in terrorist activities, the entire 1.3 billion Muslim community became the target. Asked about "doing vastly better than the United States" on COVID-19, the prime minister said partial lockdown coupled with comprehensive data analysis helped his government keep the pandemic in control. Smart lockdown was the "best decision" to cope with the situation, he added. Imran Khan recalled that with people in Spain and Italy ending up in hospitals.

Briefs

Germany arrests Russian scientist

BERLIN: German police arrested a Russian scientist working at an unidentified university, accusing him of spying for Moscow, prosecutors said on Monday, in a case that risks further inflaming bilateral tensions. Federal prosecutors said in a statement that the suspect, identified only as Ilmur N., had been taken into custody on Friday on suspicion of "working for a Russian secret service since early October 2020 at the latest". Ilmur N. was employed until the time of his arrest as a research assistant for a natural sciences and technology department at the unnamed German university. German investigators believe he met at least three times with a member of Russian intelligence between October 2020 and this month. On two occasions he allegedly "passed on information from the university's domain". He is suspected of accepting cash in exchange for his services. German authorities searched his home and workplace in the course of the arrest. — APP

IFC, Uzbekistan sign MoU

DNA

TASHKENT: International Finance Corporation and the Government of Uzbekistan signed an agreement to support the modernization of the chemical industry and fertilizer production. The chemical industry and the production of mineral fertilizers in Uzbekistan have huge potential for growth, but transforming them into a modern industry capable of meeting the country's needs and unlocking its export potential requires reforms and private sector investment. A new cooperation agreement between the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, and the Government of Uzbekistan aims to attract investment in the sector and encourage the adoption of sustainable practices. "The government of Uzbekistan has initiated reforms aimed at sectors of transforming the chemical and producing fertilizer. The aim of the reforms is to modernize the outdated production and distribution of chemicals and fertilizers, encourage investment and create a competitive industry that will provide new highly skilled jobs and reduce the carbon footprint of Uzbekistan's industry", said Timur Ishmetov, Minister of Finance of Uzbekistan.

French soldiers injured in Mali blast

AGENCIES

YAOUNDE: Several French soldiers were injured in an attack on France's force Operation Barkhane in central Mali on Monday morning, French media reported. "The French forces of Operation Barkhane were struck, Monday, June 21 in the morning, by a car bomb attack in the district of Kai-gourou, in Gossi (central Mali)", France 24 reported. According to local sources, the large explosion left several people injured. Witnesses said several helicopters were dispatched to the area from Gao. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack so far. The attack comes over a week after French President Emmanuel Macron announced the end of Operation Barkhane, France's flagship military operation in the Sahel, and the formation of an international "anti-terrorism" alliance to combat extremist groups. Operation Barkhane was launched in 2014 to conduct military operations against extremist armed groups and train and support military forces of the G5 countries. Some 5,100 French military personnel are deployed in the Sahel region as part of the operation.



BAKU: Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov and Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mukhtar Tileuberdi holding a joint presser. — DNA

Yerevan's refusal of minefield maps aggravates situation

DNA

BAKU: Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has said that Armenia's failure to submit mine maps to Azerbaijan is delaying the implementation of a tripartite agreement signed by Azerbaijan, Russia, and Armenia in 2020, Trend reported on June 21. He made the remarks in Baku at a joint presser with Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mukhtar Tileuberdi. "Armenia's failure to provide mine maps aggravates the situation. Armenia recently submitted mine maps for Aghdam with the participation of international mediators. The number of mines in one region alone makes up 97,000 which shows the extent of the mine danger," he said. Bayramov said that since the signing of the tripartite Karabakh peace deal on November 10, some 28 people have died and more than 120 have been injured in mine explosions in Azerbaijan. Earlier, Defence Ministry spokesman Anar Eyyazov said that experts are currently conducting a full analysis of the mine maps for Aghdam region that Armenia submitted to Azerbaijan on June 12 in exchange for the handover of 15 Armenian detainees to Yerevan. He made the remarks to comment on reports circulated on social networking platforms that

Baku, Nursultan vow to boost cooperation

BAKU: President Ilham Aliyev has received Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, Azertag reported today. Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mukhtar Tileuberdi extended Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's and first President of Kazakhstan-Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev's greetings to the President of Azerbaijan. President Ilham Aliyev thanked for the Kazakh head of state's and the Kazakh first President's greetings and asked the Deputy Prime Minister to convey his greetings to Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Nursultan Nazarbayev. The sides noted that the foundation of friendly and fraternal relations between the two countries had been laid by great leader Heydar Aliyev and the first President of Kazakhstan-Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev, adding that this policy is being successfully continued by the Azerbaijani and Kazakh presidents. They emphasized that regular contacts between the presidents created a good basis for the development of bilateral cooperation. Pointing out economic relations, the sides stressed the importance of developing investment projects and transport corridors. They hailed the importance of increasing the volume of cargo transportation and creating more favorable conditions for the unification of tariffs in the coming years. — DNA

part of the map for Aghdam's mined areas is not fully accurate. "First of all, I would like to note that now specialists are conducting a full analysis of the maps. At the same time, this work is practically carried out on the spot. Therefore, it is too early to talk about any num-

bers and assert whether the maps meet standards [or not]... I want to say again that the results achieved in this direction will be published in due course," he said. Armenia deliberately and constantly planted mines on Azerbaijani territories, in violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention, thereby being a

major threat to regional peace, security and cooperation.

Azerbaijan has made numerous appeals to international organizations and lodged an intergovernmental complaint to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) over Armenia's refusal to provide maps of mines in the formerly occupied territories.

At the presser, Bayramov stressed that Armenia held the early parliamentary elections on June 20 and a new government is expected to be formed. "We believe that the Armenian government will analyze the cause of the crisis [in the country] and draw the correct conclusions," Bayramov said.

He ruled out that Armenia's defeat in the 44-day war in autumn 2020 is the cause of the crisis. "The reason for the deep crisis in Armenia has been the violent change of internationally recognized borders and the implementation of a policy of aggression in violation of international law for decades. The sooner it is accepted that there is no alternative to relations based on the norms and principles of international law for the normal development of the regional countries, the better the results can be for all countries in the region," he said.

Bayramov stressed that Azerbaijan supports the restoration of relations based on the norms and principles of international law, without violating the borders and territorial integrity.

Pak-China chilli co-op to further boost agri sector

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: A webinar, themed "Pakistan Chilli Contract Farming Project Promotion & Inaugural Conference of Pakistan-China Condiment Industry Alliance" was held that was participated by Chinese and Pakistani experts. According to China Economic Net, they discussed the potential of Pak-China agricultural cooperation, especially in chili farming. "As CPEC has entered a new stage of high-quality development, with focus on industrial and agricultural cooperation, China and Pakistan are complementary in agricultural production technology, project management, machinery and tools, and product consumption, which created

broad space for practical agricultural cooperation between the two countries." Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said at the webinar. As per agricultural cooperation, Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said that now a plan of over 20 projects is being implemented to modernize the agriculture sector in Pakistan, including new seeds to increase the crop yield, upgrading of irrigation system, promotion of agri-based industry for value addition and setting up global chain network. "Cooperation in the agriculture sector would help our two countries ensure food security, improve livelihood, and contribute to the overall social-economic development of our countries," Moin ul Haque added.

Swedish PM Lofven loses historic no-confidence vote

FOREIGN DESK

STOCKHOLM: Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven has lost a no-confidence vote, giving the Social Democrat leader a week to resign and hand the speaker the job of finding a new government or call a snap election. The nationalist Sweden Democrats had seized the chance to call Monday's vote in Parliament after the Left Party withdrew support for the centre-left government over a plan to ease rent controls for new-build apartments. Sweden is in the midst of a housing crisis and real estate prices are skyrocketing in the country. Lofven, 63, has served as premier since 2014 and is the first Swedish prime minister to lose a no-confidence motion. Sweden Democrat leader Jimmie Akesson told Parliament the government was harmful and historically weak, adding: "It should never have come into power." The motion, which required 175 votes in the 349-seat parliament to pass, was supported by 181 legislators. Lofven's shaky minority coalition with the Green Party



has relied on support from two small centre-right parties and the Left Party since a tight election in 2018. The Left Party blamed Lofven for the crisis. "It is not the Left Party that has given up on the Social Democrat government, it is the Social Democrat government that has given up on the Left Party and the Swedish people," Left Party leader Nooshi Dagbostar said. With Parliament deadlocked, it is not clear to whom the speaker might turn to form a new government if Lofven resigns. Opinion polls suggest the centre-left and centre-right blocs are evenly bal-

anced, so a snap election might not bring clarity either.

Dagbostar said while her party had voted against Lofven, it would never help "a right-wing nationalist government" take power. A new government or a caretaker administration would sit only until a parliamentary election, scheduled for September next year. At the centre of the controversy are plans to deregulate Sweden's housing market because prices accelerated in the pandemic.

Sweden has strict regulations on rents aimed at maintaining affordable prices in larger cities. However, this disincentivises property developers from building new homes for the rental market. People can find themselves waiting for years for a rental contract, while buying property is increasingly hard as prices jump.

The Left Party fears that deregulating the rental market will lead to rapid price increases and deeper segregation between rich and poor.

Over the weekend, Lofven held last-minute meetings seeking to secure a parliamentary majority for his proposed rent reforms.

Indonesia tightens micro restrictions

JAKARTA: The Indonesian government decided to tightened the micro-scale restrictions and extended them from June 22 to July 5 amidst the surge in the COVID-19 transmission, an official said on Monday. Offices located in red zones are allowed to hold a maximum of 25 percent of employees, and those in other zones are permitted to hold a maximum of 50 percent of staff, said Airlangga Hartarto, chief of the COVID-19 Handling and National Economic Recovery Committee and coordinating minister for economic affairs. According to the regulation, public areas such as markets, shopping centers, restaurants and cafes in red zones are allowed to operate until 8:00 p.m. with a maximum of 25 percent of visitors, while groceries, pharmacies, and important sectors can operate fully. — APP

Baku, Doha eye co-op in renewables

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan and Qatar have discussed opportunities for cooperation in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency, during the meeting between Energy Minister Parviz Shahbazov and Qatar's Ambassador Faisal Abdulla Al-Henzab.

During the meeting held on June 21, it was stressed that Azerbaijan has taken steps to attract private and foreign investments to the energy sector development. In addition, parties underlined the importance of encouraging Qatar companies to participate in auctions to be held in the future in the renewable energy field in Azerbaijan.

Furthermore, Abdulla Al-Henzab congratulated Azerbaijan on the completion of the Southern Gas Corridor project and the beginning of the transportation of Azerbaijani natural gas to Europe. He stressed Azerbaijan's contribution to Europe's energy security.

The two sides also noted an important role of natural gas as a transition fuel, taking into account less carbon emissions of natural gas into the atmosphere in the energy transition process. Earlier, Azerbaijan's Agency for Small and Medium Business Development under the Economy Ministry signed a cooperation agreement with Qatar's Development Bank. The document provides for the exchange of experience and the implementation of joint initiatives to support the access of SMBs to financial and sales markets.

Spain to pardon Catalan leaders

AGENCIES

OVIEDO: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez announced on Monday he will propose pardons for nine jailed Catalan separatist leaders.

Speaking to an audience at the historic Liceu Theater in Barcelona, Sanchez said he will bring his proposal to a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, where it is set to pass. The pardons apply to Catalan politicians and activists who were behind the failed 2017 independence attempt and illegal referendum. They have been condemned to up to 13 years in prison.

"If there's a time to unite, it's now. This is where we should start the journey toward living together harmoniously and in normality," he said. "The landscape of the pandemic has transformed us. We realize what's really important is life. We realized how much we need each other." His announcement, however, was not enough to satisfy all Catalan separatist activists. Hundreds picketed the event, saying that pardons do not go far enough. They are demanding amnesty for the political leaders, including those who fled the country and an independence referendum. Several key Catalan leaders, including current President Pere Aragon, refused to attend the event. Hecklers also interrupted the announcement in the well-secured theater.

US must return to nuclear deal with Iran: Raeisi

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iran's President-elect Ebrahim Raeisi says the United States must return to full compliance with the 2015 landmark nuclear deal with Iran, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and fulfill its commitments as per the accord. Raeisi made the remarks during his first press briefing attended by representatives of domestic and foreign media outlets on Monday, following his election as Iran's next president. Asked what message he had for the United States and Europe, Iran's president-elect said, "I emphatically urge the United States to return to the JCPOA and comply with its commitment. The Iranian people expect you to abide by your obligations." "European countries and the United States must look and see what they have done to the JCPOA. The United States violated the JCPOA while European countries [who were parties to the JCPOA] failed to comply with their obligations," Raeisi said. "We tell the United States that you have to remove all sanctions [imposed on Iran] and must return [to the nuclear deal] and fulfill your obligations. Europeans must not

be influenced by the US pressure and must act upon their commitments. This is what the Iranian nation wants from you," Iran's president-elect said.

Elsewhere in his interview, Raeisi said the main focus of his administration's foreign policy will be to make sure about complete removal of unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States after Washington's illegal withdrawal from the nuclear deal with Tehran, followed by verification of sanctions removal. "The United States must respond to the world. It has been frequently emphasized [by Iran] that the United States must comply with its obligations and remove all cruel sanctions [it has imposed on Iran]," Raeisi emphasized.

"The Iranian nation is not satisfied with the JCPOA, because it has failed to deliver on its promises and the reason is that Americans violated their obligations while Europeans failed to observe theirs as well." He said the United States' "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran has failed to bring the Iranian nation to their knees.

The US, under former President Donald Trump, left the JCPOA in 2018 and initiated a "maximum pressure" policy against Iran, prompting Tehran to take remedial measures

by gradually reducing its nuclear commitments under the deal. President Joe Biden has said Washington is willing to return to the pact if Tehran first suspends its countermeasures taken in response to US violations and re-imposition of sanctions. Iran says the onus is on the US to



revive the deal as it was Washington, not Tehran, that left the internationally recognized accord in defiance of global criticism.

Elsewhere in his Monday interview, Raeisi said his administration will not pursue attritional talks with world powers with the aim of bring-

ing the United States back into compliance with the 2015 nuclear agreement. Raeisi emphasized that the US must remove the sanctions in a verifiable way in order for Tehran to reverse the nuclear steps it took in response to the US withdrawal from the nuclear deal.

In response to the US unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA, Tehran has so far rejected back on its nuclear commitments five times in compliance with Articles 26 and 36 of the deal, stressing that its retaliatory measures will be reversible as soon as Europe finds practical ways to shield the mutual trade from the US sanctions.

Raeisi said the current negotiating team involved in the ongoing talks in the Austrian capital, Vienna, will continue to hold the negotiations as the transition to the new administration takes place.

Raeisi noted that the Iranian people have shown resistance and perseverance in the face of the maximum pressure campaign, which included tough economic sanctions targeting the people's livelihood.

"The foreign policy of our administration will not start from the JCPOA nor will it be restricted to the JCPOA," he said, stressing that he intends to develop constructive and balanced relations

with all countries.

Raeisi said any negotiation that secures Iran's national interests will be supported by his administration, but "we will not tie the economic situation and people's [livelihood] to these negotiations and we will not allow talks for the sake of talks."

Asked about a proposal by US President Joe Biden to sign a new deal with Iran to address the country's missile program and regional influence as well, Raeisi said, "Issues related to [Iran's] regional [influence] and missile program are not open to negotiation."

"There was an issue [Iran's nuclear program] which was negotiated and an agreement was reached and an accord was concluded and they promised to remain committed to it. However, they did not do that; now, on what grounds do they want to raise other issues?"

"Why Mr. Biden does not observe obligations accepted by former [US] administrations? Why Mr. Biden does not fulfill his duty with regard to obligations that the US administration has undertaken?"

Raeisi added, "I seriously propose to the US administration to rapidly return to compliance with its obligations, remove all sanctions [imposed on Iran] and prove through removal of all sanctions that it is honest."

Briefs

PkMAP's
Usman Kakar
passes away
in Karachi

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) leader and former senator Usman Khan Kakar passed away in Karachi on Monday. He was 60.

Kakar's personal physician, Dr Samad Panezai, said he had received a head injury at his residence in Quetta and was shifted to a hospital within 30 minutes where he was operated upon and put on a ventilator.

He was later shifted to Karachi's Aga Khan University Hospital on a special air ambulance where he passed away earlier today. Panezai said the cause of his death was accumulation of blood in his brain due to the injury. Panezai said it was not known what caused the injury to Kakar, who had been found by his family lying on a carpet in his drawing room with blood flowing from his head.

US warship
tested with
40,000lb
explosive

WEB DESK

FLORIDA: The US Navy has released a stunning video showing the moment a bomb exploded in the middle of the ocean before triggering an earthquake some 100 miles away. The jaw-dropping footage shows the 40,000lb bomb exploding in "full ship shock trials" where they are testing the effects such a device has on Navy ships. The explosion caused a 3.9 magnitude earthquake about 100 miles away in Daytona Beach, Florida, a phenomenon which is not unusual during similar trials. The experimental explosion that happened on Friday isn't unusual either, the Daily Star reported.

India's
vaccinations
hit record

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: India gave out a record 7.5 million vaccine doses on Monday under a federal campaign to inoculate all adults for free after weeks of criticism that a chaotic rollout had worsened a second wave that killed hundreds of thousands. Earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the government would buy 75% of all vaccines from drug makers and distribute them for free to states, which along with private hospitals had earlier been buying shots for people aged 18-45. India's previous record of 4.5 million doses was on April 5, followed by a sharp decline with average daily inoculation falling below 3 million. Experts have said India needs to administer 10 million doses a day to achieve its aim of inoculating 950 million adults by December.

'World should stop India from
illegal actions in IIOJK'

Prof. Cheng said, now he doesn't see any hope that India will change its mind and correct its mistakes

DNA

BEIJING: The international community should all act up and stop India from doubling down on its illegal actions in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) so as to maintain peace and stability in South Asia, Cheng Xizhong, visiting professor at South-west University of Political Science and Law and former Defense Attache in South Asian countries said on Monday.

While commenting on Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's recent statement that India must refrain from taking any further illegal steps in IIOJK,

he believed that the forewarning issued by the Pakistani Government to the international community is very timely and necessary as India goes further and further along the wrong path, regardless of Pakistan's frequent expressions of goodwill and the strong condemnation of world public opinion.

As a result, it is more and more difficult for India and Pakistan to normalize their relations, and South Asia is facing severe uncertainties, he added.

Prof. Cheng said, now he doesn't see any hope that India will change its mind and correct its mistakes. "We have reason to say that India is going further and



further on the wrong path." India's insistence on committing crimes against the Kashmiri people is all-round and here are some points:

First, according to Indian media reports, last November and December, India deployed very heavy troops in IIOJK and held a general

election at gunpoint to produce a puppet regime.

This is an important step taken by Narendra Modi regime against the will of the Kashmiri people in an attempt to make Jammu and Kashmir a permanent part of India.

Second, according to reports by both Al-Jazeera and Gulf News, Narendra Modi regime issued new domicile rules about eight months after the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile semi-autonomous state into two union territories.

Through this measure, Narendra Modi regime is trying to move a large number of Hindus to IIOJK, thus further diluting the distinct

identity of the Kashmiris, and perpetuating Indian occupation of IIOJK.

Third, the Narendra Modi regime holds frequent meetings of fake political leaders of Kashmir to show that Kashmiri people are supporting India. In doing so, the Narendra Modi regime is not only deceiving its own people, but also deceiving the international public opinion.

He, however, said, India has failed to suppress the Kashmiris' demand for freedom and impose its rule by force on the people of the occupied territory despite mounting a massive campaign of repression including gross and systematic violations of human rights.

Jordan:
officials
plead not
guilty

Awadallah and Zaid were arrested in early April

DNA

DOHA: A former Jordanian royal court chief and a distant relative of King Abdullah II's pleaded not guilty to sedition and incitement charges, a defense lawyer said on Monday. Bassem Awadallah and Sharif Hassan Zaid are accused of conspiring with a senior royal — Prince Hamzah, a half-brother of the king — to incite unrest against the monarchy while soliciting foreign help.

Hamzah, who is the central figure in the case, is not facing charges. The king had said the royal family was handling the matter privately. An official said the trial began behind closed doors at the State Security Court and will continue on Tuesday.

Awadallah and Zaid were arrested in early April and Hamzah was placed under house arrest following accusations that they had liaised with foreign parties in a plot to destabilize Jordan. The charges they face carry sentences of up to 30 years in prison.

Women lawmakers
term PM's statement
irresponsible

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The women parliamentarians have termed the statement of Prime Minister Imran Khan on women's dress irresponsible and condemnable.

In a tweet, PPP Senior Leader Senator Sherry Rehman condemned IK's statement regarding the dress of women. Her tweet reads, "Whether it's our laws or even our religion, which is very clear that respect for women is the responsibility of the beholder, no man has the right to blame women or how they dress, for violence, rape and crimes against women. Shocked that our PM is doing this.

Does IK not know that by saying women should dress

a certain way, he is giving oppressors and criminals against women a new narrative to justify their behavior. There is NO justification for a prime minister to talk this way. Highly irresponsible and condemnable."

Sindh Minister for Women Development Shehla Raza has said Imran Khan should think about the issues facing by the country instead of keeping an eye on the women. Shehla Raza and other women PMs of the Sindh Assembly reacted to Prime Minister Imran Khan's comment about women's dresses in an interview with foreign media.

Shehla Raza said that Imran Khan should not have said this while sitting on the seat of the prime minister of the country.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy Muhammad Hammad Azhar in a meeting with US Embassy Charge d'affaires a.i. Lesslie Viguerie. — DNA

Foreign forces leaving
us 'in total disaster'

MONITORING DESK

KABUL: Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai has said that foreign forces were leaving Afghanistan in 'total disgrace and disaster'.

Karzai's remarks came in an interview with a foreign publication on Sunday (June 20) during which he said the US forces came to Afghanistan to fight extremism and bring stability, but are leaving nearly 20 years later having failed at both.

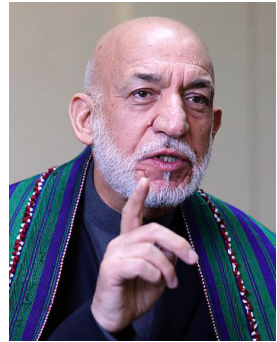
"The international community came here 20 years ago with this clear objective of fighting extremism and bringing stability ... but extremism is at the highest point today. So, they have failed," he said.

Their legacy is a war-ravaged nation in "total disgrace and disaster," he said. "We recognize as Afghans all our failures, but what about the bigger forces and powers who came here for exactly that purpose? Where are they leaving us now?" he asked and added: "In total disgrace and disaster."

Karzai's statement comes

as the fighting has increased across Afghanistan in the past two months. On April 14, US President Joe Biden had announced that the American troops would leave Afghanistan by September 11.

"We will be better off without their military presence," Karzai added. "I



think we should defend our own country and look after our own lives. ... Their presence (has given us) what we have now. ... We don't want to continue with this misery and indignity that we are facing. It is better for Afghanistan that they leave."

The White House announced on June 20 that President Ashraf Ghani and

Chairman Abdullah Abdullah would visit the United States on Friday, June 25.

"President Biden looks forward to welcoming Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Dr Abdullah Abdullah, Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation, to the White House on June 25, 2021," the White House said in a statement. The visit would highlight the enduring partnership between the United States and Afghanistan as the military drawdown continues, the White House added.

"The United States is committed to supporting the Afghan people by providing diplomatic, economic, and humanitarian assistance to support the Afghan people, including Afghan women, girls and minorities," the statement said.

The statement further added that the United States will remain "deeply engaged" with the government of Afghanistan to ensure the country never again becomes a "safe haven for terrorist groups who pose a threat to the US homeland."

Cleric
confesses
to his
actions

DNA

LAHORE: Cleric Mufti Aziz-ur-Rehman, who was arrested for molesting his seminary student, confessed to the crime on Monday. In his confessional statement, the cleric said, "The video of molestation is of me; I made a mistake and I'm embarrassed about it."

He further stated that the "student videotaped the occurrence out of my knowledge," adding, "When I found out [about the video] I told him to not disseminate it." "He made the video viral despite the fact I had warned him about it. After it went viral, my sons called him out and threatened him [of consequences]," the cleric added.

On Sunday, Punjab police arrested the cleric for molesting his student. The 70-year-old was booked after a video of him sexually assaulting the student went viral on social media platforms.

Those who kill
innocents are
terrorists: Fawad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Information and Broadcasting Minister Fawad Chaudhry on Monday categorically said that those who kill innocent people are terrorists.

In a tweet, the minister said that there was "no confusion at any level" regarding those who kill innocent people. "That is terrorism and the perpetrators are terrorists. We have suffered the pain of terrorism in our own land and can understand the pain of all who have lost their loved ones in these cowardly attacks."

Chaudhry's remarks come a day after Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi refrained from calling Osama bin Laden a terrorist in an interview with Afghanistan's Tolo News.

When the interviewer quoted Prime Minister Imran Khan as calling Osama bin Laden a "martyr", Qureshi said: "Well, again. Out of



context. He [the PM] was quoted out of context. And, a particular section of the media pair it up."

Asked if he would disagree, the foreign minister paused for a while and then said: "I will let it pass."

Last year, PM Imran had delivered an all-encompassing speech in the parliament. Speaking about the country's relations with the United States, he had said Pakistan had to face a lot of "humiliation" despite supporting Washington in the 'war on terror' and was then blamed for the US's failures in Afghanistan.

Govt to further expand economic
ties with China: Shaukat Tarin

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the People's Republic of China H.E. Nong Rong called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Shaukat Payaz Ahmed Tarin in Islamabad on Monday. Federal Minister for

Finance and Revenue while extending a warm welcome to Nong Rong stated that Pakistan and China enjoy long-term, broad based and multi-dimensional relationship. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue expressed the commitment of the present government to further

strengthen economic relations with China. He briefed the Chinese Ambassador about the measures introduced in the recent budget for ensuring inclusive and sustained economic growth in the country.

Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue expressed hope

that not only Chinese government but the Chinese entrepreneurs would also like to enhance their investment in the field of finance, industry and agriculture development of Pakistan. Finance Minister and Chinese Ambassador both agreed to take the bilateral relations of both countries to next level in order to ensure sustained economic growth. Federal Minister for Finance briefed the Chinese Ambassador that increase in exports was the top most priority of the Government.

He particularly referred to the budget proposals which would specifically promote exports in the long run and usher in growth in the economy. Nong Rong informed about the progress of Chinese investments in CPEC related projects.

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