



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Romanian FM Bogdan Aurescu visits Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia

Detailed News On Page-07

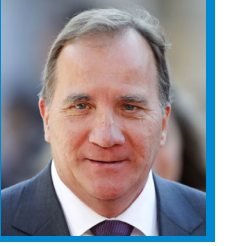
Govt empowering state media to spread narrative

Detailed News On Page-01



No confidence vote: Swedish PM resigns

Detailed News On Page-07



Briefs

Bilawal welcomes NSC meeting

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhatti-Zardari announced that he will be attending the National Security Committee (NSC) meeting on Afghanistan after welcoming National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser's decision to call a meeting of the body. Taking to Twitter, Bilawal said that he had demanded on the National Assembly for a briefing for the Parliament on the situation in Afghanistan by the relevant departments and institutions.

FO rejects Afghan assertions

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Monday rejected Afghanistan's assertions of denying the presence of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and said it was contrary to the facts on ground as various reports of the United Nations also corroborated the activities of over 5,000 TTP members in Afghanistan. In response to the media queries over the remarks of the Press Office of the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding TTP's activities in Afghanistan, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said the 12th Report of the UN Monitoring Team, issued in June 2021, acknowledged TTP's "distinctive anti-Pakistan objectives".

England eyeing history

DNA

LONDON: England's Euro 2020 last-16 tie with Germany on Tuesday is an opportunity for his team to "make some history", says manager Gareth Southgate. Southgate hopes to guide England into the quarter-finals after reaching the last four of the World Cup in 2018. He is keen for his players to write a new chapter into the England-Germany rivalry, with several of them too young to remember some previous key meetings.

Foreign hand unearthed in Lahore blast

"All local and international characters behind the blast were identified [by the CTD Punjab]": CM Buzdar

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar Monday revealed during a press conference that "anti-state agencies" are involved in the Lahore Johar Town blast. "Terrorists responsible for the Johar Town bomb blast in Lahore have been arrested," said the chief minister. "An anti-Pakistan agency is involved in the bomb blast," he added. He said that the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab had traced the culprits behind the incident within 16 hours of the blast. The chief minister heaped praise on CTD Punjab for pursuing the case in a professional manner to expose those who were behind the attack. "All local and international characters behind the blast were identified [by the CTD Punjab]," he said. "I want to inform our friends in the media that we have conducted raids across the country, in just four days, to arrest the terrorists involved in the incident." Terming it a "great achievement" for the Punjab government, the chief minister said that all those involved in the incident had been arrested. Buzdar said those who had sold, bought the car and planted explosives in it, had all been arrested. Buzdar said that after a thorough investigation and

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India using FATF against Pakistan

NEHAL MIRAJ

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi says India is trying to use FATF for political purposes and Pakistan will foil its nefarious designs. In a statement on Monday, he said FATF is a technical forum and it should not be used for political purposes and Pakistan has expressed its concern in his bilateral talks with his counterpart of different countries. He said Pakistan will continue to work to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing in its own interest. He said the program given to us by the FATF during last two years, was very difficult to implement but we did it. Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that apart from new legislation, we have amended 14 laws and taken administrative steps and China, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Indonesia and the

Continued on Page 06

Govt strengthening state media to spread narrative

The minister said wars in the world were now fought through the victory of one's narrative

PM for contact with Opp on reforms

ZUBAIR AHMED



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Monday informed the National Assembly that several innovative steps

were being taken to improve performance of the state media organizations to represent the national narrative at international level. Unlike past practice of state media just projecting

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ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki called on Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser at Parliament House. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Netherlands Suljuk Mustansar Tarar called on Prime Minister Imran Khan here on Monday. - DNA

Envoy-designate to Netherlands calls on PM

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Netherlands Suljuk Mustansar Tarar called on Prime Minister Imran Khan here on Monday. The Prime Minister felicitated Suljuk Mustansar Tarar over his nomination as Pakistan's Ambassador to Netherlands. The Ambassador-designate on this occasion also presented a copy of his recently published book "All That Art", to the Prime Minister.

UAE extends ban on flights from Pakistan till July 21

DNA

ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates has extended the ban on flights from Pakistan and 13 other countries till July 21, Gulf News reported, citing a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) issued in this regard. Other countries include India, Nigeria, South Africa, Liberia, Namibia, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic Of Congo, Uganda, Zambia, Vietnam, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka. In the notification, the federal aviation authority said that exceptions would be granted to cargo flights, as well as business and charter flights. Dubai, a business and tourism hub, is the most populous of the UAE's seven emirates. Throughout the pandemic, the UAE's seven emirates have set some of their own COVID-19 policies. Dubai had said on June 19 that an entry ban on those who in the past 14 days had visited India, Nigeria and South Africa would ease from June 23. Under the changes, the entry would be permitted to UAE residents in India who were fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, anyone in South Africa who was fully vaccinated and those in Nigeria who had tested negative for coronavirus in the past 48 hours.

NCOC eases restrictions

Indoor dining allowed; cinema halls opened

SHUJAAT HAMZA

Lowest Covid deaths in June reported

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Monday allowed the resumption of indoor dining for vaccinated individuals, subject to 50 per cent occupancy, according to a statement issued by the body. The decision was taken in a meeting, chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar and co-chaired by National Coordinator Lt Gen Hamood Uz Zaman Khan which reviewed the current coronavirus situation and non-pharmaceutical

ISLAMABAD: The national tally on Monday of total active COVID-19 cases was recorded 32,225 with 914 more people testing positive for the deadly virus and 910 people recovering from the disease during the last 24 hours. Twenty corona patients have died during past 24 hours, 19 of whom were under treatment in the hospitals and one out of the hospitals had perished in their respective quarantines or homes, according to the latest update issued by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). Most of the deaths occurred in Punjab and Sindh followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Out of the total 20 deaths occurred, 11 of them died were under treatment on ventilators. There were 1,961 Covid infected patients under treatment in critical condition with 20 of them admitted during past 24 hours in various Covid dedicated healthcare facilities of the country.

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US, European states wary of IS threat

German FM Heiko Maas warned that IS was gaining influence beyond Iraq and Syria

NEWS DESK

BERLIN: The United States and several of its European allies voiced concern over the ongoing threat posed by the "Islamic State" (IS) militant group, during an international anti-IS coalition meeting in Italy. The US-led coalition convened in Rome to discuss strategies to combat terrorism. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas warned that IS was gaining influence beyond Iraq and Syria, where it originated. "The IS in Iraq and Syria has been pushed back, but not defeated,"

US carries out airstrikes in Iraq, Syria

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: The US military carried out airstrikes on "facilities used by Iran-backed militia groups" near the border between Iraq and Syria, the Pentagon announced on Sunday. The militias were using the facilities to carry out attacks by "unmanned aerial vehicles" - otherwise known as drones - against

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FO rubbishes claims of Minister's Israel visit

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former special assistant to the prime minister on overseas Pakistanis Zulfi Bukhari and the Foreign Office on Monday denied reports that he had secretly visited Israel "to pass on a message of an important person." "[I] did not go to Israel. Funny bit is Pakistani paper says I went to Israel based on "Israeli news source" and Israeli paper says I went to Israel based on a "Pakistani source" - wonder who this imaginative Pakistani source is," Bukhari tweeted while rejecting the media reports. He quipped that "apparently" he was the "only one" who has "kept out of the loop" regarding his visit. Meanwhile, the Foreign Office has also rejected the reports emerging regarding Bukhari's visit to Israel.

PakVac 2nd batch handed over to govt

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Health (NIH) has handed over second batch of PakVac corona vaccine to the federal government. Second consignment of the vaccine comprises of 1,91,000 doses, sources said. According to sources privy to the matter, Pakistani experts have prepared second batch of PakVac which is based on the formula of single-dose Chinese vaccine-Cansino. "Previously, the first batch was manufactured under the supervision of the Chinese experts," they said. The batch of single dose vaccine has been handed over to the government and will be available from tomorrow, according to NIH sources.

Clean and Green Pakistan our top priority: PM

The prime minister expressed confidence that corrective measures in the tourism sector would bring a revolution towards generating revenue

STAFF REPORT

NARAN: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday said with an eco-friendly infrastructure in place, Pakistan's northern areas with their captivating natural beauty could become the world's top tourist destination. "A strict implementation of bylaws to ensure preservation of green cover and cleanliness of tourist spots can help Pakistan capitalize the true potential of tourism," the prime minister said in his address to Tiger Force, the volunteer youth of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf meant for community service. The prime minister this afternoon arrived in Naran, a tourist destination of the Kaghan valley in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on a day-long trip to launch several tourism and environmental protection projects. The projects included launch of emergency

response service for tourists, tree plantation along the bank of Kunhar River besides breeding of Trout fish, distribution

of 550,000 biodegradable bags, setting up a waste collection system and delivery of motorbikes to Community River Rangers.



Imran Khan said promotion of sustainable tourism through laws to check littering and damage to trees in the areas with increased influx of visitors could secure the fragile ecosystem. The prime minister said Allah Almighty had blessed Pakistan with a diverse beautiful landscape ranging from plains to mountains and stressed that the best way to offer gratitude was to preserve the natural course of the environment. "I have explored the world, but found no match with the scenic beauty of Pakistan," he said. "The future generations will be grateful to us for a clean and green Pakistan." He said the government's Clean and Green Pakistan initiative was about caring for nature and encouraging people to avoid littering the public places and protecting trees.

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Will vaccination become part of the school? - Page 05

Coronavirus forces India to shift T20 World Cup to UAE - Page 06

Romanian FM Bogdan Aurescu visits Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia - Page 07

Pak-UK strategic partners in field of education: Shafiqat - Page 08

Briefs

PNCA announces result talent hunt

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Monday announced the result of week-29 of 'talent hunt music edition'. The first Jury award won by Asif Haidri, second Jury award by Imran Ali and third award titled people's choice won by Ujala. 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-29 talent hunt edition. PNCA has started this 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 professional artists in different specialized music fields were taking auditions of registered participants at PNCA. The program was aimed to promote music field along with polishing the creative skills of the young people.

PBM provides cochlear implants to deserving

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal Managing Director Malik Zaheer Abbas Khokhar on Monday said that some 173 children had successfully been provided cochlear implants through various hospitals of the country. Addressing MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) signing ceremony with National Hospital & Medical Centre in Lahore, he said cochlear implants were being provided to the deserving in collaboration with private hospitals. Under such partnerships, PBM bears one million rupees for each cochlear implant while rest of the expenses were being met by the concerned hospitals. Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) joined hand with National Hospital & Medical Centre in Lahore with the ambition to lead the deaf & mute children towards happy and sovereign life with Cochlear Implants. Managing Director PBM Malik Zaheer Abbas Khokhar and Administrator National Hospital, Dr. Usman Jillani validated the agreement with their signatures. PBM Director Medical, Dr. Javed Iqbal and PBM Regional Director, Muhammad Zaheer also attended the ceremony.

IESCO issues power suspension programme

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 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon Galshanabad, Major Masood Kayani, B.B. Shaheed, Rata, Race Course, Mangtal, D.M. Mills, Industrial Area, Garage Factory Feeders from 07:00 AM to 11:00 AM Islampur, Smoot, Buriyan Feeders from 09:00 AM to 01:00 PM Daultallah, Ahadi Feeders from 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM Chira Feeder from 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM Basharat, Choa Syedan Shah City, KRL, Fazaia, Jinnah Camp, Falcon, CDA, FHS, I-8/4, Shakral, Noor Mohammad, Kurry Road, Khurram Colony, Service Road, Tariq Shaheed, Muslim Town, Al-Qadir, Al-Rizwan Mill, Chakral, Sarkal, Sarpak Feeder from 06:00 AM to 11:00 AM I-14/3, CM Pak Zong, Rahara, Bahria Enclave Feeders and surrounding areas. - APP

Inauguration of the Alisher Navai Research Center

President, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad appreciated the initiative of establishing the Alisher Navai Research Center

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Online Inauguration of the Alisher Navai Research Center at Area Study Centre (Russia, China & Central Asia), University of Peshawar & virtual Conference on, "Pakistan-Uzbekistan Historical and Cultural Connectivity was organized. The conference commenced with the address of Aybek Arif Usmanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan. He expressed his gratitude to Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad and Area Study Center (Russia, China & Central Asia), University of Peshawar for honoring the legacy of Alisher Navai. He was of the view that this center will be a milestone in strengthening and boosting the cultural ties and people to people contacts of Uzbekistan and Pakistan. He emphasized that Alisher Navai gave a modern foundation to Uzbekistan and Uzbek language, the impact of his study on science and technology is also commendable. He also mentioned that in Uzbekistan, we admire people of Pakistan and their hard-working skills in science, history and leadership. In Uzbekistan, we consider Pakistan as the rising economy of South Asia. It is a manner of great honor and prestige that the legacy of Alisher Navai will now be introduced in Pakistan. Maj Gen Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery HI (M), (Retd), President, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad appreciated the initiative of establishing the Alisher Navai Research Center. He stated that Alisher Navai was not only a poet and an author, he was also a composer, painter, sculptor and a calligrapher. Maj Gen Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery was of the view that we should learn and be inspired from Alisher Navai and his life. Mr. Davlatov Olim Davlatovich, Executive Director, Alisher Navoi International Public Foundation, Tashkent, Uzbekistan stated



that Alisher Navai has a special place in the history of Uzbekistan. Dr. Azmat Hayat Khan, Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Peshawar highlighted that Alisher Navai has immortalized Central Asia through his literary work, he has left a big impact on the Indian Sub-continent. Dr. Azmat Hayat Khan further highlighted the prospects of Pakistan-Uzbekistan cultural Relations and emphasized that both countries have tremendous potential to collaborate in the field of

agriculture and food security. The establishment of this center will open new avenues of cooperation for both countries. Mr. Muhammad Abdullah, Uzbek Language Expert from the University of Peshawar presented his remarks in Uzbek language. He highlighted the cultural similarities between Uzbekistan and Pakistan and discussed that through the Alisher Navai Research Center, scholars of both countries will have opportunities to interact and exchange knowledge with each other. Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad emphasized on the importance of academic & research collaborations between Uzbekistan & Pakistan. The ceremony was concluded closing remarks of Prof. Dr. Shabir Ahmad Khan, Director, Area Study Center (Russia, China & Central Asia), and University of Peshawar. He stated that Alisher Navai gave a new life to Uzbek language and literary works and the people of Uzbekistan have great respect and love for him. A virtual MoU signing ceremony also took place between the Alisher Navoi International Public Foundation, Tashkent, Uzbekistan and Area Study Center (Russia, China & Central Asia), University of Peshawar Mr. Davlatov Olim Davlatovich, Executive Director and of Prof. Dr. Shabir Ahmad Khan, Director signed the MoU on behalf of their respective institutions. The ceremony was attended by scholars of Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

CDA work on Rawal Dam in full swing

ISLAMABAD: Work of the administration of Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Rawal Dam Chowk project is continued with full pace. Chairman CDA has directed for completion of the project till October 2021 instead of December 2022. According to detail, while considering the problems being faced by the masses, Chairman CDA has directed to complete Rawal Dam Project in October 2021 instead of completing it in December 2022. This project will resolve the traffic issues at Rawal Dam chowk. The construction of under passes and flyovers at Rawal Dam Chowk will facilitate the road users of areas including Rawal Chowk, Faizabad, Shehzad Town, Bani Gala, Lehtrar road, and others. Construction work is going on in two shifts. 05 out of 10 columns have been completed. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Information, Farrukh Habib and Advisor to PM on Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. Babar Awan addressing a joint Press Conference at PID Media Center. - APP

COMSTech, NTD to build capacity against leishmaniosis

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are a major health and economic burden on member states of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The control and elimination of NTDs require a scaled-up integration of global mass treatment programmes, along with new tools and technologies to tackle these diseases. COMSTech, in collaboration with A Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases known as the NTD Network, has launched a virtual lecture series for researchers across the Muslim world and beyond. The NTD Network, funded by Global Challenges

Research Fund (GCRF) of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), is a consortium of academic researchers from South America, Asia, and the UK, seeking new therapeutic solutions to Leishmaniosis and Chagas disease. Both COMSTech and the NTD Network aim to promote global scientific cooperation and build research capacity to find new and better therapeutic solutions for NTDs. The first lecture of this series was delivered by Professor Jeremy Mottram, the NTD Network institutional lead for York University. He is a Professor of Pathogen Biology, York Biomedical Research Institute, University of York, United Kingdom. Dr. Mottram said that, I am

pleased to have this opportunity to share the work we are doing within our NTD network - a global network for neglected tropical diseases, and to have this opportunity to tell some of the COMSTech members about the work that we do and hopefully to promote further interactions in future. He said NTD Network is based in university of Durham, UK, and links researchers interested in neglected tropical diseases with four hubs one in the UK, Pakistan, India and a hub in South America. These four regional hubs allow a number of research institutes and research groups to come together to address some of the fundamental questions around early phase drug discovery.

IGP express gratitude for encouraging Policemen

ISLAMABAD: IGP Islamabad, Qazi Jameel-ur-Rehman Monday expressed his gratitude to the masses for encouraging police personnel who got injured after foiling a robbery bid in sector G-11/1, and arrested two suspects from the spot. He said the way the representatives of federal govt, civil administration, members of civil society, business community and people from all schools of thought inquired after the health of injured policemen and appreciated them for their valour to counter the outbreaks was commendable. Such act of kindness demonstrated by the public not only boost the morale of 'Jawans' but give them a new spirit to perform their duties with diligently, said IGP. - DNA

ICCI opens 2nd vaccination phase

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has started the 2nd phase of a 2-days vaccination drive by setting up another vaccination centre in its premises on Monday in collaboration with Advanced Diagnostic Centre for the vaccination of the business community, their families and employees. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry along with Dr. Tahira Shahid, Director Advanced Diagnostic Centre inaugurated the vaccination centre. Fatma Azim Senior Vice President, Abdul Rehman Khan Vice President ICCI, Abdul Rehman Siddiqui Convener ICCI Healthcare Committee, Khalid Chaudhry, Ch. Zahid Rafique and others were present at the occasion. The visitors were administered Casinco-single shot, Sinovac 1st dose and Sinopharm 2nd dose during the vaccination drive. ICCI was the first chamber of the country that had set up a vaccination centre in its premises during the first phase for the vaccination of the business community. Speaking at the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that ICCI was actively engaged in vaccination drive by opening vaccination centres in industrial areas and markets and the main purpose of this campaign was to support the mass vaccination drive of the government to make the federal capital a coronavirus free city of the country.

Pak envoy to Netherland Suljuk Tarar visits RCCI

President Rawalpindi Chamber Nasir Mirza briefed the Ambassador-designate in detail on the ongoing activities of the Chamber and future programs

ZUBAIR AHMAD

RAWALPINDI: Pakistani Ambassador-designate to the Netherlands Suljuk Mustansir Tarar visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) here on Monday and called on President of the Chamber Mohammad Nasir Mirza. Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik and Chamber members were also present on the occasion. President Rawalpindi Chamber Nasir Mirza briefed the Ambassador-designate in detail on the ongoing activities of the Chamber and future programs. He also briefed the Ambassador about the key events organized by RCCI including Gwadar Business



Conference, International Chambers Summit (ICS), Business Africa Forum, Building and Construction Expo, and upcoming ICEE and Gems and Jewelry Expo. Ambassador Suljuk said that the efforts of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce in promoting trade and business activities are commendable. He said that the purpose of his visit to the Chamber was to enhance contacts and exchange information for the promotion of trade between Pakistan and the Netherlands. The envoy vowed to encourage Dutch investors to explore Pa-

kistan for possible joint ventures and investment in conventional and non-conventional sectors. He said that the balance of trade between the two countries is in favor of Pakistan. The bilateral trade between Pakistan and Netherlands is 1.522 Billion US\$ during

FY 2021 (11 months-July to May). Pakistan exports to Netherlands are US\$ 1.113 Billion whereas Pakistan imports from Netherlands stands at 409 Million US\$. Despite the COVID-19 epidemic, Pakistan's economy is now growing rapidly. New sectors and areas will have to be explored in trade and export. Textiles, rice are important imports of Netherlands from Pakistan and added that more areas need to be explored. He said that the Trade and Commercial Consolers would strengthen the liaison with the Chambers. He appreciated the suggestion of the President Rawalpindi Chamber that diplomatic missions abroad should hold virtual meetings with the Chambers of Commerce and share information regarding trade opportunities in their respective countries.

Transgender declared eligible in Ehsaas

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Benazir Income Support Programme Board in its 50th meeting held here Monday under the Ehsaas framework approved inclusion of all transgender in Ehsaas Kafaalat programme. As per the decision, transgender holding valid CNICs will be brought into the fold of Ehsaas Kafaalat. The programme will provide stipend of Rs 2,000 a month along with savings bank account. Transgender usually live as a separate community; all transgender in a household will be declared as Kafaalat beneficiaries. Among the other important decision, the Board also approved establishment of 154 district level Ehsaas Centers modelled on the one window Ehsaas Center in Sitara Market in Islamabad. This will enable all services to be accessed under one roof, greatly facilitating beneficiaries. Work in this will commence immediately.

The first One Window Ehsaas Centre was opened by the Prime Minister in the federal capital on June 9, 2021 to deliver all Ehsaas services through a single window. The Board also ratified enhancement of Ehsaas' education stipends to secondary and higher secondary levels. The new conditional cash transfer programme is aimed at helping underprivileged families to educate their primary school going children till higher secondary level. The programme will be commencing from next month in all districts of the country. With an additional emphasis for girls to access secondary and higher secondary education, the enhanced Ehsaas education stipends offer higher stipend amount for them in comparison to boys; girls get Rs 4,000 per quarter and boys get Rs 3,500 per quarter.

Gallery 6 to organize exhibition of APA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Gallery 6 Islamabad will organize an exhibition and award ceremony of Arjumand Painting Award (APA) 2021 at Alhama Art Center, Lahore, on July 7. Curator Gallery 6 Dr. Faisal Arjumand told APP here Monday said that 82 artists of paintings who were selected in the first phase of APA must submit their painting at RM Studio in Lahore till July 3. He said the paintings should be well packed, marked with the artist's name and ready to be displayed that is well framed or properly stretched.

Gallery 6 to organize exhibition of APA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: United Nations' (UN) International Day of Cooperatives will be marked on July 3 across the globe including Pakistan to increase awareness on cooperatives, as well as strengthen and extend partnerships between the international cooperative movement and other supporting organizations including governments. International Day of Cooperatives remembers what cooperatives do to improve the world's economic and social development. Cooperatives around the world celebrate the International Day of Cooperatives in many ways. Activities included messages from the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and the UN translated into local languages for worldwide distribution; news articles and radio programs publicizing the awareness of the day; fairs, exhibits, contests and campaigns focused on the topics related to the day; meetings with government officials, UN agencies and other partner organizations; economic, environmental, social and health challenges (such as tree planting); and sponsored cultural events such as theatres and concerts. - APP

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Briefs

Parliamentary
secy rejects
statement of
PPP leader

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Planning and Development, Kanwal Shauzab Monday said that the government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had presented a pro-people, tax free and balanced budget in order to provide maximum relief to masses which would be a step forward to achieve sustainable economic development in the country.

Responding to a statement of leader of Pakistan Peoples Party Shazia Marri, she said that government was taking every possible steps for the welfare and betterment of general public.

She said that the followers of the politics of inheritance was frustrated with the economic policies of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

She said that the gang of bullies imposed highest taxes on people during their respective tenures and fill their own pockets, besides laundering the money to other countries from the account of their different front men for making their own properties.

The federal budget for fiscal year 2021-22 was a balance budget in which all segment of society were provided maximum relief, she said adding that the opposition had not a single valid point to criticize the budget.

She asked the PPP leader to take pity on people of Sindh province, which was ruled by them from last 13 years but majority of its population was still deprived from basic needs including bread, clothes and house.

Kanwal said that Larkana a big city of Sindh had become a symbol of deprivation and poverty, adding that the city of Lights Karachi was still deprived from the basic civic amenities.

She said that the basic reason of all these deprivations was that all the resources were spent on the purchase of benami properties in different parts of world. — APP

4 drug
peddlers
held, hashish
recovered

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Police in their ongoing drive against drug peddlers conducted raids in different areas and arrested four accused besides recovering nearly six kg hashish from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Morgah police netted Muhammad Tanveer and recovered 2200 grams hashish.

Bani police rounded up Muhammad Ahmed for carrying 1800 grams hashish.

Race Course police arrested Waqas Ahmed and seized 1400 grams hashish.

Saddar Baroni police netted Aziz and recovered 540 grams hashish from him.

Separate cases have been registered against all the accused under Narcotics Control Act, he added.

1763 persons
receive
COVID shots

RAWALPINDI: The total district tally of coronavirus vaccination Monday reached 680,775 with the inoculation of 1763 more persons against the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. According to fresh data released by the District Health Authority here Monday, 30,966 health workers while 648,046 other people including senior citizens have received their dose so far. The report said that the District Health Authority has registered 14 new infections during the last 24 hours including 13 of Rawalpindi and one from outside the district.

It updated that patients reported during the last 24 hours included 3 belonged to Rawal Town, 5 Potohar town, 3 Rawalpindi Cantt, 2 Taxila and one from Bahawalpur. "Presently, 36 confirmed patients were admitted to various facilities of the city including 11 in Holy Family Hospital, 10 in Benazir Bhutto Hospital, 8 in Institute of Urology and 7 in Fauji Foundation Hospital", the report said. The report elaborated that one patient was on the ventilator in critical condition 12 stable and 23 in moderate condition. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors of Azerbaijan, Romania, Norway, host Luqman Ali Afzal, Ambassadors of Morocco, Jordan and Yemen at lunch hosted by Monal for Azerbaijan ambassador Ali Alizada. — DNA

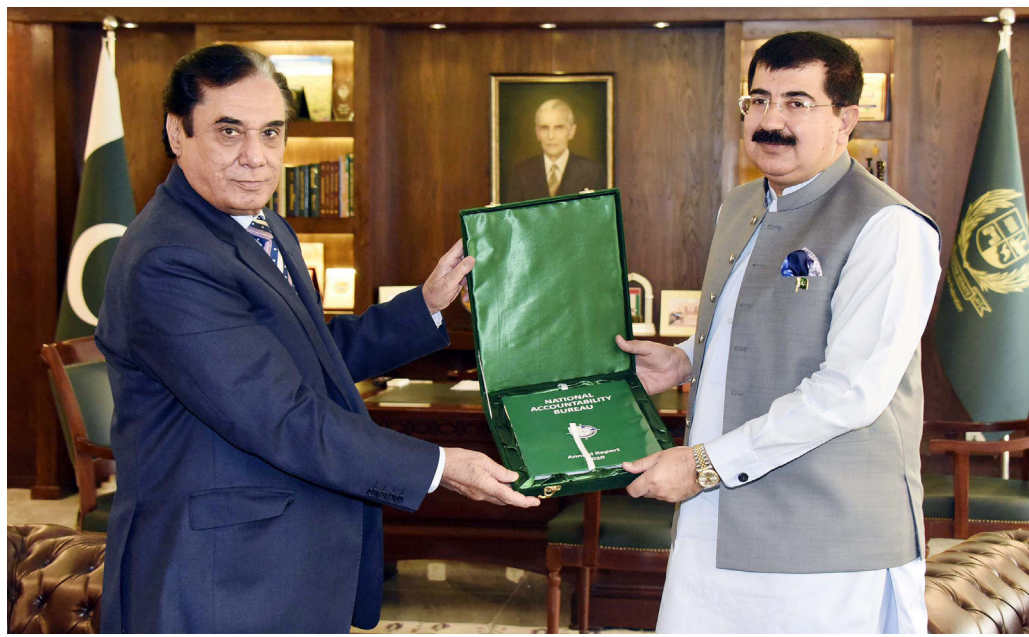
Chairman presents NAB's
annual report to Sanjrani

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Justice (retd) Javed Iqbal called on Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House Today on Monday

Justice (retd) Javed Iqbal presented NAB's annual report for 2020 to the Chairman Senate. Chairman NAB while briefing the Chairman of Upper House about the ongoing accountability process in the country said that steps are being taken to make the accountability process more transparent and effective in the country so that an impartial system of accountability can be established.

Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani said that transparency and impartiality in the accountability process should be maintained in



all cases and it should be ensured that the perception of alleged harassment of traders and investors under the guise of accountability process should be dispelled.

The Chairman Senate said that eradication of corruption would provide a better environment to the business community which would boost trade and investment in the country. The Chairman NAB informed the Chairman Senate that positive suggestions from the Members of Parliament, concerned stakeholders and the business community would be welcomed.

He said that no one needs to be afraid of the accountability process. The agenda of the National Accountability Bureau is only to provide a conducive and corruption free environment for the development and prosperity of Pakistan.

TIKA Program Coordinator
visits Aghosh College

KHAYAM ABBASI

MURRE: Respected Turkish guest Mr. Cukhan Umur, Program Coordi-

nator TIKA Islamabad, visited Aghosh College Murree.

He was cordially received and welcomed by ACM Principal, staff and stu-

dents. Mr. Cukhan had a tour of entire campus including Academic Block, Hostel and LRC (Masjid). A comprehensive welcome ceremony was arranged

for guest. Principal ACM briefed the guests about AlKhidmat Aghosh College Murree. The students of ACM presented a variety program for the honorable guest. Mr. Cukhan while talking to the students appreciated AlKhidmat's role in community development and orphan care.

He particularly praised ACM management for their efforts in providing excellent educational and boarding facilities to students.

The honourable guest spent a very good time with young Aghoshians and praised their intelligence and quest for knowledge. Long live Pakistan Turkish Brotherhood!

Agreement for
achieving PM's vision
of Digital Pakistan

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque on Monday said agreement between NTC, Khazana Enterprise and Computer Research Private Limited for Academic ERP (eDU SMARTZ).

The signing ceremony, held at National Telecommunications Corporation (NTC) Headquarters, was attended by Managing Director NTC Miraj Gul, Khalid Shamsi CRPL CEO, Sameer Shamsi CEO Ecreateer pvt ltd, Ahsan Rasheed Khan Khazana Enterprises and senior officials of NTC Headquarters.

According to the details, NTC, Khazana and CRPL have entered into this Digital Services Solution Agreement under Public Private Partnership (PPP), where NTC will provide the platform through its deployed Infrastructure and locally hosted software / Application developed by CRPL.

er Research Private Limited for Academic ERP (eDU SMARTZ).

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Rescue on the Sea

VERY little has been written about the ancient coastal people of Lyari — the irrepressible Makranis — who take their name from the Makran coast of Sindh and, Balochistan, which also indicates a common history of the two provinces; the Makran coast constitutes the South-East of Iran and the South-West of Pakistan; a 1,000 km stretch along the Gulf of Oman from RA's (cape) Al-Kuh, Iran (West of Jask), to the Lasbela District of Pakistan (near Karachi). The Makran coast is on the Arabian Sea, to the North-West of Quetta in Balochistan.

The following is a story of one such coastal village: Children on bare-back camels, watch the sea, its vastness spanning even beyond the grasp of their eyes. Fishermen on the beach watch the sky, like the city dwellers read their newspapers first thing in the morning. Through the knots of their nets hanging on the line, they seem to predict the weather. This exercise determines whether they should take a boat out or not on the deep sea, for their daily expedition to catch fish. The air is filled with the smell of rancid water that is due to the deposits of oil, resulting in decayed and dead sea-life. Music, which is a part of their lives, plays in the background. The sounds are a fusion of musical cultures from the Middle East, Indo-Pakistan and Africa. The shells on the beach look like the abandoned toenails of the old fishermen, and they are more beautiful there, than on the foot. The bro-

ken wings, the sand-logged crabs, a woman's lonely shoe, a rusty toy damaged beyond recognition, the plank or sail from a doomed boat, all lay sprawled on the beach, each with a story behind it, cleansed and sterilized by the salt and iodine in the great hospital of the sea. In the night, the light from the tower was but a spot against the background of the sky and spectacular cliffs.

The weather beaten villager's munched dates from the interior while watching holidaymakers trying to teach their children to swim, like fish to water, amidst the shouts and screams of the children who are already submerged in the waters. The steps of the ladies faltered as they approached the sea, clad in shalwar kameezes filled with the wind, the Shalwar Kameez itself a deterrent for swimming.

The story told here is that of a villager who because of his sharp sense of hearing helped in the rescue of a drowning man. The villager was alone and as he had no family to fend for, hence he had no responsibilities to drain his energy. Somehow he had also preserved his youth, which he owed to Mother Nature. Religion that usually comes into the house with the presence of a woman was lacking in his and he was quite oblivious of it. One evening when it was well after ten and the moon was full with black clouds scudding in ordered masses across the sky, he was still sitting on his wall, all alone. A cool wind suddenly sighed from an unexpected quarter and in its wake was a noise like that from a distant

cavalry charge. His razor sharp ears picked up the sound. His brow creased up as his eyes searched the distance. He hobbled to his neighbor's house and banged on the door of his traditional mud-hut — the two men, though natural life-guarders, knew thoroughly all that was written in the books about rescue on the seas. The coastal blacks were descendants of imported slaves — the fishermen being known as the Koras — when there was no response; he banged on the door again. A groggy fellow soon appeared. He pointed towards the horizon and mumbled

something in the Makranic dialect. The man's eyes tried to see beyond the direction of the location being pointed at. A boat in trouble, he thought aloud. Without wasting any time they woke the other men.

A rule of the sea states, that half the purchase price of the vessel of the sea is given to the rescue party. This prize money was quite a temptation, but since it was always dangerous the case required to be argued, all hands knew that the proposed journey was perilous.

The village women all having gathered on the beach, saw their men disappear, reappear, disappear, reappear and finally disappear into the darkness. They were now a tiny speck in the vast vista of the sea —

the ocean that is open to all and merciful to none, that which threatens even when it seems to yield, pitiless always to weakness.

Many of the Makrani women now worked as domestic servants in Karachi; they were also experts in the art of massaging any mother and child after birth. Their traditional long dresses with hand-woven Embroidery gave them a distinct 'folk' touch, separating them from the typical Karachiites. The skirt-like look, with its wide circumference, and the loose shalwar could be compared to the costumes of the pathan and Kabuli women.

The men in the rescue boat changed sides, so as not to tip the balance of the boat as the surf sprayed them from head to toe. The taste of salt lingered in their mouths during the voyage. They were not bothered by their appearance. On the contrary, they felt no different from when they started out dry.

Suddenly, a dark object was thrown at them on the crest of a wave. It was a man. They held on to the poor fellow and eventually succeeded in dragging him aboard. Nobody felt sorry that this time, there was no prize. They rowed back to their village.

Couples fought with each other to offer hospitality to this half dead man; and they almost came to blows in their struggle for this visa to heaven. They fetched a doctor from a nearby village, while the women sat all around him wearing their beads. The doctor was a Karachiite who had been sent to the village to serve

them. The doctor prompted the man to speak. The man said, "Mahganj" very faintly. Repeated attempts, received the same response. The diagnosis stated that he was a victim of a traumatic shock and was suffering from amnesia, which meant a loss of memory, if only temporarily.

The Priest, who was also a member of the village council, was also summoned, as was the case in other similar incidents. "What's going on here?" he asked one of the ladies. "A miracle" said all the ladies together. The Makrani women are predominantly Muslim.

The Priest was briefed about the rescue and what followed. Being an elderly fellow, he recalled that a girl by the name of 'Mahganj' had been registered in the mosque some eighteen years ago. Now, it was easy to put two and two together. The man they found was associated with Mahganj and was discovered as belonging to the same village as her's. He was also supposed to marry her. Mahganj was the granddaughter of the village tailor. Thus it was decided that the man be taken back to the same village that he originated from. Similar surroundings would help to revive his memory, it was hoped. A therapist was hired from the city and surely, slowly though, his memory came back in bits and pieces. Mahganj's presence always evoked a response in the man, so strong was the bond of love. His memory did eventually return, which in turn led to their marriage. They led a happy married life.

IRSA releases
256,700
cusecs water

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 256,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 228,800 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1434.23 feet, which was 50.23 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 109,700 and 132,300 cusecs respectively.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1154.15 feet, which was 116.15 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 39,700 and 45,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 160,600, 152,400 and 37,200 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 42,100 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 5,500 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala.

CPO awards
commendation
certificates

RAWALPINDI: City Police Officer CPO Rawalpindi Muhammad Ahsan Younas awarded commendation certificates and cash prizes to the police officers who traced big robbery in Cantonment area Singapore Plaza in a short time, police spokesman informed.

The CPO awarded SP Potohar Tasswar Iqbal and SDPO Cantt Azhar Hassan Shah, SHO Sub-Inspector Aizaz Azeem, Sub-Inspector Qasim Mahmood, Assistant Sub-Inspector Faisal Kamran, Assistant Sub-Inspector Zeeshan Sarwar, Assistant Sub-Inspector Muhammad Ishaq and Head Constable Ijaz Mughal. Head Constable Yasir Noman, Head Constable Khalid Mahmood, Constable Abid Ali, Constable Adeel Javed, Constable Muhammad Ali, Constable Ali Raza and Constable Muhammad Tahir for their outstanding performance.

The investigation team traced the robbery within 24 hours and arrested 2 accused and recovered Rs 7 million during robbery. City Police Officer Muhammad Ahsan Younas said that the police officers and personnel traced the incident of robbery in a short period of time and restore the trust between the police and the people. — APP

Training
workshop
held at
PMAS-AAUR

DNA

RAWALPINDI: An International Training Workshop on "Management Tool for Sustainable Smart Agriculture" held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), here on Monday.

Dr. Travis Esau, Associate Professor at Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University Canada was the keynote speaker while Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR was the chief guest. Dr. Esau presented the detailed background on development of the management tool and trained the participants on the use of the developed management tool for the wild blueberry cropping system.

Vice Chancellor Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman encouraged the participants, especially faculty members, to develop similar tools. The participants from different national institutes and universities also participated online through zoom link. The participants appreciated Dr. Travis's efforts in taking this great initiative and discussed the possibility of developing similar tools for other cropping systems in Pakistan.

The training workshop was organized under the PMAS-AAUR projects "Pilot Project for Data-Driven Smart Decision Platform (DSDP)" and National Center of Industrial Biotechnology (NCIB).

Real wages

WITH inflation on the rise, real wages in Pakistan have been on a decline for the past couple of years. The rising price hike demands that the wages of people in the country also experience a similar uptick to offset the increasing stress on families. But, according to reports, a majority of Pakistanis are finding it difficult to afford their basic necessities of life such as groceries and utility bills. An average household in the country has come under tremendous pressure as their real wages have decreased substantially. Throughout the outgoing fiscal year, a family of let's say six persons, found it hard to buy wheat flour whose prices increased from Rs850 per 20kg to over Rs1,100 for the same weight. The same applies to ghee for cooking which rose from Rs1,200 per 5kg to over Rs1,700. Pulses, rice, sugar, and tea, all posted high prices compared to the previous year, resulting in an evaporation of real wages just to consume bare essentials.

A rough estimate shows that the real wages have declined in terms of the purchasing capacity of average families which just want to live on subsistence, not counting expenses for their children's health or educational needs. While the real wages of the country's citizens remained stagnant or in most cases declined, the families were unable to even pay for minimum electricity and gas bills on a monthly basis.

Even if the government makes sure that a minimum wage of Rs20,000 becomes mandatory for all workers, that amount is much less in real income terms with increasing inflation. In economic parlance, real wages are nominal wages adjusted for the effects of inflation. During the outgoing years, an estimated nine to ten percent decline has occurred in real wages across the country. The situation is even worse for those who do not have a government job or pension. A majority of people in Pakistan do not have any social security in terms of their emergency needs. Pakistan's inflationary pressure calls for a comprehensive strategy to tackle food insecurity and dismal state of utility services provided by the government, if at all.

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Education inequity

CONTINUING its focus on improving access to quality education in the province, the KP Chief Minister Mahmood Khan announced the start of the Education Card System on Sunday. Being an extension of the Sehat Sahulat Programme, this initiative is particularly geared towards enrolling deserving students from economically disadvantaged families in the country's premier educational institutions.

This is a step in the right direction that should be applauded. However, this is just one of the many measures that need to be taken to improve access to quality education in Pakistan. For a long time, many have been advocating a revamp of the higher education system so that a greater segment of the population can gain admissions in universities who would otherwise not be able to do so.

There is currently a large number of deserving students who are deprived of a quality education due to poverty, and the situation has only further deteriorated since the onset of the pandemic. Over 300,000 schools were forced to close down last year resulting in significant learning losses that could cause human capital to decline in the years to come. Reports have revealed that an estimated 930,000 children, out of the 22 million that are already missing school in Pakistan, are being pushed to drop out due to the pandemic. Unless urgent and innovative measures are instituted to ensure that students can continue their education, irreparable damage to the future generations seems inevitable.

The broader issue is that we urgently need to dismantle inequity in education. KP has seen a number of initiatives recently to increase access to education as the Rehamat Lil Alameen Scholarship programme was announced in April for talented and talented and needy students. With the Education Card being introduced, KP continues to set a precedent for other provinces. If this initiative turns out to be a success, it can hopefully be emulated in other parts of the country as well.

Will vaccination become part of the school?

Emma Brockes

It's hard to get up much civil liberties outrage around this, in spite of the unappealing motives of the vaccine enforcers. Clearly, the banks don't give a toss about public health. If the net result of their vaccine mandates is an acceleration towards herd immunity, however, for once we may all be on the same side. (There is another question, about whether new, more employee-friendly working habits established during the pandemic will die just as quickly as they rose, but this probably isn't a good test of it: people don't, generally, pursue a career in banking for its amazing work/life balance.)

HERE is a new, and presumably temporary, pastime in New York, which is to list the ways in which the city is back. Exhibit one: calling your favourite neighbourhood restaurant for a table and being told, flatly: "We can get you in at 5pm or 9pm." Exhibit two: below 14th Street, queues round the block to get into a tiny space for the privilege of paying \$25 for a double gin and tonic. And exhibit three: an assertion by the city's major corporations, and after 18 months of apparent humility in the face of employee distress, that staff need to get their asses back in the office.

This week, Morgan Stanley became the latest company in the city to lift pandemic restrictions on in-person work, providing employees and visitors to its offices are vaccinated. This is, increasingly, a requirement by the city's biggest private employers; earlier this month, Goldman Sachs announced that employees would have to be vaccinated to enter its buildings, while JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America have asked staff to provide their vaccine status on a voluntary basis, prior to what they hope will be a majority return to the office.

The consequence for those who choose not to be vaccinated isn't hard to discern. Anecdotal, there is evidence of the social – and presumably professional – pariah status of the anti-vaxxer in corporate America. One friend, who works at a global HR company in midtown, operates within a new office framework wherein vaccinated people may move around the office unrestricted, while unvaccinated people must not only remain

masked but are prohibited from using the coffee room or the company's leisure facilities, and from going on corporate jollies. A big arrow inscribed with the word "lunatic" may as well descend from the ceiling above these people's desks.

It's hard to get up much civil liberties outrage around this, in spite of the unappealing motives of the vaccine enforcers. Clearly, the banks don't give a toss about public health. If the net result of their vaccine mandates is an acceleration towards herd immunity, however, for once we may all be on the same side. (There is another question, about whether new, more employee-friendly working habits established during the pandemic will die just as quickly as they rose, but this probably isn't a good test of it: people don't, generally, pursue a career in banking for its amazing work/life balance.)

Meanwhile, tensions between vaccinated and unvaccinated people roil employee relations in much smaller contexts. Another sign of the city springing to life post-pandemic is the feverish hiring of babysitters. The honour system of declaring, to playground cohorts, the vaccination status of one's child's caregiver is causing predictable problems. In my extended circle, there is a single family whose after-school babysitter is unvaccinated and although I've never met the woman, her status is sufficiently well known within the neighbourhood that I'm fully aware of her reasoning. ("What's the point? Vaccinated people still get sick.")

If one disregards, for a moment, the deadly implications of people deciding to opt out

of getting vaccinated, it has become something of a sport to discuss and abhor other people's pandemic behaviours. There is the mum who still brings wet wipes to the park and swabs down the slide before her kid can use it. There is the family who won't use a taxi for fear of exposure to germs – they're all vaccinated – but who is flying to Europe in August. There's the mum who, as I heard another parent describe it, "is double-masked standing in the middle of a field". There's no disguising the enjoyment that comes from witnessing and discussing the insanity of others.

The big question for New Yorkers is how the schools will manage vaccination status in September. The assumption is that even if the under-12s are greenlighted to get their shots over summer, the Department of Education will shrink from insisting children are vaccinated before entering school buildings. This doesn't make a lot of sense; a child can't attend state school in New York without a health form attesting to his having had all the other vaccinations.

The assumption is, however, that there will be sufficient pushback from parents worried about the shallowness of the trials on young children to make mandating Covid vaccinations too disruptive. On this basis – enragingly – masks are still likely to be required in the classroom, too.

There aren't a lot of consolations for this – but looking beyond summer to autumn and the nights drawing in, at least we'll still have something to bitch about.

–Courtesy: The Guardian

The new settlers: Israel-Palestine conflict

Jamal Akbar

Whilst there is no peace for the Palestinians, no hopes lie on this ground as well. The Bennett administration is set to be fiercer than the previous government because of its history. In 2014 Bennett openly expressed that "I have killed Arabs and there's no problem with that." Depicting the agenda of PM Bennett, there is no change in the uprising illegal interventions in Palestine. Although, the Palestinians have assured of no hope but meeting the tensions with more violence than that of Netanyahu. Hence, the problem remains a high priority for both countries whether there is a change in government or not

PRIME Minister Netanyahu has served Israel for long 12 years, the longest ever tenure. While it comes to an end on Sunday, by a thin margin of 60-59 vote of confidence, Naftali Bennett, a high-tech millionaire took the claim. Only with the desire to focus on domestic issues, Bennett belongs to a right-wing nationalist party known as Yamina which makes it quite a mandate to follow in his coming tenure. This puts a question to the issue of Palestine which has been ongoing in the war zone for the past few weeks. The new administration has remained to avoid the sweeping moves on the reports, but the conditions of Palestine say otherwise.

The Palestinian issue has been long since 1948 despite the changes of governments and administrations, it has always remained a top-notch priority for Israel. This is why the dependence on the change of government of Israel is not to be assured of making any change in the war zone, but it might keep on going just as before. As Bennett remarks on the issuing state that the creation of Palestine would be death to Israel brings an image of the same policies as Israel has been implementing.

Bennett is a strong supporter of Jewish settlements with the annexation of most of West bank, it would not opt to clear the differences than what 'Bibi' did. As he remained Netanyahu's chief of staff but becomes a hardcore rival afterward, there are no such policies of leading peace towards Palestine. This sentiment has opposed the 'two-state agenda which was remarked by Naftali Bennett, "We will not allow the Israeli government to recognize a Palestinian

state under no circumstances."

Whilst there is no peace for the Palestinians, no hopes lie on this ground as well. The Bennett administration is set to be fiercer than the previous government because of its history. In 2014 Bennett openly expressed that "I have killed Arabs and there's no problem with that." Depicting the agenda of PM Bennett, there is no change in the uprising illegal interventions in Palestine. Although, the Palestinians have assured of no hope but meeting the tensions with more violence than that of Netanyahu. Hence, the problem remains a high priority for both countries whether there is a change in government or not.

A recent month for Palestine has remained under the shed of terrified bombings by the Israeli forces. The 11-day on-slaughter brought devastating effects on the locals, killing more than 250 people including many children as well. These attacks imprint a huge mark on the Palestinian as they suffer more day by day, nonetheless the changes in the government as the only the face differs. Although the ceasefire was made but as soon as Bennett took the office, two days after the bombing begins again.

There are no chances for the Palestinian to reach on negotiations in the new regime. PM Bennett has remained more aggressive on the grounds than Netanyahu which makes the Palestinians hopeless. The demonstrative show by the new Israeli government has made a clear point which was seen in the address of PM Bennett and his vast past experiences. Thus, to say that the change of government will bring any change in the Israel's approach would turn out to be more violent and extreme than that of previous faces of

government.

The US-Israeli-led coalition through the lens of Bennett is seen with the Biden administration. For now, he is focused on intact the relation and gains the previous hand back of democratic coalition which according to him was lost in Netanyahu's time. In the wake of US-Israel relations, Palestine has drawn the attention of the international community which is to be dealt with strong control and attention for the bipartisan system. This does not mean to let go of the human rights violation but to make the international community confident of the actions happening in Palestine. As the court orders still in process for the reconstruction of Gaza and potential evictions of families of Palestinian, the engagement of the US in Israel's arena has not reached any decision yet.

The Palestinian issue to be solved on some levels is a great opportunity for the "New Normalizers". UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco have a great opportunity in this high tense environment to play a proactive role for the region. It would be a success for the regional stakeholders to bring peace for the Palestinians,

The change of faces on the chairs of government cannot change the fate of Palestine until met the standards of the international community with a strong narrative. The ongoing war between the Hamas group and Israeli forces is the most brutal due to heavy bombings. The new government seems more desperate to be violent as the bombings have begun already in Gaza. The time has now emerged to look up to the international community to follow the trends for regional and global peace.

Briefs

Clean and Green Pakistan ...

FROM PAGE 01

The prime minister expressed confidence that corrective measures in the tourism sector would bring a revolution towards generating revenue. He mentioned that Switzerland, half the size of Pakistan's northern areas, was earning \$80 billion from the tourism sector compared with the latter's total exports worth \$25 billion.

However, with the right steps, Pakistan can tap the potential of tourism even more, he said. He advised the residents and parliamentarians belonging to the Kaghan Valley to get engaged in maintaining cleanliness of their area to attract more tourists, which he said would be beneficial for the local economy.

The prime minister regretted that the trash was being thrown into the Kunhar River and urged the hotels to ensure proper waste disposal. He lauded the efforts of Commissioner Hazara Riaz Khan for working out a strategy to protect eco-friendly tourism in the Kaghan Valley.

NCOC eases restrictions

FROM PAGE 01

interventions (NPIs) in the country. The forum agreed on a number of decisions to be implemented from July 1 to 31 with a review on July 27, according to the press release. "Indoor and outdoor dining is allowed till 11:59pm. However, indoor dining at 50pc occupancy is allowed for vaccinated individuals only," said the press release. It added that restaurants and hotel managements would have to set up mechanisms to check vaccine certificates of visitors and also ensure vaccination of their staff. The press release added that timings for business and commercial activities were also being extended to 10pm while essential services would continue to operate 24/7. With regard to weddings, the forum decided that up to 400 guests would be allowed for outdoor weddings subject to Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs). Indoor weddings would also be allowed, according to the press release, for up to 200 vaccinated individuals.

The forum also ordered the management of wedding halls to institute mechanisms for checking vaccine certificates of attendees and ensure staff vaccinations. "Cinemas are allowed to reopen with strict Covid protocols for vaccinated individuals only till 1am," said the press release, adding that a similar requirement for management to ensure staff vaccination and a way to check visitors' vaccine certificates.

Lowest Covid deaths...

FROM PAGE 01

The National Covid positivity ratio during the past 24 hours was recorded 2.05 percent. The Covid positivity ratio is the percentage of actual positive cases appearing in every 100 tests performed to identify infected individuals. The maximum ventilators were occupied in four major cities including Islamabad 24 percent, Peshawar 19 percent, Bawalpur 22 percent and Multan 27 percent.

US, European states...

FROM PAGE 01

Maas said, noting the militant group's increasing terrorist activity in Afghanistan and Africa. But Maas ruled out an imminent withdrawal from Mali, despite a terror attack last week that left 12 soldiers injured. "We must realize that the region is at risk of becoming a hub for international terrorism," he said on terrorism, he said. That is why it is necessary to continue to engage there with our partners. Foreign ministers of the 83-country coalition addressed the fight against terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq, as well as in Africa and Afghanistan.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with the awardees of the Employers Federation of Pakistan's Exporters Recognition Awards, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on 28-06-2021. - DNA

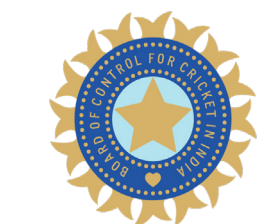
Coronavirus forces India to shift T20 World Cup to UAE

The pandemic swept the world's second-most populous nation last year and India's total COVID-19 caseload now stands at 30.27 million with total fatalities at 396,730, official data showed on Monday

SPORTS DESK

NEW DELHI: The Twenty20 World Cup will be moved to the United Arab Emirates from India due to the coronavirus pandemic, according to an Indian cricket board official. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said it had told the International Cricket Council, the sport's world body, of its decision to host the event in the UAE in October and November. "We have told the ICC about the decision to shift the World Cup to UAE. We were left with no option as the COVID-19 situation is not clear and the travel restrictions remain," BCCI's

treasurer, Arun Dhumal, told international media. "The dates will more or less be the same and we will work out the details soon." The ICC had given the BCCI a deadline of the end of June to decide the host country for T20's showpiece event due to the high number of COVID-19 cases in India. BCCI Vice President Rajeev Shukla said the qualifiers may take place in Oman while the rest of the matches will be at three UAE venues in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah. The BCCI had already moved the suspended Indian Premier League to the UAE in September-October after the T20 tournament was halted on May 4 due to a number of players and team



Board of Control for Cricket in India



International Cricket Council

officials being infected with COVID-19. The UAE has been a preferred destination for cricket as the Pakistan Super League was completed last week in the Gulf nation. The IPL was also held in the UAE last year. The pandemic disrupted the global cricket calendar last year and even after matches resumed in July 2020, players

lockdown restrictions in recent weeks as it emerges from a brutal surge in COVID-19 infections and deaths in April and May. But health officials fear that a new wave could sweep across the country, the world's second-most infected after the United States, later this year. India saw a single-day rise of 46,148 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 3,02,79,331, while daily fatalities were recorded below 1000, taking the total death count to 3,96,730, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday. India saw 979 fatalities due to COVID-19 in a day, the lowest in 76 days.

According to the data published at 7 am, the cumulative vaccine doses administered in the country has reached 32.36 crore under Nationwide Vaccination Drive.

"India achieves another milestone in COVID-19 vaccination and overtakes the USA in a total number of Covid vaccine doses administered," the ministry said. The active cases declined to 5,72,994 comprising 1.89 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate has improved to 96.80 per cent, the data updated at 8 am showed.

A net decline of 13,409 cases has been recorded in the COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

Belgium down Portugal 1-0 to reach Euro 2020 quarterfinals



SPORTS DESK

SEVILLE: Thorgan Hazard's first-half goal fired Belgium into the European Championships quarterfinals as the current world No. 1 team overcame defending champions Portugal 1-0 in a heavy-weight clash here on Sunday. The Dortmund attacking midfielder scored in the 42nd minute when he got the ball just outside the box and fired a superb shot into the bottom right. "It was a nice goal and we beat the holders," said the 28-year-old, who was named the best player of the match. Roberto Martinez's side will next face Italy, who are the only other team having won every game so far at

the tournament, in Munich on Friday. "Today was like a final...and Italy is also a complicated game," Thorgan Hazard added. But some injuries that happened in the match have cast some shadow on Belgium's victory as playmaker Kevin De Bruyne limped off early in the second half because of an injury after being tackled from behind by Portuguese Joao Philhina. The Red Devils suffered another injury in the closing period as Real Madrid star Eden Hazard was replaced by Yannick Carrasco after straining the hamstring. "Looking at that second half, we are lucky to win," Belgium defender Thomas Vermaelen said. "Portugal made it really hard for us. We had to really stay focused. It has cost us a lot of energy, but we have some time to recover and now we are looking forward to the game against Italy." Fernando Santos' team pushed hard in the second half as Ruben Dias' header was punched away by Thibaut Courtois and Raphael Guerreiro's attempt hit the

post. The titleholders enjoyed 56 percent ball possession and made 24 attempts, four times than their rivals, but lacked some efficiency and accuracy, also some luck to earn them a victory. "I think it's an unfair result but they scored and we didn't," said Santos. "We came back and thought we could turn it around. My players tried their best but the ball wouldn't go in, that's football." "We're very disappointed, we thought we could win this tournament again after 2016. Some of my boys are crying in the changing room. All of Portugal should be proud of what they did today," Belgium, who are striving for their first major title, benefited from an extra 48 hours' rest after easily winning Group B with three straight wins, while Portugal arrived in the knock-out stage with only one win from their group matches, 3-0 over Hungary in the opener. They then lost to Germany 4-2 and drew with France 2-2 to advance from the tough



Group F as one of the best third-placed teams. Portugal's superstar Cristiano Ronaldo, who certainly attracted most of the attention, failed to extend his scoring streak and stayed on 109 international goals to share

the men's record with former Iran's striker Ali Daei. The 36-year-old veteran has already broken some records after registered five goals from the three group matches - breaking the tie with Michel Platini to be

come the sole all-time best scorer of the tournament with 14 goals and surpassing Miroslav Klose in the record of most goals scored by a European player (21 goals) in major events (Euros and World Cups combined).

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan prepare a "road map"

The guests also visited the Real Agro Cotton cluster for cotton processing and textile production and the Uzbekpaksanoat Association, which united 8 farms for the production of silkworm seeds, 46 farms for the processing of cocoons and the production of silk fabrics and finished products

DNA

TASHKENT: An official visit of the delegation of the Sughd region of the Republic of Tajikistan to Uzbekistan ended with the preliminary agreement of the "road map". The points outlined in the draft "road map" were considered at the final official meeting with the participation of: from the Tajik side - the chairman of Sughd region Rajabboy Akhmadzoda and the Ambassador of Tajikistan to Uzbekistan Abdujabbor Rakhmonzoda, from the Uzbek side - the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan Zhamshid Khojaev and the khokim of the Tashkent region Davron Khidoyatov. In the near future, a delegation of Uzbekistan will go to Tajikistan on a return visit to work out the document in detail based on the study of the land and soil,

production potential of Sughd region and the development of projects in several areas of cooperation, including the study and implementa-

tion of Uzbek experience in the creation of other manufacturing clusters and enterprises. The visit of the Tajik delegation and the study tour of the agrarian industry on 24-25 June were organized by the Ministry of

Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the support of the Tashkent region khokimiyat following the results of the visit at the highest level to Tajikistan on 10-11 June 2021. The delegation headed by the chairman of the Sughd region Rajabboy Akhmadzoda included the heads of the Khujand, Gulistan, Spitamen and Zafarabad regions of Tajikistan, as well as the heads of large agricultural industries and companies of the neighboring state. In two days, a Tajik delegation of 30 people visited and studied several agricultural facilities in the Tashkent region. Among them are the AKIS Center for

Agricultural Knowledge, Innovation and Services, the TST Rice rice cluster, which has a complete production chain for growing and deep processing of rice, TNA Agro Invest for the processing and drying of fruits and vegetables, the Uzumfermer winery, the UzTex enterprise, the Gold Dried Fruits agricultural holding, which is a full-cycle complex with enterprises responsible for the cultivation of fresh fruits and vegetables and the production of dried and frozen products, as well as for the processing and export of fresh, dried and frozen products. The guests also visited the Real Agro Cotton cluster for cotton processing and textile production and the Uzbekpaksanoat Association, which united 8 farms for the production of silkworm seeds, 46 farms for the processing of cocoons and the production of silk fabrics and finished products, and 22 farms for the production of seeds and mulberry seedlings.

Foreign hand unearthed in Lahore blast

FROM PAGE 01

sufficient evidence obtained, the authorities had concluded that an "anti-state agency is directly involved in the terrorist incident and had provided financial support" to elements behind the Johar Town blast.

"I want to inform you that the Punjab government has traced all high-profile cases in the province and arrested their suspects," he added.

India using FATF against Pakistan

FROM PAGE 01

Gulf countries have strongly supported us on this issue. Referring to the establishment of peace in Afghanistan, he said Pakistan's refusal to provide bases is in our national interest. He said that Pakistan will continue all possible contribution for establishing peace in the neighboring country as we want peace, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan.

Govt empowering state media to spread...

FROM PAGE 01

the ruling party, the incumbent government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had ensured to use state media as spokesperson of the country, the minister said while winding up debate on demands for grants related to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Division.

"Today's world was a world of public opinion, now wars were fought through rhetoric, the more the narrative was accepted, the more victory would be determined. With the use of advanced technology and strengthening the state media with more allocations, we can effectively fight media war against enemies of Pakistan," the minister said. He thanked the Ministry of Finance for allocating enough funds to enable state media meet with the international standard. He said a plan of refinements was being introduced in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its departments to face contemporary challenges.

He said digitalization of official media including Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation and Pakistan Television (PTV) would be initiated by August this year. He added that the functioning of APP would be on modern lines like any international news agency such as AFP or Reuters.

PM for contact with Opp on reforms

FROM PAGE 01

parties on the proposed electoral reforms. In a tweet, he said Attorney General for Pakistan Khalid Javed Khan would brief [the PM] about the main features of electoral reforms after holding a meeting with the legal team of the opposition parties and Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The minister said the Attorney General would present a report containing the opposition's suggestions on electoral reforms to the prime minister.

US carries out airstrikes...

FROM PAGE 01

US interests in Iraq, Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby said in a statement. Two facilities were based in Syria and one was based in Iraq, "both of which lie close to the border between those countries," Kirby added. The facilities targeted were used by Iran-backed militia including Kataib Hezbollah and Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada.

Briefs

Death toll reaches 9 in Fla. condo collapse

FOREIGN DESK

WASHINGTON: The number of people who died in the collapse of a condominium building in South Florida rose to nine on Sunday, while more than 150 people remain unaccounted for. Anxious relatives pressed for the search for possible survivors to speed up. "We've been working around-the-clock," Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said Sunday. "Since the wee hours of the morning, Thursday, we've been here 24 hours a day." Levine Cava said there have been six to eight teams working nonstop on the pile of shattered concrete and metal next to the parts of the Champlain Towers South complex that is still standing. The collapse of the 40-year-old, 12-story building in Surfside — an Atlantic Ocean coastal town of 5,700 about 15 miles north of Miami — happened around 1:30 am Thursday morning. Searchers that have come from as far as Israel and Mexico are using dogs, sonar, drones and infrared scanners.

HK police arrest senior journalist

WEB DESK

HONG KONG: Hong Kong police have arrested a former senior Apple Daily journalist at the airport while he was attempting to leave the city. The 57-year-old journalist is the seventh staff member of the now-closed pro-democracy newspaper to be detained, after police accused them and the paper of foreign collusion under the national security law. The arrests have sent a chill across the industry, with reports on Monday of some outlets receiving anonymous threats. Another news site, Stand News, took down all published opinion pieces. The Apple Daily journalist Fung Wai-kong was believed to be leaving Hong Kong for the UK when he was arrested on Sunday night, local media reported. Police said he was detained for "conspiring to collude with foreign countries or foreign forces to endanger national security", and had been held while investigations continued. Last week, police arrested the paper's chief editorial writer, which followed the detention of five executives including the editor-in-chief, Ryan Law, and the chief executive, Cheung Kim-hung, who were both later charged. Apple Daily was forced to print its final edition and cease operations on Thursday after it was crippled by associated asset freezes. The Hong Kong Journalists Association condemned the police for targeting journalists.

VP of Turkey to visit Uzbekistan

DNA

TASHKENT: A Turkish delegation led by Vice President Fuat Oktay will visit Uzbekistan this week. It is expected that on 28 June, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev will receive Fuat Oktay. Within the framework of the visit, the 6th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on trade and economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Turkey and the Uzbek-Turkish business forum will be held. As part of these events, Uzbekistan and Turkey will sign a solid package of bilateral documents, the practical implementation of which will give a new impetus to the further development of Uzbek-Turkish relations. Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade Sardor Umurzakov and Turkish Ambassador to Uzbekistan Olgan Bekar held a meeting and discussed issues of preparation for the visit of the Vice President of Turkey. The parties also considered the current state and prospects of bilateral trade and economic, investment, transport and logistics, cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

Romanian FM Bogdan Aurescu visits Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia

This was the first joint visit to the Eastern Neighbourhood by a group of European Foreign Ministers, coordinated with and mandated by the High Representative, Josep Borrell

NEWS DESK

BUCHAREST: Romanian Foreign Minister Bogdan Aurescu issued a statement after his visit to Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan along with his counterparts from Austria and Lithuania. Here is the text of his statement, "From the outset, I would like to express a well-deserved word of appreciation for our partners from Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, for their warm hospitality and the excellent organization of this tour through the South Caucasus, a region having strategic importance for the European Union. Also, I would like to add our gratitude to the EU Delegations in Baku, Yerevan and Tbilisi, together with our national diplomatic missions on the ground, for putting together, in a very short time, a very dense, consistent schedule and for making the necessary arrangements for our tour. This is the first joint visit to the Eastern Neighbourhood by a group of European Foreign Ministers, coordinated with and mandated by the High Representative, Josep Borrell. I believe it was a very successful endeavour, especially as the challenges faced by our Eastern Partners are high on the EU agenda. This tour allowed us to pass a message of European solidarity and engagement, on behalf of the EU and the Member States. At the same time, we conveyed a message of the EU commitment to prioritize the security, stability and prosperity of all three Southern Caucasus countries we visited. And the determination for the European Union to be more and more actively involved in the process of settling the protracted conflicts in this region, which has a strategic importance for the EU as a whole. Now a few words on the regional challenges. I recall that, on behalf of Romania, already last year, in October, I promoted the idea, which was supported by ten other EU Ministers

of Foreign Affairs, of having an in-depth discussion at EU level on protracted conflicts, which affect many of the countries in the Eastern Neighbourhood and have been hindering these countries' development perspectives for decades. As everyone can see, these conflicts have an extremely negative impact on the regional security and stability. They hamper the socio-economic progress and generate difficulties for the people living in the affected areas. In this context, it is particularly important to mobilize the EU's attention on these issues, to identify the best ways of using EU instruments and cooperation formats to support the affected countries. We had insightful discussions last month, at the Gymnich meeting in Lisbon, when we have decided to strengthen our political support to the Eastern Partners. And this tour is, in fact, the first concrete follow-up to the discussion we had in Lisbon. We encouraged our partners in the South Caucasus countries to make best use of the instruments provided by the Eastern Partnership framework, in order to strengthen regional cooperation, to the benefit of peace and prosperity and, also, ultimately, to the benefit of the people. So in all three countries, we have expressed support for the



possible creation of a regional format, including all three of them, with EU facilitation and support. In the timely discussions with our interlocutors in all three capitals, I have reaffirmed the view on the importance of their active involvement in the perspectives of the upcoming Eastern Partnership Summit. In view of this Summit, it is essential to endorse a common, ambitious vision on the Eastern Partnership, for the coming years. While maintaining the inclusiveness of the Partnership, we should be ready to reward the efforts of our most ambitious and committed Partners, such as Georgia, but also Ukraine and Republic of Moldova. This is why we advocate for a flexible Eastern Partnership, with a fine balance between inclusivity and differentiation. From Romania's perspective, as I proposed at European level, I will promote the need to develop a security dimension within the Eastern Partnership. We had, in all three capitals, substantial and very productive talks with our high-level interlocutors. In Azerbaijan, we met the President and the Foreign Minister. In Armenia - the Acting Prime Minister and the President and here, in Tbilisi - the Prime Minister and our colleague, the Foreign Minister, David

Zalkaliani. We have also paid a visit to the Administrative Boundary Line, where we were briefed by the EUMM staff on the situation on the ground. And, in this context, I would like to reiterate our strong support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia and to reassure that Romania will continue to contribute with personnel to the EU Monitoring Mission. We already have 23 monitors on the ground. In Azerbaijan, we have expressed the fact that we consider that this country has a key role in the stability and prosperity of the South Caucasus and expressed the hope that the new EU-Azerbaijan Agreement, currently under negotiation, would be concluded swiftly, and thus providing an updated, modern framework to further guide our cooperation. And we have agreed, with President Aliyev, to resume, swiftly, the negotiation process. We hope that this agreement will be concluded by the end of this year. In Armenia, I have congratulated Prime Minister Pashinyan for his party's victory in last Sunday's parliamentary elections and commended the good organization and the democratic character of the elections, as highlighted by OSCE/ODIHR and other international observation missions. I highlighted my

belief that further modernization and democratization of the country, through a continuation of the reform process already initiated by the previous Government, should become the new strategic objective for Armenia, capable of uniting the efforts of all political forces, to the benefit of the Armenian people. In both countries, Azerbaijan and Armenia, we had in-depth talks on the current situation and on the perspectives of moving forward, following the last year's military confrontation. We called for a constructive spirit and for rebuilding trust, because confidence-building measures, such as those related to the release of all detainees and the handing over of all maps of mined areas, remain a priority. EU is ready to continue to help and support such evolutions. So, we underlined the EU's readiness to provide support, upon request, on all matters that might lead to a negotiated, sustainable and lasting settlement of all pending issues. I have underlined the need for reconciliation between the two societies, which is a process which will take probably some time and a lot of efforts, but there is no other option. We have also discussed about many other important components of the settlement. I will not go now into details

about them. Now, some words about our activity here in Tbilisi. I have congratulated Georgia on the progress in the implementation of the Association Agreement. We stand ready to further support the political association and economic integration of Georgia with the European Union. And I have also underlined that an inclusive political environment and further modernization and democratization are important for Georgia's European agenda. On this note, I welcomed the decision of the opposition forces to accept their mandates in the new Parliament, as a first step towards normalization of the internal situation. At the same time, we consider that all political forces need to sign the April political agreement. And I also welcomed Georgia's approach towards peacefully engaging the population in the two Georgian regions affected by the protracted conflicts. Last but not least, I would like to reiterate Romania's strong support for the European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations of Georgia. To conclude, I would like to state again that this was a very successful diplomatic tour in the South Caucasus and we will inform our EU colleagues and the High Representative, Josep Borrell about the results dur-

ing the next Foreign Affairs Council meeting on the 12th of July. As you know, our joint delegation left together from Bucharest and we are now returning together to the capital of Romania. This has shown that Romania is pro-actively engaged in the region and that we have a well-acknowledged contribution at the European level regarding our Eastern Neighbourhood and our partners. And I am glad that, in this way, we can come with a solid contribution to the realization of European foreign policy. I am concluding by saying that, for Romania, the fact that we managed to introduce this topic high on the agenda, the topic of protracted conflicts in our Eastern Neighbourhood, represents a true diplomatic success, because our country supports the stability and security of the states in the Eastern Partnership and, at the same time, because the settlement of these conflicts represents, for us, a strategic priority objective. We will continue to advocate for closer ties with the EU and for more EU involvement in the region, to the benefit of the future perspectives of all three countries and especially to the benefit of the citizens, who, I hope, were reassured these days about the EU's support'.



KABUL: Pakistan ambassador to Afghanistan Mansoor Ahmad Khan calls on Mohammed Younus Qanooni former Speaker Wolesi Jirga. Both sides had had frank and candid discussions on exploring ways for progress on Afghan peace process. — DNA

Swedish PM Stefan Löfven resigns after losing confidence vote

FOREIGN DESK

STOCKHOLM: Sweden's Prime Minister, Stefan Löfven, has announced he is resigning after losing a confidence vote last week, as he called on the country's parliament to try to form a new government instead of holding an early election. Löfven, who has been prime minister since 2014 and heads the Social Democratic party, became the first Swedish leader to lose a confidence vote in parliament. He did not call for an early election as the Swedish constitution allows him to. He is formally stepping down but will continue in a caretaker role until a new government can be formed. "A snap election is not what is best for Sweden," Löfven said on Monday. "The speaker will now begin work on proposing

a prime minister who can be tolerated by the Riksdag [the assembly]. The government will continue to govern the country for now but as the caretaking government." The speaker, Andreas Norlén, will ask party leaders who may be able to form a government. He alone decides who can begin these talks. It is expected that Löfven, who heads Sweden's largest party with 100 of Riksdagen's 349 seats, will start the talks. His cabinet, a Social Democratic-Green coalition, is a minority government that has relied on votes from the small Left party to pass laws. The no-confidence motion against Löfven was called by the nationalist Swe-

den Democrats party but it ultimately succeeded because the Left party withdrew its support for the government over proposed legislation to tackle a housing shortage. Lawmakers voted 181-109 against Löfven, with 51 abstentions. The political situation in Sweden appears deadlocked. Löfven has been able to get the Left party back as an ally but the small Liberals, which earlier supported the Social Democratic-led government, now want a centre-right government. The Centre party still wants Löfven at the helm but does not want to make deals with the Sweden Democrats or the Left Party. In the centre-right bloc, the

Moderates, Sweden's second-largest party, wants its leader, Ulf Kristersson, as prime minister. The last time coalition talks took place in Sweden was following the 2018 election that created a deadlocked parliament. It took four months of negotiations to produce a government that Löfven presented in January 2019. Norlén told the Swedish broadcaster SVT that the different parties now knew where the others stood and promised that government formation talks would be faster this time. In the present assembly, the left-leaning side and the centre-right bloc each have about 40% of the vote. None of the sides want to cooperate with the Sweden Democrats, a rightwing populist party that is considered extreme. In Sweden, the next general election will be held on 11 September 2022.

Ukraine, US launch Black Sea drills

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: Ukraine and the United States have launched a military exercise involving more than 30 countries in the Black Sea and southern Ukraine, despite Russian calls to cancel the drills. The Sea Breeze 2021 manoeuvres that began on Monday and will last for two weeks are set to involve about 30 warships and 40 aircraft from US and its NATO allies and Ukraine. US destroyer Ross has arrived in the Ukrainian port of Odessa for the drills. US Navy Capt. Kyle Gantt said that the large number of participants in the exercise reflects a shared commitment to ensuring free access to international waters. The drills follow a rise in tensions between NATO and Moscow, which said last week it had fired warning shots and dropped bombs in the path of a British warship to chase it out of Black Sea waters off the coast of Crimea. The United Kingdom rejected Russia's account of the incident. Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 and says it is Russian territory, but the peninsula is internationally recognised as part of Ukraine. Britain insisted its HMS Defender had been making a routine journey through an internationally recognised travel lane and remained in Ukrainian waters near Crimea. Russia's embassy in Washington called last week for the latest exercises to be cancelled, and the Russian defence ministry said it would react if necessary to protect its own national security. Ukraine says the main goal is to gain experience in joint actions during multinational peacekeeping and security operations. Relations between Kyiv and Moscow plummeted after Russia seized Crimea and over Russia's support for a separatist rebellion in eastern Ukraine.

Azerbaijan, Algeria eye to increase export

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan's Export and Investment Promotion Foundation Head Yusif Abdullayev and Algerian Ambassador Salima Abdelhak have held a business meeting dedicated to increasing the Azerbaijani-Algerian mutual export and investment potential. During the meeting, the parties discussed the possibilities of establishing cooperation with the Algerian National Agency for the Promotion of Foreign Trade. Moreover, the parties exchanged views on the development of relations in

various economic spheres, including the export of non-oil products and the expansion of mutual investment cooperation. Abdullayev briefed on AZ-PROMO's activities, development of Azerbaijan's non-oil sector, the continuous improvement of business environment and expansion of exports. In addition, he noted the work done to promote the "Made in Azerbaijan" brand and attract foreign investments. In turn, the ambassador shared a vision on economic partnership development, stressing the importance of business meetings in this area.

Iran's Khamenei slams West for hosting terrorists

TEHRAN: Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has censured certain Western countries for turning into safe havens for terrorists while continuing their claim of championing human rights. Members of the Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) terrorist group are walking free in France and other European countries, Ayatollah Khamenei said on Monday, addressing a meeting with the chief and officials of Iran's Judiciary. "The French government and others shamelessly preach human rights despite hosting these killers, supporting them, and even giving them the podium in their national parliaments," the Leader said. "That is to say, the brazenness of these Westerners is really an extraordinary and strange thing." The Leader also commemorated Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti, the head of Supreme Judicial Council of the time, who was assassinated in a bombing carried out by the MKO in Tehran on June 28, 1981. He said the MKO committed a great crime against the Iranian nation by assassinating "this prominent figure" along with 70 other Iranian figures on this day forty years ago. Ayatollah Khamenei also thanked Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raesi for bringing about a great change to the Judiciary since he assumed office more than two years ago. "In these two years and a few months that he was in charge of the Judiciary, he really worked hard, he strove, and good things were achieved in the Judiciary," the Leader said. Elsewhere in his remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei hailed the June 18 presidential election as "truly an epic", saying no one can take the magnificence of the election away from the country. — Foreign Desk

Briefs

Spain qualify for Quarters finals

Spain has won the European championship for three times. Spain will play its quarter final in Saint Petersburg



SPORTS DESK

COPENHAGEN: Spain has qualified for the quarters finals of Euro Cup 2021 by beating Croatia 5-3. In the stipulated time both teams ended in a draw. However in extra time Spain scored two more goals. Spain has won the European championship for three times. Spain will play its quarter final in Saint Petersburg.

China says border with India stable

WEB DESK

BEIJING: Putting the onus for easing border situation on New Delhi, China on Monday said its border with India remains stable and that the two sides are engaged in talks.

"The words and deeds by the Indian government officials or military brass, (and) the Indian military deployment should be beneficial to easing the border situation, not opposite," China's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin told a news conference, according to Chinese daily Global Times. The two countries are engaged in negotiations over disengagement along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh area of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). China and India are face-to-face along the LAC – the de facto border between China and India in the disputed territory. At least 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers were killed in a clash last June. Tensions eased after several rounds of talks, and the two sides stepped back. But points of friction remain and full disengagement is yet to be reached.

PPP seeks in-camera briefing on Afghan policy

KHAYAM ABBASI

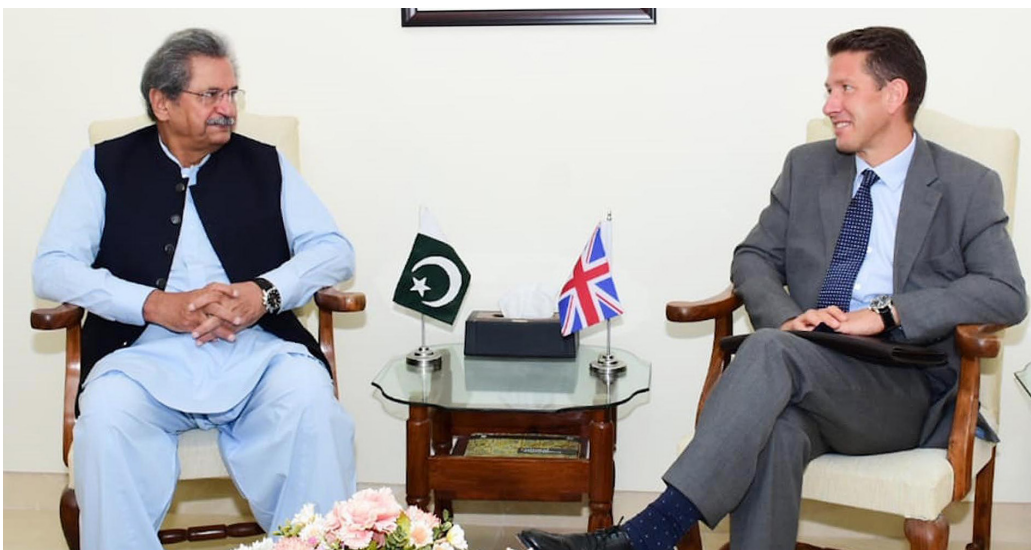
ISLAMABAD: The spokesman of Pakistan People's Party Faisal Karim Kundi has asked the federal government to call an in-camera session of the Parliament to discuss the Afghan policy. Kundi and PPP Central Information Secretary Shazia Mari were talking to a presser on Monday in Karachi. Mr Kundi called upon the federal government to summon an in-camera session of the Parliament and brief the lawmakers on Afghan policy. He mocked the government over its blurred policies saying the government people were unclear on the policy whether to declare Osama bin Laden a martyr or not. On the gas crisis in Karachi, Mr Kundi said it was for the first time that a gas shortage was witnessed in summers. He said PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's visit to Azad Kashmir for his election campaign had given sleepless nights to Federal Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry. He claimed that the government was planning pre-poll rigging in the AJK. He said Mr Chaudhry was saying they would make the next government in Sindh.

Pak-UK strategic partners in field of education: Shafqat

Admiring Pakistan's response to COVID-19 pandemic, British High Commissioner said, Pakistan has done well so far to curtail the spread of virus

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood says Pakistan and United Kingdom are deep strategic partners in field of education and this long-standing partnership has been further strengthened during tenure of PTI led government. Talking to British High Commissioner Christian Turner in Islamabad on Monday, appreciating the supportive role of UK, he highlighted first time in the history of the country, minorities like Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Kalash and Bihari communities will be taught their own religious contents and values. Admiring Pakistan's response to COVID-19 pandemic, British High Commissioner said, Paki-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister For Education, Professional Training, National Heritage and Culture, Shafqat Mahmood talking to British High Commissioner, Christian Turner during a meeting. – DNA

stan has done well so far to curtail the spread of virus. He also formally invited the minister to participate, along with a delegation in Global Education summit: financing GPE 2021-2025 taking place by the end of July in U.K. The summit will be a key moment for the global community to come together and support quality education for all the children. Centerpiece of the summit will be the opportunity for leaders to make 5-year pledge to support GPE's work to help transform education system in upto 90 countries. The two sides reaffirmed their firm resolve to further fortifying their cooperation in the field of education. The two sides exchanged views on a range of bilateral issues of mutual interest.

Opposition bring 'charpai' into Singh Assembly

DNA

KARACHI: The Sindh Assembly witnessed a ruckus on Monday when opposition members – mainly from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf – disrupted proceedings after their leader was apparently denied permission to address the House. The uproar started when the opposition leader, Haleem Adil Sheikh, sought to speak first with the commencement of the proceedings, but Speaker Agha Siraj Durani denied the permission, saying scheduled business would be carried out first and members would be allowed to speak on their points of order later. This prompted the opposition members to protest against the speaker. Amid the sloganeering, some of the protesting members brought a "folding charpoy" into the House, symbolising it as the "funeral of democracy" and wanted to lay it before the speaker's rostrum. The opposition members shouted slogans of 'Jamhoriyat ka janaza hai zara dhoom se nikle' (It is the funeral of democracy, should be taken out with fanfare) while trying to move the charpoy towards the speaker's dais.

RAW linked terrorist group arrested in Karachi: Rashid

46 to 48 percent area with Iran border has been fenced which would be completed this year

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD, JUN 28 (DNA) – Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid on Monday disclosed that a very dangerous terrorist group linked with Indian intelligence agency RAW has been arrested from Karachi on a mission to conduct terrorist activities in major cities of the country. Sheikh Rashid, however, clarified that this group was not involved in the recent Lahore blast but, added that they found involvement of another group linked with Indian intelligence in the terrorist act. Details of suspected group could not be revealed at the moment, he said adding that they have arrested those involved in the cowardly act with one facilitator. As the country has a central geographical location, the government was facing in-



ternational pressure so that no one would be able to use our land for their nefarious designs and create any instability in the region, the minister said while talking to a private news channel. Keeping in view the prevailing situation in Afghanistan, Sheikh Rashid said Pakistan was installing electronic system on Torkham and Chaman for better border security arrangements to secure its 88 percent bor-

der boundaries with Afghanistan. Whereas, 46 to 48 percent area with Iran border has been fenced which would be completed this year, he informed. Replying to a query he said, Afghan people were very happy with the announcement that Pakistan has not allowed its land for any offensive activity against Afghanistan. Pakistan has to see Afghanistan as its neighborhood,

not as a thousand miles away, "this is our new strategy", he quoted. Replying to another question regarding general elections in Azad Kashmir, he said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) would form its government there, adding, neither Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) could succeed there nor Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan would visit Rawlakot, Mirpur and Muzaffarabad after July 2, adding, the election rallies of PTI would show the trend of people's favorite party, hoping that PPP politics in Azad Kashmir would end. Replying to a question regarding Bilawal Bhutto's claim where he called the Prime Minister a security risk, Sheikh Rashid said it was a great tragedy in Pakistan that politicians did not realize responsibility of their words.

Two injured in further knife attack in Germany

The motive was unclear, they said, but the suspect had a previous history of violence and psychiatric problems

BERLIN: Two men were injured in an apparent knife attack in the German city of Erfurt on Monday morning, police said, just three days after a deadly knife rampage in the Bavarian city of Wuerzburg. The two injured victims, aged 45 and 68, were taken to nearby hospitals for treatment and their injuries were not life-threatening, a police spokeswoman said. A 32-year-old suspect was later found injured at his apartment and arrested, police in the central German city said on Twitter. The suspect, named by local media as Johannes L., had apparently harmed himself and was taken to hospital. The motive was unclear, they said, but the suspect had a previous history of violence and psychiatric prob-

lems. There was no indication of a political motive. Police had earlier deployed a helicopter and sniffer dogs after the attacker fled the scene. He was said to be between 20 and 30 years old, wearing a brown jumper and dark jogging pants, with blond to reddish curly hair and a scarred face. A 24-year-old man on Friday went on a knife rampage in the city of Wuerzburg, stabbing three women to death and leaving six other people seriously injured. The suspect, a Somali who arrived in Germany in 2015, struck in the city centre on Friday evening, first at a household goods store before moving on to a bank. He was then overpowered by police after they shot him in the thigh. –APP

Tiktok blocked in Pakistan on SHC orders

DNA

KARACHI: Tiktok, a video-sharing app, has been banned once again in Pakistan on the orders of the Sindh High Court. A Sindh High Court (SHC) bench called for a ban to be imposed on the app from today. The bench has directed Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to immediately block the TikTok application in the country. The court issued the directives while hearing a petition against the upload of immoral content on the video-sharing app TikTok. This is the third time a ban has been imposed on the app over "objectionable content". The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority has been ordered to suspend the application immediately.

Notices have been issued to the attorney general and others for July 8. Barrister Asad Ashfaq had filed the petition. He claimed that immoral and anti-Islamic content is being shared on it. He said that he had filed a complaint with the PTA but no action was taken. The video-sharing app was first blocked in Pakistan on October 9, 2020 over its "obscene and immoral" content. The PTA said it had issued a final notice to the app and gave considerable time to respond and develop an effective mechanism for 'proactive moderation of unlawful online content.'

UAE sets deadline for Italy to vacate airbase

AGENCIES

ROME: The United Arab Emirates has asked Italy to withdraw aircraft and personnel from a military base in the Gulf state by July 2, an Italian government source said on Monday, in what appeared to be fallout from Rome halting the sale of missiles to the UAE. The source told a news agency negotiations were ongoing to try to resolve the matter. The UAE foreign ministry did not reply to a request for comment. As part of multinational operations, Italy, a NATO member, has used Al Minhad airbase, which hosts aircraft from various nations, for flights to Iraq, Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa and the Indian Ocean. In January, Italy said it halted the sale of thousands of missiles to Saudi Arabia and the UAE, citing Rome's commitment to restoring peace in Yemen and protecting human rights.

FM's Portal launched in 5 Pak missions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister's Portal in five Pakistani missions abroad was launched on Monday. As announced by Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi on 16 June 2021, under the Vision FO Thought Leadership Platform, the pilot phase of the Foreign Minister's Portal (FMP) has been launched Monday. In its pilot phase, the Foreign Minister's Portal is available online for overseas Pakistanis and foreign nationals residing in the jurisdiction of five Pakistan Missions abroad, namely, Barcelona, Dubai, Jeddah, London and New York. The Pakistani community and foreigners can download the App of Foreign Minister's Portal from Android store from today, and later on from iOS store also, to register their problems, suggestions and feedback. It is pertinent to mention that cardinal objective of the Portal is to directly engage with Pakistani diaspora by providing them remote access to the missions through modern means of communication. This will also help to assess the nature of the issues being faced by overseas Pakistanis leading towards their better resolution. Gradually, the scale of the Portal will be widened to all Pakistan Missions abroad.

Violence intensifies across Afghan central and northern provinces

The Taliban have launched a wave of offensives around the country, particularly in the north, outside of their southern strongholds

MONITORING DESK

KABUL: Taliban militants have taken over a district, launched attacks on checkpoints and cemented control over a border trade crossing, officials said on Monday, as clashes intensify in Afghanistan's central and northern provinces. Violence has risen sharply around the country as foreign forces work towards withdrawing by September 11 and peace talks in Qatar have failed to make significant progress. The Taliban have launched a wave of offensives around the country, particularly in the north,

outside of their southern strongholds. In central Bamiyan province, normally relatively free of conflict, Taliban fighters attacked several security checkpoints, resulting in heavy clashes overnight, according to Humayoon Elkhan, spokesman for Bamiyan's provincial police. In central Ghazni province, Muqr district fell to the Taliban after months of being under siege, according to a member of the provincial council and a security source. A health centre in the district was bombed on Monday morning, according to provincial health director Zahr

Shah Nekmal, injuring five health workers. In northern Badakhshan province, the Taliban launched coordinated attacks on five districts overnight but were fought back by Afghan security forces, according to a spokesperson for the provincial government. The Taliban also still has maintained control of Shir Khan Bandar, a significant border crossing town with Tajikistan, after seizing it last week. Shafiqullah Atayi, chairman of Afghanistan's Chamber of Commerce and Investment, said the Taliban had appointed their own members to run the administration

offices but that trade had stopped. A Taliban spokesman said they had appointed officials to run the transit point and it was open for people to cross. Meanwhile, Afghanistan's capital Kabul suffered severe power outages in recent days after a power pylon in central Parwan province was blown up on the weekend by unknown attackers. A spokesperson for national power utility Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat said around 35 power pylons had been blown up in the last six months, but they were not clear on who was behind the explosions.

Opp leader loses moral right to serve: Farrukh

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib said on Monday that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif had lost moral high ground to continue as opposition leader in the National Assembly (NA) after his failure to bring his absconding brother (Nawaz) back from London. Shehbaz Sharif, who submitted a stamp paper in the court to guarantee his brother's return, should not bother the members with his hours-long lectures on rule of law in the NA as the court had dismissed Nawaz Sharif's appeals for being fugitive of justice in the Avenfield and Al-Azizia references, he said in a news conference along with Adviser

to the PM on Parliamentary Affairs Dr Babar Awan here. He said the statement of opposition leader's niece (Maryam Safdar), who said that her father would come home from London if he is not sent to jail on return, had fully exposed the duplicity and treachery of the Sharif family. "There is a big difference between words and deeds of the entire Sharif family as on the one side, the uncle (Shehbaz) gave a guarantee for the return of his brother, while on the other side, now his niece is seeking the NRO (National Reconciliation Ordinance) to help her father escape the jail [on his return to the country]," he said, adding the way Nawaz was spending his life in London, it seemed that he had fully recovered. The minister asked the PML-N to accept and implement the decision



of the court which had dismissed Nawaz Sharif's appeals and restored his conviction in the Avenfield and Al-Azizia references. He reminded the PMLN of that this was the same court that allowed Nawaz to go abroad on medical grounds for eight weeks and suspended his conviction in the case. "The entire nation knows that

Nawaz Sharif was convicted after his free and fair trial, but in return what came to the fore were 'Qatari letter' and a 'fake trust deed,'" he said, regretting that the Sharif family, actually, even did not have any kind of record for the 'Palaces' where Nawaz Sharif was currently living in London. Farrukh said he wanted to tell Nawaz Sharif that by sitting in London, he could only become 'Altat Hussain' who did not obey the law and respect institutions. "You cannot become Nelson Mandela by doing politics from London," he added. "It is upto you now that whether you become Altat Hussain 2 or come back to the country and return the looted money to the public," he maintained. This showed that the struggle of Sharif family was only aimed at saving their looted money and it

appeared that they would go to any extent for the purpose, he added. "They (Sharif family) have nothing to do with the public welfare, electoral reforms, free and fair elections in the country," he said, adding they just desired to get back their rule which was based on the pattern of 'Mughal dynasty'. Farrukh said Prime Minister Imran Khan would not let them do any such thing at any cost, adding he was the only leader in Pakistan's history who brought his hard-earned money to the country through banking channels and then later declared by the apex court as the righteous and honest person on submitting money trail of his assets. Therefore, unlike the opposition parties' leadership, he (Imran) held high moral ground, he said.