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UN chief urges India to end its atrocities against children

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Briefs

Rs700m paid to media houses

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has completed payment of 700 million rupees to media houses as per directives of Prime Minister Imran Khan. This was stated by Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry on Tuesday. He said this outstanding amount had not been paid for a long time. Fawad Chaudhry said the financial difficulties of media workers have been reduced and media houses have also received protection after this payment.

Zardari for dialogue on Afghanistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former president Asif Ali Zardari warned the government that the situation in Afghanistan was turning alarming and called for discussions on the matter. "We must keep an eye on the situation in Afghanistan and hold discussions on it," said Zardari while talking to the media outside the Parliament. The former president warned the situation was alarming in Afghanistan and the blowback could be faced by Pakistan, as he called on the government to take the Parliament in confidence on all matters.

Khaqan saves Miftah from humiliation

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farukh Habib said on Tuesday that the recent presser of senior PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi was an endeavor to divert attention from humiliation faced by Miftah Ismail during a public debate with Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar. The said debate took place at Shahzaib Khanzada's programme on Monday night on energy related issues. "Pakistan buys 70% LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) on long term contracts.

NA approves budget with majority vote

The motion was passed with majority vote which led to the passage of Finance Bill, 2021 after clause by clause reading

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The government's proposed Finance Bill 2021 was passed on Tuesday by the National Assembly by a majority vote. The NA session will resume tomorrow at 11:30am and Prime Minister Imran Khan is due to deliver an address. According to the state-run agency, 240 lawmakers participated in the debate on the federal budget. The motion was passed with majority vote which led to the passage of Finance Bill, 2021 after clause by clause reading as well as voice voting along with amendments. The session was first chaired by Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri, after which Speaker Asad Qaiser presided over the session and Qasim Suri joined the members so he may become part of the total strength. Prime Minister Imran Khan, former President Asif Ali Zardari, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and other Opposition members were present in Parliament. Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin introduced the Finance Amendment Bill 2021 in the House which was opposed by the Opposition. The House took verbal approval of the motion to introduce the Finance Bill which was challenged by Nawab Muhammad Yousuf Talpur of the PPP after which the Speaker directed for the count of votes to begin. After the completion of the counting process in the House, the National Assembly passed

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Parliament expressed faith in PM: Fawad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information Fawad Chaudhry said that the budget passed "with great ease", adding that "such a huge development budget has never been passed in Pakistan's history". He noted that nearly all government representatives were in attendance, while also observing that the PML-N's numbers had been low. "The parliament once more expressed its faith in the prime minister by a heavy majority," he said. Meanwhile, Chaudhry questioned the absence of the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shahbaz Sharif. "It appears that the power crisis within PML-N has worsened," he said, adding: "The tussle between Maryam Nawaz and Shahbaz Sharif is resulting in the loosening of the leadership's grip over the party." The minister said that the budget "does not include any new taxes" and has an increase in salaries, besides loans for the youth. He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan will deliver a speech in the parliament when the NA session resumes tomorrow at 11:30am.

Pak has so far received 21.13 mn vaccine jabs

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday was apprised that the country so far had received 21.13 million doses of different types of Covid-19 vaccines out of which over 17 million doses were procured on payment. This was briefed during the NCOC Session, chaired by National Coordinator Lieutenant General Hamood Uz Zaman Khan held here. The Forum discussed roll out plan of three million doses of SinoVac vaccine arrived today from China through procurement plan for the month of June. Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Akhtar Nawaz Satti briefed the Forum on efforts put in for procurement plan of vaccines out of allotted budget of US \$ 1.2 billions. The Forum expressed satisfaction on the availability of vaccine in the country.

US to send 2.5m doses of Moderna vaccine

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: Pakistan is expected to receive 2.5 million doses of Moderna Covid-19 vaccine next week, the United States government announced in Washington on Monday. While announcing the dispatch of vaccines to Pakistan, Peru and Honduras, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki referred to President Joe Biden's commitment to playing a leading role in ending the pandemic everywhere. In addition to Pakistan, the US will also ship two million doses of Pfizer vaccine to Peru, and 1.5m doses of Moderna vaccine to Honduras. "Over this week, we'll be able to announce more places that the United States will be sending our doses," Psaki added. Earlier this month, Biden had announced that the US would dispatch seven million Covid-19 vaccines to South and Southeast Asia to help regional governments overcome the pandemic.

It was also once again reiterated that all federating units could procure vaccine at their end. The Forum expressed concerns over rising positivity of disease in GB and emphasised on stringent implementation of Standard Operating

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ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Shaukat Tarin expressing his views on the floor of the National Assembly. - DNA

Over 1,000 Schengen visa stickers stolen from Italian embassy

According to details, more than 1,000 Schengen visas were stolen from the Italian embassy in connivance with an Italian lady from the visa section. The lady was afterwards transferred to another country

STAFF REPORT/DNA

ISLAMABAD: More than 1,000 Schengen visa stickers have been stolen from the Italian embassy. Sources have revealed the robbery took place during the shifting of the embassy. According to details, more than 1,000 Schengen visas were stolen from the Italian embassy in connivance with an Italian lady from the visa section. The lady was afterwards transferred to another country. The incident took place many months ago when the Italian embassy premises was shifted to new place near the French Embassy. The new Italian embassy is to be built and tenders have also been floated. But before start of the construc-

tion this scandal came to the fore. Sources says while sifting wherewithal from the old place to the new make-shift embassy, visas stickers were stolen. Sources say the number of visas stolen may be much higher than reported. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has shared information with the concerned departments for an "appropriate action" on the theft of Schengen visa stickers from Italian embassy. In response to questions by journalists, Spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said the theft of visa stickers was reported to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the foreign diplomatic mission, after which the information was immediately shared with the concerned departments. "The information was immediately shared with the concerned authorities for taking appropriate action in this regard," he said. According to reports, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has informed the Interior Ministry and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on report of around 1,000 visa stickers stolen from the locker-room of Italian embassy in Islamabad this month. The concerned departments have been requested to keep track of the visa stickers at all entry and exit points and report any seizure to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As per available information, 750 stolen visa stickers have serial numbers from ITA041913251 to ITA041914000 and the 250 visa stickers have the numbers from ITA041915751 to ITA041916000. Further investigations are underway and soon it will be determined if any Pakistani (s) was also involved in this scam. Sources have hinted at involvement of some locals also.



Pak, Japan reiterate resolve to enhance ties

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The 8th Japan-Pakistan Politico-Military Dialogue was held virtually in Tokyo and Islamabad. KOBAYASHI Kenichi, Director-General, Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, Additional Secretary (Asia Pacific) who also serves

Continued on Page 06

FS lauds services of Ambassador Alizada

He also thanked Amb. Alizada for support of Azerbaijan for Kashmir



A.M.BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood has said Pakistan desired strong relations with Azerbaijan and will continue to extend support on its Na-

Continued on Page 06

COAS, EU Mily chief discuss Afghan peace

DNA

RAWALPINDI: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) had a Video Call with His Excellency General Claudio Graziano, Chairman European Union Military Committee (EUMC). During the call, matters of mutual interests, regional security situation including recent developments in Afghan Peace Process and enhanced bilateral cooperation with European Union (EU) came under discussion. COAS said that Pakistan values its relations with EU and is earnestly looking forward to enhance mutually beneficial multidomain relations based on common interests.

Lowest cases reported since October

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan continued to report fewer cases of coronavirus Tuesday as 735 people contracted the infection, as per the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC). The country reported the lowest coronavirus cases in a single day since October 25, when 707 new cases of the infection were reported in a single day. Twenty-three people passed away from the infection over the past 24 hours, as per the NCOC, while the positivity rate stands at 1.78%. Pakistan conducted a total 41,133 tests across the country on Monday, said the NCOC. The total caseload of the country has increased 956,392 while there are 32,153 active cases of infection in Pakistan. - DNA

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Pakistan, Indonesia FTA to be a great initiative: envoy - Page 07

Experts call for global peace, multilateralism and stability - Page 08

UN chief urges India to end horrors in Kashmir

"I am alarmed at the detention and torture of children and concerned by the military use of schools," he said, noting that seven schools were used for four months by Indian security forces

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has expressed his concern over the "grave violations" against children in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) and called upon the government to take preventive measures to protect children, including by ending the use of pellets against them. The call was made by the UN chief in the annual report on Children and Armed Conflict, which was launched last week by his Special Representative on the subject, Virginia Gamba. "I remain concerned by grave violations against children in Jammu and



Kashmir and call upon the Government to take preventive measures to protect children, including by ending the use of pellets against children, ensuring that children are not associated in any way to security forces, and endorsing the Safe Schools Declaration and the Vancouver Principles," the secretary-general said in the report. "I am alarmed at the detention and torture of chil-

Afridi welcomes UN chief's statement

ISLAMABAD: Kashmir Committee Chairman Shehryar Khan Afridi on Tuesday welcomed the statement of United Nations (UN) Secretary General Antonio Guterres over "grave violations" against children in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). The UN chief made this call, the other day in the annual report on Children and Armed Conflict, launched last week by his Special Representative on the subject, Virginia Gamba. In a tweet, Afridi said Guterres had also called upon the Narendra Modi-led Indian government to take preventive measures to protect children, by ending the use of pellets against them. "I am alarmed at the detention and torture of (Kashmiri) children and concerned by the military use of schools," Afridi quoted UN chief as saying. - APP



dren and concerned by the military use of schools," he said, noting that seven schools were used for four months by Indian security forces. "I urge the (Indian) Government to ensure that children are detained as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, and to prevent all forms of ill-treatment in detention," the secretary-general added. "I also urge the (Indian) Government to ensure the implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, to address the use of children for illegal activities and the situation of detained children." According to the UN re-

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Briefs

Horse-mounted police patrol reintroduced

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar division police have reintroduced the horse-mounted squad for quick response in the city cantonment areas and in the first phase the force has started patrolling Saddar area. The SSP Peshawar said that the resumption of historic police patrolling on horses will provide people the feel of police presence around them all the time. The horse-mounted police will be patrolling Peshawar city Cantonment. In phase-I, there would be eight horse units in two contingents that will patrol the city. Recently, Walled City Authority Lahore (WCLA) resumed the ceremonial Kotwal police inside Delhi Gate to resume the colonial and Mughal-era police force.

Molpe providing hygiene solution

DNA

LAHORE: Hayat Kimya's sanitary pad brand, Molpe, has been providing women across the globe with innovative products and solutions for more than 2 decades. Now, in 2021, the company has also introduced Molpe in Pakistan with famous Turkish star EsraBilgic as the face of the brand. The brand ambassador of Molpe Pakistan, EsraBilgic has expressed her pleasure on joining this campaign and as well as her confidence in hygiene shield by saying, "Molpe Hygiene Shield is my ultimate hygiene partner! It doesn't only protect me but also gives me long hours of hygiene! It is finally time to say goodbye to bad odor! I am sure my fellow Pakistani women will agree with me and live #LifeUninterrupted thanks to it."

TolgaArslan, CEO of Hayat Kimya Pakistan, while announcing the launch of Molpe in Pakistan, said, "We are excited to bring innovation in the form of Molpe Hygiene Shield to Pakistan; with its superior product performance, including fast absorption and anti-odor feature, Molpe will ensure long hours of hygiene and better product experience versus competitors".

ANP to attend NSC meeting: Amir Hoti

PESHAWAR: Awami National Party (ANP) Senior Vice President Amir Haider Khan Hoti Tuesday said that the party leadership would attend the National Security Council (NSC) meeting on July 1. Amir HaiderHoti, in a statement, said they would fully participate in the meeting. As regards the Afghan situation, he said the withdrawal of US forces would have adverse effects not only in Afghanistan but also in Pakistan as well. He said that though the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan was politically imperative but the United States should have first settled the Afghan issue. The Taliban were reportedly reorganizing, with its different groups were making alliances and taking control of the Afghan districts, he added. Hoti said Pakistan and Afghanistan should also have to seek together a lasting solution to the issue. Regarding electoral reforms, he said the government and opposition parties should do the legislation with consensus to ensure free, fair and transparent elections in future. - APP

Vaccination certificate mandatory at hospitals

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department Tuesday notified that corona vaccination certificate would be mandatory for patients and attendants to avail health facilities at the hospitals. The Health department has written letter to all hospitals and informed that corona vaccination certification is mandatory for patients and their attendants except youth below the age of 18. It directed the hospital administrations to ensure vaccination of non-vaccinated persons at hospitals. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Parliamentarians from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. - DNA

FCCI President hails PM Imran's economic policies

He said that the government is now contemplating introducing new schemes to involve expatriate Pakistanis in a big way in the national economy. He said that our foreign reserves have swollen to satisfactory levels

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

ISLAMABAD: Investment of over 1.5 billion dollar in Roshan Digital Account ((RDA) is indicative of the confidence of expatriate Pakistanis in the national economy, said Engineer Hafiz IhteshamJaved, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Welcoming the tweet of Prime Minister Imran Khan about massive investment in Roshan digital account, he said that the government has successfully dragged out the national economy from crisis.



"All economic indicators are positive and hopefully investment through Roshan digital account will have a salutary impact on the economy", he said and added that foreign remittances have

also increased many fold and would play a pivotal role in stabilizing the economy. He said that the government is now contemplating introducing new schemes to involve expatriate Pakistanis in a big way in the national economy. He said that our foreign reserves have swollen to satisfactory levels, while expatriates would also get a sizable profit for their investment. Continuing Engineer Hafiz IhteshamJaved hoped that the government will make prudent decisions on a fast track basis and remove budget anomalies as already pointed out by the business community.

Defence Committee to function above party lines: Mushahid

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Committee on Defence and National Security met at the Parliament House under the chairmanship of Senator Mushahid Hussain and received a comprehensive briefing from the Ministry of Defence, which lasted for almost 3 hours.

At the outset of the meeting, in his opening remarks, Senator Mushahid Hussain said that the Committee on Defence and National Security would function above party lines with a national perspective that seeks to preserve, protect and promote Pakistan's defence and national security, while also acting as a bridge between khaki and mufti in promoting intra-institutional harmony. He underlined that in this challenging times, issues on defence and national security require a "whole of nation" approach since the role of the armed forces, the government, parliament, people, media and political parties is inextricably intertwined to achieve common national

goals on defence and national security. Senator Mushahid Hussain also underlined that in Pakistan's transition from geo-politics to geo-economics, the notion of national security can no longer be confined to military components alone like tanks, planes or military equipment, but it has to be based on the notion of Human security that make people as the pivot of defence and national security incorporating such areas as economy,



health, population planning, climate change, food and water scarcity. On related issues, the committee also underlined the need that the 2% disability quota be fully implemented in the Ministry of Defence in letter and spirit, with the Secretary Defence committing to comply with this direction. Senator Mushahid Hussain conveyed the sense of the committee to the Ministry of Defence that in future, the Minister of Defence should also be present during meetings of

the committee. The meeting received a detailed briefing on the working of the 3 services and the functions of the Ministry of Defence and in this regard, the members of the committee had a proactive participation in the hour long question & answer session. Unanimously adopting the Work Plan for 2021, the committee underlined that it will work closely with the Ministry of Defence to ensure the implementation of the 14-point work

plan which include detailed briefings on the 3 services as well as briefing on intelligence and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, visits to Siachen, Waziristan and the LOC for solidarity with our soldiers, briefing on CPEC security, visits to CMH and other military hospitals to express sympathy with those wounded during counter-terror operations as well as a special visit to the graves of Nishan-e-Haider martyrs on September 6, the Defence of Pakistan day. Senator Mushahid Hussain

Sayed presented a copy of the terms of engagements which the parliament of Pakistan had unanimously approved on April 12, 2012 pursuant to the report of the Parliamentary Committee on National Security which was then headed by Senator Raza Rabbani and of which Senator Mushahid Hussain was also a member and they both helped in drafting those recommendations which were later unanimously adopted by parliament. After adopting it, the Senate Defence Committee referred it to the Ministry of Defence with the direction that on the issue of bases, foreign 'boots on the ground', foreign intelligence operations on Pakistani territory, that all of these are forbidden under the parliament's directive and this document is to be considered as Pakistan's state policy guidelines for the future on such issues.

The meeting was attended by Senators Faisal Javed, Mushtaq Ahmad, Hidayatullah, Walid Iqbal, Engineer Rukhsana Zuberi, Dr. Zarqa Suharwardi Taimur and Palwasha Khan and Secretary of the Committee, Maj. @Husnain Haider. The Ministry of Defence was represented by Secretary Defence Lt. Gen. @Mian Hilal Hussain, Additional Secretary Maj. Gen. Khurram Nawaz Khan and Additional Secretary AVM Kazim Hamad.

CM Buzdar serving masses without wasting time

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Chief Minister (SACM) on Information Dr FirdousAshiqAwan Tuesday said that Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar was serving masses without wasting time in political jugglery, as he believed in performance, instead of hollow slogans. Talking to the media outside the Punjab Assembly here, DrFirdous said that the CM had been taking the province towards development and prosperity and the budget would give a further boost to the development activities. She said the second phase of the 'KhidmatAap Ki Dehleez Par' programme had been launched. The five-week long programme would be continued till Aug 1, she added. The special assistant said the cleanliness week would be held from June 28 to July 4, special campaign week from July 5 to 11, green week from July 12 to 18, Eid-ul-Azha week from July 19 to 25 and Road Safety Week will be observed from July 26 to August 1. The programme has yielded positive results and the deputy commissioners have been directed to personally supervise the programmes and action would be taken against officials failing to address the public complaints, she warned. DrFirdous said citizens could also lodge their complaints through Khidmat App even after a specific week. More than 41 lakh activities had been performed in the first phase. Out of 25,792 complaints, 22,745 complaints were timely redressed with an 88 per cent ratio, and the public satisfaction ratio was 79 per cent, she added. - APP

BPC starts at KFUEIT

RAHIM YAR KHAN: Upon direction of the Vice Chancellor KhwajaFareed University of Engineering and Information Technology Prof. Dr. Muhammad Suleman Tahir, Registrar University Prof Dr Asghar Hashmi inaugurated 1st Business Plan Competition (BPC) organized by the Business Incubation Center at KFUEIT on Tuesday. Over 210 groups and 450 students are participating in this competition. The Registrar said on this occasion that such competitions would harness professional skills of the students and researchers. He said we shall provide financial assistance to students and sitting place in KFUEIT so that the selected students could materialize their business ideas. The students participating in this competition also thanked the vice chancellor for understanding their needs, and providing them assistance in making their dreams come true. Earlier, groups and students presented their business ideas ranging from production of different breeds, seeds, and other agriculture products, new techniques in information technology, and trends occupying the global market. - DNA

Wasa sets up 10 camps to deal with monsoon emergencies

FAISALABAD: The Water and Sanitation Agency (Wasa) has established camps at 10 sites across city to deal with emergency situations during the monsoon season. This was stated by Vice Chairman Wasa Sheikh ShahidJavaid while talking to the media after holding an open court and chairing a meeting with Agency officials here on Tuesday. He said that Wasa was facing severe problems in paying its electricity bills as its bill tariff was transferred from agriculture to general category during 2018.

In this connection, all members of National and provincial assemblies have been taken on board to reduce Fesco tariff for Wasa so that it could continue its services for citizens without any interruption, he added.

He said that Wasa was keeping its machinery and vehicles in functional condition and the staff had completed homework to deal with emergencies in monsoon. He said consumers would be provided the best services during rainy days.

Wasa Director Finance SheharYarHasan said that after change of tariff category from agriculture to general, electricity bills of Wasa had doubled. He said Wasa had launched vigorous recovery campaign and during this month, it was expected to recover Rs 110 million from its chronic defaulters, he added. Director Revenue Wasa Umar Itfikhhar said that some changes had been made in the revenue directorate, which helped in improving revenue collection. However, GIS based survey is being conducted in various colonies so that revenue recovery of WASA could be increased to meet its financial needs.

Director Admin Shoaib Rasheed, Director Operations Adnan Gill, Deputy Director Usman Lateef, Deputy Director Makhdoom Babar, Assistant Director Sanwal Malik and others were also present. - APP

Police asked to take strict action against child abuse

FAISALABAD: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Riffat-Mukhtar Raja on Tuesday directed the police heads of all four districts of the region to take strict action against child abuse in their respective areas. During a meeting, he said that it was a pity that incidents of child abuse were increasing day by day. Therefore, the police should adopt proper strategy to check such like incidents. The police should also utilize all scientific means to trace out real culprits and take them to task in accordance with law without any delay. He also directed the police officers to trace the kidnappers' gang and ensure recovery of abducted children safely. CPO Faisalabad, DPOs Jhang, Toba Tek Singh and Chiniot districts and SSP Investigations of all four districts of the region also attended the meeting. - APP

4 arrested for aerial firing

FAISALABAD: The police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested four accused for aerial firing and sharing its video on social media. A police spokesman said Ali Abbas of Siddhpura with his three friends conducted aerial firing and, later on, put the video on social media. Gulam Muhammad Abad police arrested the accused and also recovered two guns and a bottle of liquor besides starting investigation.

2 dacoits arrested
The Civil Lines police have arrested two dacoits at Lorry Adda and recovered illegal weapons and looted money from their possession. A police spokesman said on Tuesday that ASI Gulam Abbas, on a tip-off, conducted raid at Lorry Adda and nabbed two dacoits, AtifSheeraz of Chak No 66-JB, and Shoaib Hussain of Chak No 213-RB Susan Road. The police recovered two pistols, two motorcycles, four mobile phones and looted money amounting to Rs 375,000 from their possession. The accused were wanted to the police of Civil Lines and Factory Area in a number of dacoity, robbery and other cases. - APP

AJK President urges upon UN to probe India

"To force India to respect the human rights, it is imperative for the international community to take concrete steps", the state president asserted

DNA

MIRPUR: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Sardar Masood Khan on Tuesday welcomed the report of the UN Secretary-General AntónioGuterres in which he expressed concern over state-sponsored violence against children, including the use of pellet guns. Commenting on the report titled "Children and Armed Conflicts" unveiled by the UN Secretary-General in which he mentioned the ill-treatment being meted out to the children of occupied Kashmir, the State President said that thousands of Kashmiri

children had been orphaned by the Indian Army during the last 30 years while hundreds of others were killed, injured, maimed or blinded, AJK President office said late Tuesday.

"What Secretary General's report about Indian Occupied Kashmir has stated was the just tip of the iceberg. The real situation is even worse as the occupation army is not only abusing the rights of children but also is engaged in carrying out genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. He asserted there are children of ten to 13 years of the age among the 14,000 civilians the Indian Army had arrested dur-



ing curfew and the lockdown in the different parts of the occupied territory since August 5, 2019. These children are still in custody in different prisons in northern India and occupied

Kashmir, and they are not being released even after the outbreak of coronavirus, he added. He demanded an open debate on the UN Secretary General's report in the UN Security Council along with other partners of repression being let loose against the children in the held territory to prepare recommendations and to propose action against the perpetrators of these brutalities. "To force India to respect the human rights, it is imperative for the international community to take concrete steps", the state president asserted.

Describing children and women as the worst suffered segment of India's illegal occupation of a part of Kashmir, AJK President demanded a comprehensive and in-depth investigation to dig out the facts about the worst human rights violations in occupied territory. "In the light of the reports of its own Human Rights Commission released in the years 2018 and 2019, the United Nations should constitute an international commission of inquiry to probe the worst human rights violations in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and its report should be tabled in the world body," he added. Khan said the United Nations instead of making calls should hold India accountable for its crimes against humanity in IIOJK.

Briefs

AIOU exams to start from July 01

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) will hold in-person examinations of BS, M.Sc, MS, M Phil and PhD programs from July 01. While in-person examinations of the Faculty of Education for M Phil, MS and PhD programs are expected to be held in the second week of July.

NEPRA concludes hearing into FCA

ISLAMABAD: National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday concluded public hearing into monthly fuel cost adjustment (FCA) for May.

NEPRA calculated decrease of 28 paisa per unit in the tariff. The consumers would get benefit of Rs.3.60 billion on account of FCA adjustment for month of May.

IESCO issues power suspension programme

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Tuesday issued a power suspension programme for Wednesday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work.



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Nong Rong citing the cake to celebrate 100 Anniversary of Communist party of China Alongwith Mirza Muhammad Afridi Deputy Chairman Senate of Pakistan Mr. Yousaf Ayub Khan President PCFA Khyber, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani Secretary General Pakistan China Friendship Association Khyber Chapter at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House Islamabad. - DNA

Parties unite to congratulate China's CP on its centenary

This was the first of its kind webinar engaging top tier leadership of Pakistan and China as the two countries also commemorate 70 years of bilateral relationship

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: In commemoration of 100 years of Communist Party of China (CPC), Pakistan China Institute organized a webinar titled "People Centered: Celebrating 100 Years of CPC".



der Sayed. In his opening remarks, Mustafa Sayed highlighted the contributions of the CPC for the people of China and how the leadership has carried the same spirit of 'serving the people' till today

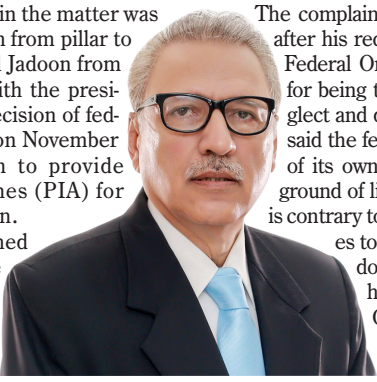
CPC's centenary. He said on China, there is complete unanimity of opinion in Pakistan. In her keynote speech, Senator Sania Nishar, Minister for Poverty Alleviation, highlighted the remarkable success of CPC in eradicating absolute poverty in the country.

President orders compensation for complainant seeking justice

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Tuesday directed the federal ombudsman to execute its decision that remained unimplemented for 24 years, and ordered a compensation for the complainant seeking justice for long.

the federal ombudsman remained unimplemented despite several applications submitted by the petitioner. The PIA in response to the applicant had said no relief could be granted to a person in 2019/2020, who was meeting the eligibility criteria for employment in PIA in 1996 but was not appointed.



The complainant agitated the matter with the president after his request for implementation was closed by the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat on October 8, 2019 for being time-barred.

Pakistan witnesses achievements in ICT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Ministry of IT and Telecommunication Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput Tuesday said due to the effective policies of the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, Pakistan witnessed landmark achievements in the ICT sector during recent years.

Tax collection through mutual understanding vital

Zafar Bakhtawarisaid that the addition of section 203A in income tax act to give arrest power to income tax officer for income tax will not promote the healthy and friendly business culture in Pakistan

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Senator General (ret'd) Abdul Qayyum has said that tax collection from traders should be done not by fear & force but by understanding and getting their support.

community. He further said that every Pakistani citizen who loves the country must pay fair taxes as Pakistan is our identity and we have to strengthen its economy.



ness Group, said that the addition of section 203A in income tax act to give arrest power to income tax officer for income tax as see will not promote the healthy and friendly business culture in Pakistan.

against this law which is not in the best interest of the country and economic future of Pakistan. He further stressed that UBG platform will be used to create a bridge for the federal government and the business community of Pakistan. He stressed the business

community across the country to play their full role in making Pakistan a prosperous, peaceful and secure country for the next generation. The government and the opposition should work together to formulate a common economic package for traders and industrialists for the next ten years, just as it has given a special package for construction to the construction industry He hoped that The new leadership under the patronage of SM Munir and Ifthikhar Ali Malik will become dynamic and active under the leadership of Zubair Tufail. He added that he has been continuing his activities on the mission of serving the traders for forty years and inshallah He has started activities to mobilize and activate the UBG leadership across the country.

Athletics course to conclude today

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The concluding ceremony of the Level One Athletics Coaching Course will be held here at the Pakistan Sports Complex on Wednesday (June 30). President, Pakistan Athletics Federation, Major General (R) Muhammad Akram Sahi would be the chief guest at the concluding ceremony of the championship.

A total of 24 coaches from all over the country were taking part in the course including Sub Ashraf Ali, Naib Sub Muhammad Imran, Asim Ejaz, Shams Ul Haq, Akram Khan, Adnan Akbar, Mehraban Shah, Aamir Shahzad, Masood Mahfooz, Muhammad Alam, Anwar Ali Chandio, Ibrar Hussain, Dowa Mehmood, Zohaib Khan, Sajjad Haider, Shafaqat Ali, Muhammad Anees Ahmed, Asif Mahmood, Sajid Imran Bhatti, Irfan Ali Rana, Muhammad Imran Khan, Shafaqat Ali, Majid Fasih and Tasawar Hussain.

The level two coaches of Pakistan Rafiq Ahmed and Lieutenant Colonel Ghulam Shabbir Anjum were giving lectures to the coaches while Mumtaz ul Haq was serving as the organizing secretary of the course.

698,072 vaccine doses administered in 24 hours

DNA

RAWALPINDI: As many as 698,072 people including 31,174 health workers and 666,898 senior citizens have jabbed themselves so far against the lethal coronavirus (COVID-19) from 23 centres operating across the district since the vaccination drive launched on March 10.

Govt notifies transfer of ED officers

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Tuesday notified the transfer and posting of high ranking officers. According to a notification issued by the Establishment Division, Sajid Mahmood Qazi, a BS-21 officer of Secretariat Group, presently posted as Senior Joint Secretary, Petroleum Division is transferred and directed to report to the Establishment Division, with immediate effect, until further orders.

Briefs

Ecstasy tablets recovered from courier parcel

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force Rawalpindi on Tuesday recovered a parcel of Ecstasy tablets (MDMA) from an international courier company office at Rawalpindi. In a news release the spokesperson of the ANF said the pills, weighting approximately 4.5 Kilograms, were destined to Peshawar from Netherlands. "It is a matter of deep concern that the parcels sent in recent past from Netherlands have contained synthetic drugs on many occasions," he noted. The spokesman said a case had been registered at Police Station ANF Islamabad, while further investigation was underway.

FGEHA to get actual cost from G-13 allottees

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) would charge only the 'actual cost of construction' from the allottees of Kashmir Avenue G-13, after the government decided to pass on relief given to the construction sector under the PM package. The tentative schedule of payment was issued to apartment allottees with the note that "relief in construction sector under Prime Minister Package will be passed on to the allottees accordingly," according to an official document. The concession in the form of cost of land would, however, be Rs 8, 597,707 per flat for A-Type category while Rs8, 622,094 per flat for B-Type category. The ground breaking of 56 kanals of land for housing project in Mauve Area, Sector G-13 Islamabad, was held on April 2019 by Prime Minister Imran Khan aimed at providing housing facilities to the federal government employees. It consists of three towers, each with three basements, ground plus twenty one (G+21) stories and total number of apartments was 1467, out of which 714 are of 1300 square feet and 753 of 1100 square feet. The basements were reserved for car parking facility, while the ground floor is reserved for the amenities. The contractor M/s Kingcrete Builders was mobilized after the signing of contract and submission of due guarantees. Excavation activity for the three basements is near completion and pile load tests are underway. The contractor has given the timeline for completion of foundation of all towers and sub-structure of one tower by the end this year. Thereafter, work would proceed towards superstructure. - APP

Ustad Shafqat to deliver lecture on music

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A leading classical vocalist Ustad Shafqat Salamat Ali Khan would deliver a lecture on classical music at Hunerkada College of Visual and Performing Arts on July 2. Ustad Shafqat Salamat Ali belonged to the famous Sham Chaurasi Gharana, established by the two brothers Chand Khan and Suraj Khan, said a press release issued here. His uncle Ustad Nazakat Ali Khan and father Ustad Salamat Ali Khan, the internationally acclaimed classical singers, from the 10th generation of the Sham Chaurasi Gharana. Shafqat Ali Khan was the recipient of a number of awards, in 1986 in Lahore he received the Amir Khuro Award as the best young classical singer. In 1987, he received the Gold Medal from Faisalabad University, Pakistan. Shafqat has performed throughout Europe with several important concerts in the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Holland, Spain, and Switzerland festival.

NIRM to devise monitoring mechanism for Incinerator: EPA

Director EPA Monitoring of Pak-EPA said the Italian tech based incinerator to replace the older one would need proper maintenance

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) on Tuesday directed the National Institute of Rehabilitation and Medicine to devise a rational monitoring mechanism for the new incinerator to be established at the healthcare facility. Pak-EPA held a public hearing on environmental impact assessment (EIA) for installation and operation of Bio-Medical Waste Incinerator at the National Institute of Rehabilitation and Medicine (NIRM) here at its office. Speaking on the occasion Director EIA Monitoring of Pak-EPA Ahsan Rafi Kiani said the Italian technology based incinerator to replace the older one would need proper maintenance due to its advanced and foreign technology. He advised the NIRM project team keep the matter into its consideration and en-

sure proper measures in this regard. Kiani also lauded the NIRM project team for an elaborate presentation on the project and directed to give due consideration to the expert suggestions presented on its project. He also asked the Project Team to elaborate clearly on wet scrubber operation, bottom ash management, dispersion modeling of gaseous particles. Kiani also directed the quarters concerned to hold inertness test of incinerator bottom ash before executing its dumping into adjacent facility (waste pit) so that no ecological threat was posed to the environment. Commenting on the emissions dispersion model, he said particulate matter of 2.5 mi-



crotons (PM2.5) as baseline parameter should have been taken in the dispersion model. The collection mechanism for hazardous waste was very faulty in the public and private sector hospitals where the latter had many reports of poor hazardous waste disposal, he said, adding, "The matter has been taken up with CDA and the Authority is working on it." He also questioned that as per the international standards show five meters stack height reasonable for emissions control then it was raised 23 meters. The Project Team expert told the forum that the Italian Authority was contacted to increase stack height of the incinerator to ensure save dispersion of gaseous emis-

sions to prevent damage to local population in the proximity of the incinerator, whereas services contract was also done through expert firm to ensure sustainable maintenance of the incinerator. Environmentalist Farhat Shaheen of the project team gave a detailed briefing on the project. She told that the incinerator would replace the previous one installed in 1996 where the funds were managed through the federal government. The new incinerator was, Exce OS 8 Export version developed by Italian company, built on European working parameters with dual fuel options. She informed that the new incinerator would be running on natural gas as its primary fuel and diesel would be the backup fuel in case of supply shortage of gas. "The incinerator plant has a primary combustion chamber (combustion system), post combustion chamber (secondary chamber), stack, flue gas scrubber (emission control) and electrical control panel," she added.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Ministry of IT & Telecommunication, Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput addressing through video link the GSMA roundtable in Barcelona, Spain. - DNA

FDE announces summer vacations

ISLAMABAD: The summer vacations will be observed in all the educational institutions working under the ambit of Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) from July 18 to August 01. This was announced through a notification by FDE which has been circulated among all the heads of the educational institutions. It is pertinent to mention here that the schedule of summer vacation has been changed this year with shortening the vacation period due to the unusual circumstances amid COVID-19 pandemic in the country. - DNA

Cleanliness work of Nullah Lai in full swing: WASA

RAWALPINDI: Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi has accelerated the cleanliness work of Nullah Lai aimed at protecting the areas particularly low-lying from flash flooding. According to WASA spokesman, Umar Farooq, first phase of the project would be completed till June 30. Nullah Lai, Katrian to Rialto Bridge Murree Road, has been cleared and all critical points of the nullah were especially focused under the dredging and de-silting project. He said that the agency had completed all the arrangements for monsoon season. Talking to APP, he said the project would be completed at a cost of Rs30 million. To a question he said that heavy machinery to remain

in the field during monsoon season. Under rain emergency enforcement for the period of June 15 to Sept 15, WASA staff would remain alert on the directives of Managing Director WASA Raja Shoukat Mehmood, he added. The project would be completed before the start of rains, he said adding that the authorities concerned had finalised a plan which included cleaning of sewerage lines, annual cleaning of Nullah Leh as well as inspection of WASA machinery and monitoring possibility of floods. The cleaning of small and big drains and nullahs of the city were being completed by the Municipal Corporation and Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC). - APP

Pakistani students to be trained in field of ICT

KHAYYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Higher Education Commission (HEC) and The Huawei Technologies (Pvt.) Ltd. Pakistan have planned to organize a six day long online training for 30 outstanding Pakistani students in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), scheduled to be held from August 9-16. According to an official of HEC, the applications have been invited from potential Pakistani undergraduate students under the 'Huawei Seeds for the Future Programme 2021'. The selected students will be able to obtain valuable cutting-edge ICT knowledge developed by Hua-

wei's Headquarters and experience a cross-cultural communication virtually, like the last year due to the COVID-19. According to the eligibility criteria, Pakistani/Azad Jammu and Kashmir national and permanent resident of Pakistan/AJK are eligible to apply for this programme. Those majoring in disciplines/subjects such as Information and Communication Technology, Computer Science, Information Technology, Business Informatics, Multimedia and Digital Arts, Software Engineering, Information Systems, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Telecommunication Engineering, Electronics Engineering

etc. can apply for programme, the official said. The students who are currently enrolled in final year of ICT related Undergraduate degrees (four years program only with 7th Semester and 8th Semester) with minimum CGPA of 3.5 out of 4 are eligible to apply. While those Students who have completed their four years Undergraduate ICT related degrees with minimum CGPA of 3.5 out of 4 since summer 2020 can also apply. They must be less than 24 years old on closing date of application, enable to demonstrate excellent academic acumen, speak English fluently and have a strong interest in Information Communication and Technology and related

fields can apply. While those students who have already got this training in previous years are not eligible to apply, the official informed. The students should have personal computer equipment and strong internet connection and be available during online training sessions. The students can apply through HEC online application portal seedsprogramme.hec.gov.pk till the deadline of July 27. It is pertinent to mention here that under the subject program, in the last six years, 87 students were selected from various across Pakistan by HEC and sent by Huawei to China for two weeks training on culture and advance ICT skills.

No annual exams from Class Prep-VII: FDE notifies

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) has notified on Tuesday that there will be no annual examinations for the students from Class Prep to VII and all the students shall be promoted to next respective class. However 04 formative/classroom assessments per subject of every student must be kept in school record duly verified by respective head of institutions. Out of the total four assessments (carrying 100

percent marks), each assessment will comprise of 25 percent marks. This was announced by FDE through a notification issued here titled 'Promotion Policy for Class I to VIII for Academic Session 2020-21'. According to the promotion policy announced for Class VIII, the in house examinations shall be conducted by respective head of institution as per centralized date sheet. Minimum pass percentage achieved in each subject shall be 35 percent for this academic year only. The policy stated that the

percentage marks of each subject shall be entered in institutional examination record and no students shall be retained in previous class whatsoever the result may be. Students obtained overall 55 percent aggregates in Class VIII examinations shall have unrestricted choice to opt for either Science group or Humanities. According to the schedule of results 2021-22 (new Academic Session) issued by the FDE, the result of Class VIII should be declared on July 30 or 31, 2021. Summer vacations

for students only will be from July 18 to August 01 while commencement of new academic session will be from August 02, 2021. FDE has further directed the heads of institutions to ensure provision of school leaving certificate to the desiring students (Pre I-VII) with status of promoted to next classes respectively. All Area Education Officers are advised by FDE to ensure implementation of these instructions in all Islamabad Model Schools/Colleges of their respective sectors in true letter and spirit.

Scholarships worth 6.53bn approved for EUSP

ISLAMABAD: A total of 67,000 scholarships worth 6.53 billion have been approved for the academic year Fiscal Year 2020-21 under EUSP (Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarship Programme) to benefit the deserving students. According to an official source, Ehsaas undergraduate scholarships were granted by the Prime Minister, Imran Khan to the first batch of deserving students on March 2, 2020. Last year, 50,762 scholarships worth Rs 4.8 billion were granted to bright students. The four-year Ehsaas undergraduate scholarship programme worth Rs 24 billion is the largest ever need based scholarship programme in the history of the country, aiming at providing higher education opportunities for 200,000 students (50 percent girls) coming from underprivileged backgrounds. The scholarship offers full-tuition fee and a living stipend (Rs 4,000 per month) for bright yet disadvantaged students to earn an undergraduate degree at any of the 125 public sector universities across Pakistan (including Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir) recognized by the Higher Education Commission (HEC). - DNA

Film prod. classes starts from August 2

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) second semester course on film production online classes would be started from August 2. Director General PNCA Dr. Fouzia Saeed told APP that the registration process was completed for the second semester. She said that national and international faculty would train and educate students on film production in this program. Dr. Fouzia said that Arts Council was making efforts to create an environment for the youngster to groom their artistic skills in various arts forms. She said the curriculum is a mix of intellectual understanding, skill-based learning and on-the-ground experience of working in a professional environment. DG PNCA said the second programme was focused on film production with a full understanding of film making. She said that PNCA was also planning to organize a grand graduation ceremony for the first semester graduates of 'online one-year film production program'. PNCA Film section has started an "online one-year film production program" in the previous quarter. - APP

IRSA releases 254,600 cusecs water

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Tuesday released 254,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 223,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1432.42 feet, which was 48.42 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 110,400 and 131,700 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1153.70 feet, which was 115.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 39,400 and 49,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 180,800, 153,700 and 36,800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 42,000 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 5,000 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala.

Senate body asks NAB to probe Ghouri Town case

ISLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee on Interior Tuesday asked the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to probe Ghouri Town case to address grievances of the locals. A public petition against the management of Ghouri Town, Ghouri Greens was referred by Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani to the committee. The committee that met here with Mohsin Aziz also summoned the Capital Development Authority (CDA) chairman in the next meeting to discuss the issue in detail. The CDA officials apprised the meeting that Ghouri Town was an illegal housing scheme as it was launched without obtaining No-Objection Certificate from the authority. The interior secretary asked the CDA officials to look into rules that how such cases could be regularized to provide relief to the residents. Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Hamza Shafqat apprised the committee members that the scheme was owned by four or five people, adding that one of them was died while rest of them flee from the country. He said the civil administration had registered some 24 first information reports against the scheme owners for fraudulent selling plots to the common men. - APP

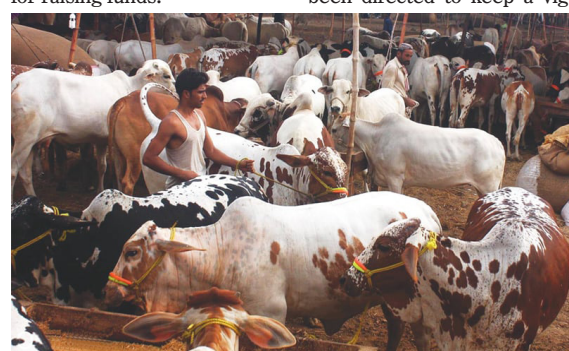
DC announces deadline for collecting hides

SHUJAAT HAMZA

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner Office Rawalpindi on Tuesday announced that the applications for collecting hides of sacrificial animals would be received till July 10 and after the deadline, no application would be entertained. According to a DC office spokesman, the administration would not allow anyone to collect hides without prior permission of the authorities concerned as the Punjab government has imposed a ban on collection of hides without No Objection Certificate (NOC) on Eid ul Azha. The charity organizations intending to collect the hides of the sacrificial animals are directed to submit applications to the office of Deputy

Commissioner Rawalpindi for permission letter by July 10. The Home Department of Punjab Government has banned the collection of the hides without the approval of the competent authority. The DC office Rawalpindi will not receive any application for the permission letter after the expiry of the above mentioned date. Any organization or person who will collect hides of the sacrificial animals without prior approval will be treated as offence and strict action would be taken against them as per law. At least 85 proscribed organisations and banned outfits are on the radar of the Punjab Home Department for hide collection ban. Some 11 sub-organizations have also been included in the proscribed list.

The home department has sent letters to all district commissioners, including Rawalpindi's to strictly stop members of these banned outfits from collecting hides for raising funds.



The banned outfits will not be allowed to collect hides of sacrificial animals on Eid-ul-Azha. The collection activity by an individual or organisations would be subject to

permission from the deputy commissioner. Punjab Home Department has directed the law enforcement agencies to remain alert during Eid ul Azha. The authorities have been directed to keep a vig-

ilant eye on the outfits that were either banned or put under surveillance. Every year, Muslims around the world sacrifice animals on Eid-ul-Azha and in a spirit of charity, donate the pelts of the sacrificial animals to various organisations collecting them. Several religious seminaries and charity organisations try to collect maximum number of hides since it is a lucrative business. The hides are sold to tanneries that willingly take them, process them into fine leather, and sell them on to factories producing leather products. They have a great demand in the fashion industry, domestic and international markets. The hide collection is a cash-generating activity worth billions of rupees. The skins collected at sale points end up in tanning factories which feed the local and foreign leather industry. The activists of political and religious parties, including banned organisations, do whatever it takes to ensure

they fetch the maximum number of skins to earn the profit. Besides religious seminaries, human rights and social welfare organisations, several militant organisations which are banned or under surveillance, attempt to gather the hides to finance their illegal activities. The organisations, which have been banned by the government, endeavor to collect pelts for their coffers and pursue their illegal activities. Notably, in big cities, various banned outfits have changed their names and set up charities to continue the accumulation of hides by putting up banners and posters. However, the people should remain vigilant and only give them to the poor, needy orphans, widows, other deserving persons, and registered seminaries.

Tax reforms

THE IMF has been encouraging Pakistan – as it does in other developing countries too – to broaden its tax base. To some extent, the demand makes sense as no country can develop unless it has a steady stream of tax revenue to bolster its development plans. A closer look presents a different picture in the context of countries such as Pakistan. Development and growth to a great extent depend on tax collection; the potential to pay taxes in an economy is hampered by multifarious factors that any government must take into account before embarking on a tax reform spree. The most critical point is to keep in mind the interest of the common people who ultimately end up bearing the brunt of more taxes.. Advanced countries can afford to extract more taxes, as the standard of living in those countries is much higher compared to low-income countries. Any tax reforms that are likely to adversely affect the common people of Pakistan should be shunned. The key is to strike a balance between earnings and expenses, and that should not be done at the cost of financing social services in the country. Most citizens of Pakistan are already under tremendous stress just to meet their basic necessities and afford utility bills. The tax-to-GDP ratio was over 11 percent in FY 2017-18. Tax reforms in other regional countries such as Bangladesh and India have tried to expand the narrow tax base not by burdening the poor but by extending the catchment area of the affluent. In Pakistan too, some reforms are in order which should focus on ensuring tax compliance by the rich and new policies on the tax administration structure. The areas that need attention and capture are agriculture and capital gains. The government, however, has conveniently favoured the real-estate sector which does not contribute to our exports, nor does it earn any foreign exchange for the country. Talking about tax reforms and then providing tax exemptions to property tycoons is tantamount to making a mockery of reforms. The real-estate sector has been resisting actual market-based valuations and tax reforms must tackle this issue first, rather than burdening the salaried class with more withholding taxes.

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Fourth wave

DESPITE the number of confirmed cases and the national positivity ratio going down, officials are already cautioning about a fourth wave hitting the country in July if Covid-19 SOPs are not adhered to. According to the government, AI-based disease modelling analysis reveals that the fourth wave could be a reality and that it is imperative that everyone gets vaccinated and takes necessary precautions. Thankfully Pakistan has seen the worst of the third wave, however, because of the high transmissibility of the Delta variant, poor SOP enforcement and limited vaccine coverage, the situation could worsen once again. Complacency appears to have set in across the country when it comes to following simple procedures such as wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. The SAPM on Health Dr Faisal Sultan also echoed this sentiment as he recently stated that SOPs are not being followed in letter and spirit, and that the compliance rate had come down to 46 percent which was at 75-80 percent a few weeks ago. These warnings by government officials are concerning and they need to be taken seriously by citizens. There seems to be this growing perception that vaccinated individuals are somehow immune to the virus which needs to be addressed. In fact, a recent study has revealed that Chinese Covid-19 vaccines are less effective against the Delta variant compared with other strains. It is crucial for the government to communicate clearly that there is no vaccine that provides 100 percent protection from the virus. It is encouraging to see that the government has recently procured two million doses of the Sinovac vaccine which will considerably enhance the daily average administration of doses across the country. However, considering the threat posed by the Delta variant, the authorities should be proactive and must consider placing orders for booster Covid-19 jabs—especially in light of the efficacy concerns regarding the Chinese vaccines. Drawing lessons from how the new variant has wrecked chaos across the border, Pakistan must act now if it is to avoid a similar fate.

CPC: An instrument of economic transformation

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassn Khan



The 13th CPC National Congress of 1987 institutionalized a three step development strategy that envisaged doubling the gross national product (GNP) between 1981 and 1990, doubling its GNP again by the end of the 20th century and per capita GNP reaching moderately developed country levels by the middle of this century

CHINA will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on July 1. It has been great journey from poverty to prosperity, degradation to development, slums to shining China, disunity to unity, political instability to immense stability and last but not least, foreign possession to complete independence. It has been an economic miracle which actually changed the lives of millions of people. It has been inspirational global story of the century and event of the world. Since its beginning, the CPC has been facing numerous difficulties but utmost die hard spirits of its workers, supports and sympathizers acted as agent of real change due to which Chinese agrarian economy has now been turned into technological powerhouse.

The five-year planning has been the major driving policy/factor of the CPC that boosted the Chinese economy to the No. 2 in the world. It has been following a holistic, macroscopic, forward looking, anticipatory and binding approach to achieve the desired goals of socio-economic prosperity. There have been 14 five-year plans (FYP) which institutionalized structural reforms in economic and social spheres. It envisioned labour incentivized mechanism, economic stabilization, industrialization, digitalization, innovations, de-carbonization and last but not least, artificial intelligence doctrines in China which has now revolutionized its macro-economy, civility, and governance. China has its own unique model of economic development which is totally different from the West's laissez-faire capitalism or its so-called marketization. China maintains more compelling institutional prowess than the West which has comparative advantage in terms of implementation, utility and allocations. Economic development has been revolving around the CPC central people & business friendly policies which integrate short-term plans into medium and long-term ones. Initially China tried to replicate the Soviet Union's five-year planning system but soon CPC realized the limitations of the Soviet model and then decided to independently follow a socialist road map suited to China's national conditions, which, enforced with laser focus and effective execution, led to one milestone after another during the last one century. The 13th CPC National Congress of 1987 institutionalized a three step development strategy that envisaged doubling the gross national product (GNP) between 1981 and 1990, doubling its GNP again by the end of the 20th century and per capita GNP reaching moderately developed country levels by the middle of this century. The Third Plenary Session of the 14th CPC Central Committee established a socialist market economic system. With the guidance of the Ninth FYP (1996-2000), China started the transition from a planned economy to a socialist market economy in 2000, a prelude to its accession to the WTO in December 2001. Today, China's FYPs have become a global document which provides firsthand information about China's economic policies and development goals. Year 2021 its global attention is set to pave the way for the second centenary goal to be attained building a modern socialist power by 2049 when the PRC turns 100. Immaculate Conception of the CPC, China's economy has been steady, stable and sustainable. Its macro-economy outperformed all the regional as well as international economies even in the decade of the catastrophe and successfully pursued extensive and high-speed growth over a certain period of time. Right from the beginning the CPC has been showing strategic flexibility and timely maneuverability to seek truth from facts a phrase that epitomizes its overall functionality. The CPC Central Committee urged maximum efforts to correct all deviations during 1960-61 decided on the implementation of an economic adjustment. It successfully achieved all its targets at the end of 1965

and started its third FYP the Cultural Revolution began, putting China in "10 years of catastrophe" until 1976. Interestingly, the CPC has a strong mechanism of self-correction and accountability which developed within the democratic system of the party. It further enhanced its national economy's resilience that has mitigated various challenges and crises, such as the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis, the 2008 global financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, into hiccups which only result in increased economic modernization. During all these years the CPC was able to seek truth from facts and be flexible, as well as to be free from prejudice and ideological bias, encouraging local exploration and innovation. Eventually, it rationalized strategic equation between high GDP and the environment and economic imbalance. Afterwards most of the counties cancelled the GDP assessment and implemented the evaluation method of giving priority to agriculture and ecological protection. The milestone Third Plenum of the 11th CPC Central Committee in December 1978 has been widely known as a starting point for the economy's 40 years of reform and opening-up, ushering in a transition from a class struggle-themed party platform to a focus on economic building. One of the most valuable contributions of the CPC is to change state policy towards the state-owned enterprises (SOEs) which finally introduced series of liberalization policies which ultimately boosted its macro-economy. Critical analysis of the statistical data reveals that by 1987, 80 percent of the country's state-owned enterprises (SOEs) adopted various forms of the contracted managerial responsibility system. Some enterprises even began to undertake shareholding system reforms. Despite tremendous success over the past several decades, difficulties and hurdles never ceased to test China's commitment to the reform and opening-up policies today. From 1989 to 2001, though the number of SOEs dropped to 46,800 from 102,300, their total industrial added value increased to 1.47 trillion yuan from 389.5 billion yuan, surging 11.67 percent annually. Moreover, by 1964, the self-sufficiency rate of China's main machinery and equipment had reached over 90 percent. With construction of the Daqing oilfield completed and Shengli and Dagang oilfields under development, China achieved total self-sufficiency in oil by 1965 in which holistic policies of the CPC played a decisive role. Since then, self-sufficiency has been replicated in many areas, including technological innovation, has never stopped and has helped lift China to a world-leading global technological power in many areas from 5G to high speed rails, from new-energy vehicles to space exploration technologies and from outer space to Mars mission. The CPC's focus on self-sufficiency and innovation-driven strategy was particularly notable in the country's efforts to mitigate an increasingly hostile external environment marked by a relentless attempt by the US to contain China's rise. Even before the US' crackdown campaign, the focus on self-dependence and technological innovation was highlighted as the CPC convened its 19th National Congress

in October 2017, where a new era of China's socialism was declared. The Party's 18th National Congress also introduced an innovation-driven development strategy. Afterwards, in a series of meetings and top policy documents, the CPC has constantly stepped up efforts to pursue efficiency in a wide range of areas, from semiconductors to crop seeds. It hopes that with the CPC's firm leadership and its proven successful economic policymaking, China is better positioned than ever to reach its bold development goal of becoming a modern socialist power in the coming decades, analysts said. On political fronts, the CPC has maintained regular contacts with more than 560 political parties and political organizations from over 160 countries and regions around the world. Moreover, it has very trustworthy relations with all the political parties of Pakistan too. It developed from an organization of just over 50 members to the world's biggest political party with more than 91 million members during the past 100 years. CPC economic reforms have led China to experience the biggest and longest-run economic boom in human history. In 1980, China's annual GDP stood at a mere \$191bn, or \$195 per capita, making it one of the poorest countries in the world. Nearly 40 years later, its GDP has increased 75 times to \$14.3tn, or \$10,261 per capita, in 2019. CPC economic dominance has been driving force for the Chinese people due to which it surpassed the German economy in 2005 and then surpassed the Japanese economy in 2010. It is predicted the Chinese economy is set to surpass the American economy in 2025. China has emerged as the second-largest economy in the world. In this context, only six years, from 1978-1984, agriculture reforms have up-lifted around 500 million people from poverty. A country hard hit with food shortages became almost self-sufficient and even started to export some of its agriculture produce. It was a mega achievement of CPC. CPC leadership introduced reforms in other sectors gradually like industry, trade, business, education and social sector. CPC kept on learning new skills and ideologies to suit the emerging trends throughout the 100 years. Being prominent regional expert of China, BRI and CPEC I estimate that if economic trends continue an expanding high-tech military, including the world's largest navy; sophisticated modern cities with a vast, entrepreneurial middle class; and modern universities and genuine research centers transforming for leadership in the key technologies of the century ahead which has consolidated China's future in the next century. Its ongoing global vaccine diplomacy and launching of projects of the century One Belt One Road Initiative (BRI), flagship China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and last but not least, extended BRI Health Partnership would further consolidate China's regional as well as global economic dominance in the days to come. To conclude, CPC stands for China's collective wisdom, input of visionary leadership, honesty of policy makers, people's pure inspirations, dreams and aims to live a qualitative live in the future.

There is no reason why Israel is not sanctioned

Yara Hawari



In Ireland, the issue of sanctions against Israel was also brought up in an amendment to a motion condemning the "de facto annexation" of Palestinian land

LAST month a parliamentary petition was launched in the United Kingdom, calling for sanctions against the Israeli regime, blocking all trade, especially the export of arms. The petition received more than 386,000 signatures, forcing the UK parliament to debate the topic. The response from the British Government was clear: it stated it firmly opposed sanctions and boycotts against Israel, citing their "close relationship". In Ireland, the issue of sanctions against Israel was also brought up in an amendment to a motion condemning the "de facto annexation" of Palestinian land. While the amendment did not pass, the topic of sanctions was brought front and centre. The momentum for both the petition and the amendment came from the sharp public reaction against the intensified violence the Israeli regime has been inflicting on Palestinians over the last few months, including the most recent Israeli regime bombardment of Gaza in which more than 256 Palestinians were killed including 66 children. Yet, the call for sanctioning Israel has long been a focal point of the Palestinian struggle. Indeed, it is a core pillar of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement – launched in 2005 which calls on people to pressure governments into fulfilling their obligations under international law to end Israeli apartheid by imposing sanctions. These can include banning business with illegal Israeli settlements, ending free-trade agreements, curbing military trade, and suspending Israel's membership in international forums such as United Nations agencies, sports

federations, international cultural organisations, and others. International sanctions were mandated in the League of Nations more than a century ago as a way to deter aggression and war. Since then, they have been enshrined under the international legal regime as an appropriate and effective way for third countries to punish those who violate international law. For example, sanctions including an arms embargo were used against South Africa's apartheid regime to help end its racist rule over the country. More recently, in 2014, the European Union adopted sanctions against Russia following its illegal annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. But sanctions have also been used as a form of collective punishment. For example, the United States imposed an embargo on all trade with Cuba in 1962, three years after the Cuban Revolution deposed a pro-US government. It has had a devastating effect on the Cuban economy and people as a whole. Although sanctions continue to be misused, many still consider them a legitimate tool to counter violations of international law. As Josep Borrell, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, recently told the UN Security Council: "[Sanctions] are a key instrument at our disposal to counter breaches of international law, proliferation of weapons, staunch the flow of arms into war zones ... to combat human rights abuses and target those individuals who seek to undermine peace processes ... They are designed to bring about change in policy or activity." By Borrell's logic, there is no reason why sanctions

should not be imposed on the Israeli regime to hold it accountable for its many violations of international law. Yet the Israeli regime, which has been described as an apartheid one by human rights organisations and is currently under investigation by the International Criminal Court for committing war crimes against the Palestinian people, has faced no such sanctions. Indeed, it is rather remarkable that even though all Israeli governments to date have been violating Palestinian rights, Western countries which are otherwise quick to sanction those who breach international legal norms have not done so with Israel. Not only that, but the Israeli regime continues to enjoy full diplomatic and trade relations with most of the international community. Israel continues to be part of media bodies like Eurovision and EU research projects such as Horizon 2020. It also enjoys lucrative arms deals and financial support. The US, Israel's most generous supporter, has provided it with some \$146bn in military and financial assistance to date. European countries have also supported Israel's military, supplying some 777m (\$927m) worth of arms to it between 2013 and 2017. Clearly, the Israeli regime is not the pariah state it should be. Even the mere suggestion of sanctioning the Israeli regime evokes cries of exceptionalism and bias towards it. Yet sanctions, as outlined in international law, are a legitimate response to Israel's continuous acts undermining international law. The failure to use them against the Israeli regime makes a mockery of the international legal order and human rights.

—Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Briefs

FS lauds services of Ambassador Alizada

FROM PAGE 01
Sohail Mahmood lauded the contribution of Ambassador Alizada in deepening the Pak-Azerbaijan relations. He also thanked for the support of Azerbaijan for the Kashmir cause. Ambassador of Azerbaijan is leaving Pakistan after completing his five year term as ambassador. He is paying farewell calls on Pakistani leaders. During his tenure, the ambassador contributed a lot towards promotion and further strengthening of bilateral relations. Earlier this week, CEO and Founder of Monal Group Luqman Ali Afzal and his wife hosted a farewell lunch for the outgoing Ambassador of Azerbaijan Ali Alizada. A large number of ambassadors and high commissioners attended the farewell lunch.

Six dead, several missing in ferry accident

DENPASAR, INDONESIA: At least six people died and several more are missing after a passenger ferry sank off the coast of Bali, Indonesian authorities said Tuesday, in the latest maritime accident to hit the archipelago. The KMP Yunicee had 53 passengers and crew aboard on a trip from East Java to the holiday island when the accident happened as the ferry tried to dock, authorities said. Some 44 people were rescued as the vessel sank while another six died in the accident, with three more missing, they said. The cause of the accident was not immediately clear. "At the moment we are focusing on rescue and evacuation - that's our main priority," transport ministry spokesman Adita Irawati told broadcaster Metro TV. - APP

Storms hit Ethiopian refugee shelters

GENEVA: More than 16,000 Ethiopian refugees living in camps in eastern Sudan have had their shelters damaged by storms, the United Nations said Tuesday. Several weeks of strong winds, heavy rains, and hailstorms have razed tents, swept away belongings and destroyed infrastructure in the settlements of Um Raquba and Tunaydab, said UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. The storms began in late May, and are expected to intensify further during the rainy season, which runs from June to October, UNHCR spokesman Boris Cheshirkov told reporters Geneva. The agency is in a race against time to repair and reinforce the shelters, and ensure that affected families have access to clean water and functioning latrines. "Nearly 4,000 out of 10,000 individual family tents have been damaged," Cheshirkov said. "We are replacing blankets and sleeping mats and replenishing food supplies. Distributions of 2,500 emergency shelter kits - ropes, wooden poles, and bamboo sticks - are under way to help those most impacted to reinforce their tents." - APP

Dutch coach quits after Euro 2020 exit

THE HAGUE: Dutch coach Frank de Boer stepped down on Tuesday after the Netherlands' dismal Euro 2020 last-16 elimination by the Czech Republic. De Boer's decision comes as speculation mounted over his future as manager of the Oranje following the team's 2-0 loss in Budapest on Sunday evening. "I have decided not to continue as national coach. The target has not been achieved, that is clear," De Boer, 51, said in a statement released by the Dutch football federation KNVB. De Boer said when he was appointed in 2020 it was an "honour" but he was also "aware of the pressure that would come upon me from the moment I was appointed". "That pressure is only increasing now, and that is not a healthy situation for me, nor for the squad in the run-up to such an important game for Dutch football on its way to World Cup qualification." - APP

Euro 2020: Switzerland stuns world champion France

France coach Didier Deschamps controversially switched to a 3-4-1-2 formation designed to extract the best from his attacking trio of Benzema, Mbappe and Griezmann

SPORTS DESK

BUCHAREST: Switzerland defeated world champion France 5-4 on penalties in the last 16 of Euro 2020 on Monday as Kylian Mbappe missed the decisive spot kick in the shootout following a thrilling 3-3 draw in Bucharest. Mario Gavranovic equalised in the 90th minute as Switzerland came from two goals down before Yann Sommer saved from Mbappe in the shootout to book Switzerland a quarter-final clash against Spain. Haris Seferovic had given Vladimir Petkovic's Switzerland a shock lead on 15 minutes but Ricardo Rodriguez's penalty was brilliantly saved by Hugo Lloris early in the second half. Karim Benzema, recalled to the France squad for the tournament after a five-and-a-half-year international exile, then struck a quick-fire double to put the Euro 2016 finalists back on track. Paul Pogba's sensational curling effort made it 3-1, but Switzerland forced extra time as Seferovic grabbed his second of the game before Gavranovic levelled in the final minute. Switzerland converted



all five of its penalties before Sommer dived to his right to turn away Mbappe's kick, as the Swiss won a major tournament knockout tie for the first time in 83 years. France coach Didier Deschamps controversially switched to a 3-4-1-2 formation designed to extract the best from his attacking trio of Benzema, Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann, but it was instead Seferovic who gave the Swiss a surprise lead. Steven Zuber used the space afforded by Rodriguez's overlapping run, clipping in a left-wing cross that Seferovic headed past Lloris after rising all too easily above Clement Lenglet. After a dismal first half, in which France failed to test Sommer, Deschamps ditched the experiment

of three at the back, hauling off Lenglet and introducing Kingsley Coman while reverting to a more familiar 4-4-2. But France was indebted to Lloris from sparing the team from further trouble after a lung-busting run from Zuber eventually resulted in a penalty for the Swiss when he was brought down by Benjamin Pavard. Argentine referee Fernando Rapallini immediately pointed to the spot following a VAR review, but Lloris flung himself to his right to claw away Rodriguez's attempt - the seventh missed penalty of 15 taken at the tournament. The momentum soon swung sharply in France's favour as Benzema, scorer of both goals in the 2-2 draw with Portugal in the group phase, superbly dragged a pass from Mbappe into his stride, lifting over Sommer to level. The Real Madrid striker headed France in front two minutes later when Griezmann's dinked effort was turned away by Sommer but only to a waiting Benzema who headed in from point-blank range. Pogba's magnificent 25-yard strike had France on the cusp of the last eight, but Seferovic powered in a terrific delivery from substitute Kevin Mbabu with nine minutes left to give the Swiss hope. Gavranovic then had a goal ruled out for offside, but there was no doubting his last-minute equaliser as he skipped past Presnel Kimpembe and drove low beyond Lloris. Remarkably, Coman nearly won the game with the final kick, rattling the crossbar right at the end of injury time.

UN chief urges India to end...

FROM PAGE 01
"There is no place for children in conflict, and we must not allow conflict to trample on the rights of children", he said. It revealed that last year, grave violations were committed against some 19,300 youngsters affected by fighting in also countries such as Afghanistan, Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Recruitment and use in hostilities remained the top violations, followed by killing and maiming, and denial of humanitarian access. In a speech submitted to the 15-member council, Pakistan's Acting Permanent Representative, Ambassador Aamir Khan, drew the Council's attention to the Secretary-General's latest report expressing "grave concern" over the situation of Kashmiri children. "We are not surprised by the findings of the Secretary-General's report," Ambassador Aamir Khan said. He said the secretary-general had rightly urged the Indian Government to "immediately end" such practices and take "preventive measures" to protect children, including by "ending the use of pellets against children" in IOJK. "Despite the persistent concerns raised by multiple Special Rapporteurs and Mandate Holders of the Human Rights Council and the SRSG on Children and Armed Conflict, the human rights and humanitarian situations continues to deteriorate for the innocent children of IOJK since 05 August 2019," he said. During the year 2020, he said, the international community continued to witness some of the worst atrocities and state terrorism taking place in IOJK: More than 300 innocent Kashmiris, including women and children, were killed in "fake encounters" and staged "cordon-and-search" operations.

Novak Djokovic, Murray through, Tsitsipas out at Wimbledon

AGENCIES

LONDON: Reigning champion Novak Djokovic and Britain's Andy Murray both passed their opening tests at Wimbledon, while men's singles third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas was ousted by American Frances Tiafoe in straight sets. After two years of waiting, as the prestigious Grand Slam was canceled last year due to the pandemic, the roofed center court welcomed the opening match between world No.1 Djokovic and wild card Jack Draper on the first competition day of the main draw. 19-year-old Draper was bold enough to break in the third game and took the first set 6-4. But the 34-year-old Serbian with 19 Grand Slam titles was too strong for the local rookie. Djokovic came back on track to win the fol-

lowing three sets 6-1, 6-2, 6-2, setting up a second-round match against Kevin Anderson from South Africa. "I think I probably had one of the best serving performances that I can recall on any surface," said Djokovic who hit 25 aces during the match.

"I could not be more pleased with the rhythm of my serve. On grass, the quickest surface in our sport, it helps a lot getting a lot of free points on that first serve." Murray, 34, made a sensational comeback by beating 24th seed Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-4, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3. Having struggled with injuries in the past few years, the former world No. 1 and three-time grand slam winner needed a wild card to play his first singles match at Wimbledon since 2017. After Murray took the first two sets and led in 5-0 in the third set, his Georgian rival then took the following seven games. But Murray didn't allow victo-

ry to slip away as he nailed it in the fourth set after three hours and 32 minutes. "It's amazing to be back playing out here on center court again. It's something I've really missed," said Murray. "I was obviously so disappointed to have lost the third set and had to remember what I was doing that got me in a winning position."

Tsitsipas became the highest ranked men's singles player that suffered a first-round exit on Monday as the Greek lost to Tiafoe 6-4, 6-4, 6-3. The 22-year-old world No. 4 reached the final at this year's French Open, but didn't play any matches on grass courts before Wimbledon. In the women's singles, two-time champion Petra Kvitova was stunned by 2017 U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens 6-3, 6-4. Second seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus cruised into the second round after defeating Romanian Monica Niculescu 6-1, 6-4.



Record heat blasts W. Canada

AGENCIES

VICTORIA: British Columbia closed schools, issued flood warnings from glacier melts, and urged people to stay indoors because of extreme heat that pushed temperatures in the western Canadian province to a national record. Social media posts with tips on staying cool without air conditioners went viral on Monday in a province where less than 40 percent of homes have air conditioning. Lytton, a town in central British Columbia roughly 200km (124 miles) north of Vancouver, reported a temperature of 46.6°C (115.88°F) on Sunday.

NA approves budget with majority...

FROM PAGE 01
The motion to introduce the Finance Bill by a majority vote. There were 172 votes in favour of the Finance Bill while 138 votes were against it. Following the approval of the motion in the House, the process of getting a clause-wise approval of the Finance Bill 2021 began. Among the House's business for Tuesday was also the amendment of certain clauses within the bill. One of the amendments in the bill pertains to an added clause, under which MNAs will now be provided vouchers instead of air tickets. This amendment was met with no objection by the Opposition.

Azeri Culture Ministry, Netflix eye cooperation

BAKU: The Azerbaijan Culture Ministry has started a partnership with the world's leading streaming entertainment service Netflix. The streaming service has over 195 million paid memberships in more than 190 countries enjoying TV series, documentaries and feature films across a wide variety of genres and languages. The statement came from the Culture Ministry at the presentation of the Azerbaijan Filming Commission, Azertag reported. "We have already started cooperation with the Netflix platform. We believe that this cooperation will fully demonstrate the film potential of Azerbaijan to the world," he said. Speaking at the event, the Culture Minister Anar Karimov said that the State Filming Commission focuses on promotion of Azerbaijan's film industry at international level. He pointed out that Azerbaijan can turn into a renewed film location for foreign filmmakers thanks to the country's historical and cultural monuments and beautiful landscapes. The filming process in Azerbaijan may also contribute to the country's economy and tourism industry. Director General of Lenfilm Film Studio Fyodor Sherbakov said that the establishment of the Filming Commission in Azerbaijan is a significant event not only for Azerbaijan, but also for Russia. "We are closely following the progress. The Filming Commission is active across Russia as well as in the central building of St. Petersburg, the Lenfilm film studio. The establishment of the Azerbaijan Filming Commission is a very important step for integration into the world film industry. The Filming Commission will lead to great changes in the film industry. The changes will primarily affect the structural sphere, which will turn Azerbaijan into a beautiful filming site..." he said. Turkish Deputy Culture and Tourism Minister Ahmet Misbah Demircan stressed that cinematography is one of the essential spheres. He said that a film in itself links books, music and theater. Development of cinematography not only plays a major role in discovering humans and cultural heritage but also helps to promote the culture in the world. "Two years ago, we started to make changes in the film industry in Turkey to promote our country. We supported local companies and invited foreign film companies to Turkey to show our culture by presenting Turkish images to the world community," he said. - DNA

Copa America: Messi leads Argentina to 4-1 of Bolivia

SPORTS DESK

CUIABÁ: Lionel Messi scored twice and provided an assist as Argentina secured top spot in their Copa America Ecuador in a 4-1 rout of Bolivia. Alejandro Gomez was also on target for the second successive match before Erwin Saavedra pulled a goal back for La Verde early in the second half. Lautaro Martinez put the result be-

yond doubt by coming off the bench to score his first goal of the tournament. The result extended the Albiceleste's unbeaten run to 17 matches and they will now turn their attention to next Saturday's quarterfinal clash against Ecuador in Goiania. Bolivia exit the tournament having lost each for their four group matches. "We have been growing as the tournament has progressed," Martinez said after the match. "We know our next

opponents very well. It's going to be a tough match but we're going to prepare as well as we possibly can to give the best account of ourselves." Argentina took the initiative from the outset in unusually cold weather in Cuiaba, a city in Brazil's tropical Pantanal wetland region. Gomez struck in the sixth minute with a left-footed volley after Messi turned nimbly and lifted a perfectly weighted pass into the Sevilla forward's path.



CUIABÁ: Argentina's star player Lionel Messi celebrating after scoring goal against Bolivia in a Copa America match. - DNA

Pak, Japan reiterate resolve...

FROM PAGE 01
as the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan represented respective sides. Officials of the two countries from related Ministries and agencies also attended the dialogue. In this dialogue, Japan and Pakistan exchanged opinions on the diplomatic and security policies of both countries, counter-terrorism measures, and the current regional security developments. Moreover, both sides confirmed that they would continue to deepen understanding and cooperation in the fields of security and defense between the two countries. MATSUDA Kuninori, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, recognizes Pakistan as an important country for the peace and stability in this region, therefore he highly values security dialogues between Japan and Pakistan. He also emphasized that Japan and Pakistan would continue to work together for strengthening cordial relationship between the two countries, through bilateral dialogues at various levels.

Pak has so far received 21.13 mn...

FROM PAGE 01
Special Assistant to Prime Minister for health Dr Faisal Sultan and Chairman National Disaster Management Authority Lieutenant General Akhtar Nawaz Satti also attended the session.

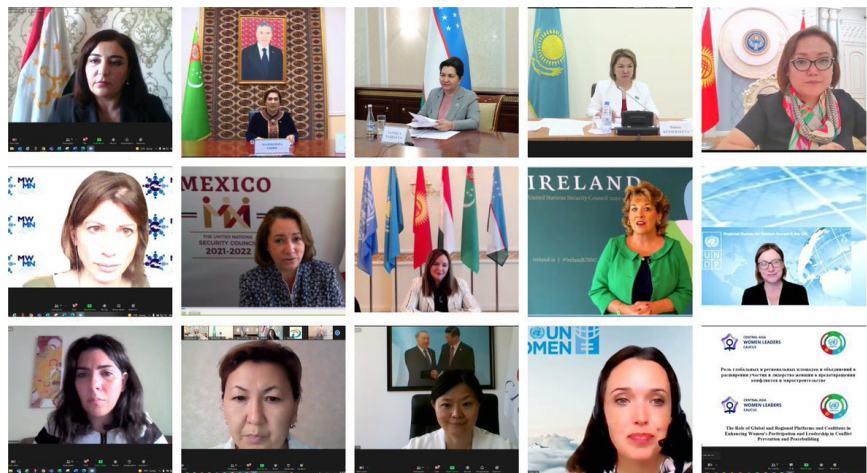
Enhancing Women's Leadership in Peacebuilding

The event has been organised jointly by the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, UNDP in Uzbekistan, and the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA)

DNA

TASHKENT: The Central Asia Women Leaders Caucus hosted the online roundtable discussion entitled "The Role of Global and Regional Platforms and Coalitions in Enhancing Women's Participation and Leadership in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding". The event has been organised jointly by the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, UNDP in Uzbekistan, and the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA). In addition to members of the Caucus - Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan Tanzila Narbaeva, Chairperson of Mejlis of the Milli Gengesh of Turkmenistan Gulshat Mammedova, Deputy Chairperson of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Balaim Kesebaeva, Deputy Toraga of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic Aida Kasymalieva, Deputy Chair-

person of the Committee on Women and Family Affairs under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan Nigora Gavharzoda, the event was also attended by Permanent Representatives of the Republic of Ireland and Mexico to the UN, representatives of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS, UN Women, the secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), the sec-



retariat of the Global Alliance of Women Mediators, and parliaments and civil society institutions of Central Asian countries. The contributors to the panel discussion discussed the role of global and regional platforms and coalitions of women leaders, international experience in expanding the participation and leadership of women in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It also served to deliberate on the prospects for enhancing the Caucus's membership and engagement in global initiatives and coalitions, such as the Women, Peace & Security and Humanitarian Action (WPSHA) Compact, and the Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediators Networks involved in peace processes. More than twenty years have elapsed since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. The international community has recognized that women's participation and influence is crucial for building inclusive societies, preventing and resolving conflicts, and sustaining peace.

Briefs

Uzbekistan to increase copper production

DNA

TASHKENT: President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev chaired a meeting on further developing copper production and the creation of an industrial cluster. Over the past 5 years, the volume of copper production in the country has increased almost 1.5 times and in 2020 reached 148,000 tonnes. But the work on producing high value-added products is not enough. About 60% of copper is exported as raw materials. According to international experts, global copper demand is expected to grow by 40% by 2030, driven by increased production of electric vehicles, electrical engineering and the development of renewable energy sources. Revenues from copper sales now account for US\$2.5 billion. With an increase in copper production to 400 thousand tonnes in the next 5 years, this figure, taking into account related industries, may reach US\$7.8 billion. To this end, on June 24, a Presidential resolution was adopted on additional measures for the development of the mining and metallurgical industry and related industries. The creation of a Copper Industry Cluster and establishment of a special commission headed by the Prime Minister are determined by the resolution. Measures to implement this strategic task were outlined at the meeting.

Abu Dhabi to ban unvaccinated people

ABU DHABI: The UAE capital Abu Dhabi said it will allow only vaccinated people in many public places, including schools, malls and restaurants, from August 20 in an effort to combat the coronavirus pandemic. The city announced a colour-coded system on its health app which details testing and vaccination history earlier this month. Those with "green" status are allowed more freedom of movement in Abu Dhabi, with a list of restricted places such as public beaches already announced earlier this month. "The Abu Dhabi Emergency, Crisis and Disasters Committee has approved allowing entry into a number of public places for only those vaccinated, effective from Friday, August 20," it said Monday. Unvaccinated people will be kept out of shopping malls, restaurants, retail stores, gyms, recreational facilities and sporting activities, hotel resorts, museums and parks, as well as universities, schools and nurseries. But they will still be allowed into smaller supermarkets and pharmacies. "The decision is in line with the emirate's strategy to combat the Covid-19 pandemic," the committee said, adding new measures do not apply to children under 15 and those exempt from vaccination - including pregnant women and individuals with medical conditions. - APP

South Africa's Zuma gets 15-month jail term

JOHANNESBURG: In a historic ruling, South Africa's top court on Tuesday handed the country's former president, Jacob Zuma, a 15-month jail term for "egregious" contempt of court after he refused to appear before graft investigators. Zuma was told to turn himself in within five days, failing which police will be ordered to arrest him and take him to jail. The ruling sets a precedent for South Africa - and a benchmark for the continent - by jailing a former head of state for failing to respond to a corruption probe. "Mr. Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma is guilty of the crime of contempt of court," Constitutional Court judge Sisi Khampepe said. "No person is above the law," she said and made reference to Zuma's "egregious affront on judicial integrity, the rule of law and the Constitution". - APP



KARACHI: Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo, President FPCCI, presenting crest to Dr. June Kuncoro Hadiningrat, Consul General of Indonesia. Main Anjum Nisar, former President FPCCI, Abid Nisar, are also seen in the picture. - DNA

Pakistan, Indonesia FTA to be a great initiative: envoy

Speaking at an inaugural meeting of Pakistan-Indonesia Business Council at Federation House, Indonesian Consul General emphasised the need to explore enormous possibilities that exist to cooperate and scale-up the cooperation in the IT sector

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Indonesian Consul General, Dr June Kuncoro Hadiningrat has said that FTA between Pakistan and Indonesia will certainly be a great initiative and advised the businessmen and traders that they should enlist the products that have the potential to increase the bilateral trade. Speaking at an inaugural meeting of Pakistan-Indonesia Business Council (PIBC) at Federation House (FPCCI), Indonesian Consul

General emphasised the need to explore enormous possibilities that exist to cooperate and scale-up the cooperation in the IT sector. Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo, President FPCCI, Mian Anjum Nisar, former President FPCCI, Abid Nisar, Chairman Pakistan-Indonesia Business Council of FPCCI, Mrs. Nazli Abid, Former VP, FPCCI, Shabbir Mansha, PIBC Director, Sohail Nisar and others were also present in the meeting. Mian Nasir Hayat Maggo said that he would love to see an FTA materialised between the two countries sooner than later. He sug-

gested that the two countries have much in common and that makes them important for each other in terms of trade and economic cooperation. FPCCI Chief also expressed his willingness to initiate cooperation at a greater and more tangible level with Indonesian chambers. He said that eventually business communities of the two countries would have to come closer and broaden the trade and economic relations to make them sustainable and mutually-beneficial. Abid Nisar, Chairman Pakistan-Indonesia Business Council of FPCCI, thanked Dr June

Kuncoro Hadiningrat for visiting FPCCI and gracing the first meeting of the council. Abid Nisar highlighted the core issues that should be addressed for actualisation of the potential of exponential growth in bilateral trade and also pointed out a few priority sectors to start with; based on his vast experience. FPCCI is looking forward to an FTA with Indonesia; which will result in better and broader business, industrial, and trade relations between the two countries and will also benefit the national economies of the brotherly countries.

GERD: Pak envoy emphasizes to implement DoP

DNA

ADDIS ABABA: Ambassador Shozab Abbas delivered a lecture on "Indus Basin Treaty - 1960 vs Declaration of Principles (DoP), 2015 - A Comparative Analysis of Emerging Cooperation on Blue Nile River" in Addis Ababa University. The lecture was attended by the faculty members of various departments, PhD scholars, students of Addis Ababa University, senior government officials and members of Ethiopian think tanks. The Ambassador highlighted main features, historical evolution of Indus Basin Treaty - 1960 and existing cooperation on transboundary hydrological resources between Pakistan and India. In parallel, he expounded

the important features of Declaration of Principles (DoP) signed in 2015 between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt on the construction and operation of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) - second largest hydroelectric dam of Africa on Nile River. A detailed analysis of both Agreements was presented to identify positive synergies to underscore the importance of basin-wide hydrological principles for fostering cooperation between upper and lower riparian states of Blue Nile River. Ambassador Shozab Abbas, in his maiden lecture, invited the attention of regional scholars and policymakers to timely address the emerging issue of Blue Nile water through peaceful and cooperative means.

Kyrgyz, Tajik leaders meet for first time since border conflict

DNA

DUSHANBE: Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan leaders met for the first time in Tajik's capital, Dushanbe, on Tuesday following conflicts at the border. Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov visited Dushanbe and was received with an official ceremony at the Palace of Nations before meeting his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon, according to a statement by Kyrgyzstan's Presidential Press Center. The two men had a one-on-one meeting, and Rahmon said Tajikistan was ready to discuss the status and expectations of relations. Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan are in a multilateral and constructive interaction, he added. Japarov thanked Rahmon for his invitation and expressed sadness for the "tragic" incidents in late April. He said



history would record the dates with sorrow as it was a historic test. He underlined that the two countries have always maintained neighborly and friendly relations and said neither should ever allow the recurrence of armed conflicts. Violence erupted April 28 between Tajikistan

and Kyrgyzstan centered on control of a local water distribution network, according to Kyrgyz media. Surveillance equipment was installed by Tajik officials at the Golovnoi water distribution center, which Kyrgyzstan said is located in an area where sovereignty is yet to be

defined, said Radio Free Europe news website. Clashes erupted with the intervention of border troops from the two countries and soldiers were sent to the region with armored vehicles. Tensions continued, however, with residents throwing stones at each other.



WALES: Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, Moazzam Ahmad Khan with the RT. Hon. Simon Hart MP, Secretary of State for Wales.

HC meets Secy of State for Wales

LONDON: Pakistan High Commissioner to the UK, Moazzam Ahmad Khan held a detailed meeting with the RT. Hon. Simon Hart MP, Secretary of State for Wales, during his visit to Wales on 28 June 2021. The two sides discussed ways and means to promote trade, business and investment relations. Enhancing mutual cooperation in other important sectors including health and education, too, came under discussion. The HC also extended an invitation to the Secretary of State to lead a delegation of Welsh businessmen to Pakistan to tap into unexplored and profitable business opportunities that the country offered. - DNA

Russia tests S-400 missiles in Crimea

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: Russia has reportedly tested the readiness of its air defence systems in Crimea, an apparent show of force as Ukraine and NATO countries hold military drills in the Black Sea as part of their Sea Breeze 2021 exercise. Russia deployed about 20 warplanes and helicopters, including Su-24M bombers, as well as S-400 and Pantsir surface-to-air missile systems in the tests, Interfax reported on Tuesday, citing Russia's Black

Sea fleet. It was not clear when the tests took place. "The Black Sea Fleet is doing a number of things to monitor the actions of ships from NATO and other countries taking part in Sea Breeze 2021," the National Defence Management Centre said in a statement. Russia had called for the military exercises, which have taken place 21 times since 1997, to be cancelled and the Russian defence ministry has said it will react if necessary to ensure national security.

Australia's Perth enters lockdown

WEB DESK

PERTH: Brisbane is set to become the fourth major Australian city in lockdown, as officials told residents to stay at home for three days due to concerns about the rapid spread of the more transmissible Delta variant of COVID-19. About 10 million Australians will be in lockdown once the latest order comes into force from Tuesday evening. "These are tough decisions," Queensland state Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said. "We are having lockdowns in major cities because the overseas arrivals are bringing the virus here." "I know this is going to be tough for a lot of families. I apologise for that but I don't want to see people end up in our hospital on ventilators. That is the last thing anyone wants to see."

Brisbane, Queensland's state capital has recorded at least two new cases prompting the lockdown order. Earlier on Tuesday, residents of Perth, in Australia's west, awoke to a four-day snap lockdown starting at midnight, making it the country's third major city under stay-at-home orders as the more contagious Delta variant spreads. Just three positive cases have been diagnosed in Perth since the outbreak was detected, but local health officials have long taken a highly cautious approach to any coronavirus clusters. "We know the risk COVID presents and we know from around the world that the Delta strain is another new beast that we can't take any chances with," Western Australia state Premier Mark McGowan said in a late-night news conference Monday. More than two million people living in Perth and its surrounding areas join people in Sydney, Australia's biggest city, and in the northern city of Darwin in lockdown, with the rules applying from midnight Monday into Tuesday and lasting a minimum of four days.

Uzbekistan receives 1mn doses of vaccine

DNA

TASHKENT: Uzbekistan received another 1 million doses of ZF-UZ-VAC2001 coronavirus vaccine from China. To date, Uzbekistan has received six batches of ZF-UZ-VAC2001 vaccine, co-authored with Uzbek experts. As a result, Uzbekistan's reserves of vaccines against coronavirus reached 6.4 million doses. At the same time, 3.4 million doses of vaccines have been used for vaccination in the country. It is expected that on 30 June, another 1 million doses of ZF-UZ-VAC2001 vaccine will be delivered from China to Uzbekistan. It should be underlined that Uzbekistan also received 660,000 doses of AstraZeneca (Covishield) vaccine and 240,000 doses of Sputnik V vaccine.

Lebanon hikes fuel prices

BEIRUT: Lebanon hiked fuel prices by more than 30 percent Tuesday as it reduced subsidies that have eaten away at the central bank's foreign currency reserves amid a painful economic crisis. Petrol and diesel prices went up sharply, according to a revised price list published by the official National News Agency (NNA), in a week when a steep currency devaluation sparked angry street protests. The fuel price rises, which will sharply affect the cost of other key commodities, come as Lebanon grapples with an economic crisis branded by the World Bank as one of the world's worst since the mid-19th century. The Lebanese pound - which has been pegged at 1,507 to the US dollar since 1997 - sold for more than 17,000 to the greenback on the black market this week, a record low. Waiting in a crowd of scooters lined up for fuel, Noor al-Dean Radwan said life in Lebanon had become intolerable. - APP

Zobaida Jalal meets Pakistan-Belarus PFG

DNA

MINSK: Federal Minister for Defence Production of Pakistan, Zobaida Jalal held a detailed meeting with members of Pak-Belarus Parliamentary Friendship (Pak-Belarus PFG) at Belarus Parliament. Chairman of the standing committee on International Affairs Andrei Savinykh extended a warm welcome to the Minister and delegation, shared his perspectives on the regional situation and shared the desire for closer collaboration between the two countries. Federal Minister for Defence Production of Pakistan, Ms Zobaida Jalal highlighted on the current state of bilateral relationship and prospects for future development of cooperation in different domains. Expressing her complete satisfaction over the proceedings of her visit to Minsk in connection with MILEX exhibition, she expressed her hope that the visit will further provide fresh impetus to strengthening cooperation between the two countries and will lead to concrete results in the future.



Briefs

PAF Chief awarded Legion of Merit

DNA

ANKARA: Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, who is on a 04-day official visit to Turkey, met with the senior Military leadership of Turkey, on Tuesday. The Air Chief separately called on Minister for National Defence of Turkey Mr. Hulusi AKAR and Chief of the Turkish General Staff General Yasar Guler. During the meetings, he discussed ways to further promote Pakistan-Turkey defence ties, particularly between the two air forces through mutual experience sharing as well as relying on the respective strengths of each side. Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, also called on Commander Turkish Air Force, General Hasan KÜÇÜKAKYÜZ. Both the commanders held detailed discussion on enhancing collaboration and exchanging expertise between the air forces of the two countries to meet the challenges of the contemporary world. The discussion also included exchange & training of pilots between PAF and TurAF. Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, was also awarded Legion of Merit of Turkish Armed Forces in recognition of his outstanding services for promotion of collaboration and ties between the two air forces. General Hasan KÜÇÜKAKYÜZ, Commander Turkish Air Force, presented the medal.

Taliban vow to not attack civilians, NGOs

KABUL: The Afghan Taliban have assured the civilians and non-military foreign nationals that they will not face any "security risks" from their side as violence intensified across the war-torn country. "In continuation of past course and in view of current developments inside the country, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan [Afghan Taliban] would once again like to assure all civilian and non-military foreign nationals, diplomats, embassies and workers of humanitarian organisations that none shall face any problems or security risks on our part," the group said in a statement on Tuesday. Violence has risen sharply in Afghanistan as foreign forces work towards withdrawing by September 11 and peace talks in Qatar have failed to make significant progress. Amid the rising violence, President Ghani visited Washington last week to meet Biden, who pledged US support to Afghanistan but said Afghans must decide their own future. Taliban have launched a wave of offensives around the country, particularly in the north, outside of their southern strongholds. - APP

Turkey eases Quarantine rules for Pakistan

DNA

ANKARA: Turkish authorities have said that quarantine period for passengers arriving from Pakistan and Afghanistan has been reduced from 14 to 10 days. In a statement Embassy of Pakistan, Ankara said that as per the revised policy, passengers arriving from Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Nepal, South Africa, and Sri Lanka will continue to observe the mandatory 14-day quarantine period. The Embassy of Pakistan in Ankara has remained in touch with the relevant Turkish authorities and continues to share details of the improving COVID-19 situation in Pakistan as a result of the policies adopted by the Government of Pakistan.

Experts call for global peace, multilateralism and stability

Korean embassy facilitates seminar on "Middle Power Countries' Diplomacy on Global Issues"

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: MIKTA and South Asian Countries" The Embassy of Korea in Islamabad, Islamabad Policy Research Institute IPRI (PK) and Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security IFANS (KR) organized a seminar on "Middle Power Countries' Diplomacy on Global Issues: MIKTA and South Asian Countries" in Serena Hotel, Islamabad.

This seminar was held based on the MOU conclusion between IFANS and IPRI in 2011. The seminar explored the middle power countries' diplomacy contributing to addressing regional and global issues, rules-based global order and the role of MIKTA in a post-pandemic world. MIKTA is a forum among five countries Mexico, Indonesia, South Korea, Turkey and Australia.

The MIKTA seminar featured high-level participation including Chancellor of Korea National Diplomatic Academy Mr. Kim Joon Hyung, National Security Advisor Dr. Moeed W. Yusuf, Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs Mr. Ham Sang wook and Special Representative of the Republic of Korea for Afghanistan & Pakistan Mr. Lee Kyung-chul. A panel discussion included Ambassadors from the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Turkey and High Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Australia in Islamabad.

The panelists focused on multilateralism and supporting global peace and stability. MIKTA can be a great example for Pakistan's middle power diplomacy. The Korean Ambassador remarked "This seminar will hopefully lead to more think-tank collaboration between the two countries". The event is a testament to the significance of the policy discussions facilitated by think tanks to enhance understanding of regional and global issues and commitment to solving them especially between Korea and Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Australia Geoffrey Shaw, Ambassadors of Republic of Korea Suh Sangpyo, Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio posing for a picture on the occasion of seminar. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Secretary National Security speaking during the seminar. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Tugio speaking during seminar. - DNA

England beat Germany in RO16 fixture



DNA

LONDON: England finally defeated Germany in an international tournament, with second-half goals from Raheem Sterling and Harry Kane delivering a memorable win for the Three Lions at Wembley. The round of 16 fixture was tense and cagey as expected but Manchester

City star Sterling stepped up to the mark once again with the opener - his third goal in four games - in the 75th minute. A lovely flowing team move saw substitute Jack Grealish feed Luke Shaw down the left and he put the ball on a plate for Sterling to tap home and send 45,000 fans into utter pandemonium. Harry Kane then sealed the win with his first goal of the tournament - a superb header past Manuel Neuer from a perfect Grealish pick-out. The victory comes 25 years after England lost the Euro 96 semi-final to their long-time rivals, with today's triumph redemption of sorts for Gareth Southgate after his infamous penalty miss.

Pak-China ties time tested, ever-lasting: PM Imran

The prime minister emphatically reiterated "Whatever will happen...relationship between our two countries, no matter what pressure is put on us, is not going to change."

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Tuesday said that Pakistan and China enjoyed 'very special relationship' spanning over 70 years of friendship and nothing could change these time-tested ties.

The premier made the comments in an interview with English-language state broadcaster China Global Television Network (CGTN). When the anchorperson questioned Prime Minister Imran about the friendship between Pakistan and China in a regional context, he replied that Pakistan has

"always had a very special relationship with China". The prime minister emphatically reiterated "Whatever will happen...relationship between our two countries, no matter what pressure is put on us, is not going to change."

In the region, he said, a strange and great power rivalry took place which everybody knew. It could create problems. The US formed a regional alliance called 'Quad' including India and couple of other countries.

"So, from that point of view, Pakistan thinks that it is very unfair of the US and other western powers to put pressure on countries like Pakistan to take sides. Why should

we take sides! We should have good relationship with everyone," he maintained.

The prime minister categorically said that if pressure was put on Pakistan to change its relations or downgrade its ties with China, it would not happen. "Relationship between Pakistan and China is very deep, it's not just the governments, but it's people to people relationship," he added. The PM further said that when Pakistan had been in trouble politically or internationally, or had conflicts with its neighbour, China always stood with them. The people of China have special place in the hearts of people of Pakistani, he

said, adding "You remember friends who stand with you in all times. In good times, everyone stands with you but in difficult, tough and bad times, you remember those people who stood by you."

He said the people of Pakistan have that kind of fondness for the people of China. The PM to another question, replied that the relationship between the two countries grew stronger politically and on the international fora, Pakistan and China stood together. About China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said the CPEC, was 'the biggest thing happening in Pakistan', and where its economic future was moving.

Covid cases rise again in Europe with Delta variant

Russian and UK officials blame the Delta strain first identified in India for the vast majority of new cases

AGENCIES

PARIS: Covid-19 infections are rising again in Europe after falling for two and a half months, mainly because of the Delta variant in the UK and Russia, according to a tally Tuesday by AFP. The two countries have experienced not only the most new cases in Europe, but also the most rapid spread among those that have recorded more than 1,000 cases per day. Russia has recorded 20,400 daily cases for the last seven days, or a 25 percent increase in a week, while the United Kingdom has registered 16,400 daily infections, up 70 percent, according to the tally based on official sources. Russian and UK officials blame the Delta strain first identified in India for the vast majority of new cases. Driven by the situation in both countries, infections in Europe are rising again, now at the rate of 56,800 new cases per day - 21 percent more than a week ago. Between June 12-18, this measure had hit its lowest point across the continent since mid-September, when there were around

World passes three billion vaccine mark

MONITORING DESK

PARIS: More than three billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines have been given across the world, according to official sources. The pace of vaccination has so quickened that while it took 20 weeks to give the first billion, it only took four to give the last one thousand million. Some four of 10 of the jabs have been given in China (1.2 billion), with India (329 million) and the United States (324 million) also in the top three. But it is a trio of Middle Eastern countries that leads the way in terms of coverage (when you exclude countries with populations of less than one million), with the United Arab Emirates having given 153 doses per 100 people, ahead of Bahrain

and Israel on 124. The three have nearly fully vaccinated 60 percent of their inhabitants. Following them are Chile (118 doses per 100 people), the United Kingdom (113), Mongolia (111), Uruguay (110), Hungary (107), Qatar (107) and the US (98). These countries have fully vaccinated around half of their populations (between 46 and 54 percent). The European Union has given 357 million shots to half of its population, with some 32 percent of the population having been fully covered. Its smallest member Malta has completely covered seven out of 10 of its people; its biggest countries, Germany, France, Italy and Spain are hovering around a third fully vaccinated.

46,000 daily cases. On the other hand the virus continues its retreat in several other countries among the worst hit since the pandemic reached Europe in January 2020. Some 1,820 new daily cases have been recorded in France in the last seven days, or 23 percent fewer than the preceding week, 714 in Italy (35 percent fewer) and 650 in Germany (31 percent). The number of people dying is starting to rise again across Europe, although more slowly, with nearly 1,100 deaths recorded daily, around eight percent higher over the previous week. But these numbers are still well below those reached at the height of the pandemic when more than 5,700 were dying daily in January. Russia accounts for more than half of the new deaths recorded in Europe, with nearly 600 deaths daily on average for the last seven days - or 33 percent higher than the previous week. In the UK, there has been a near-doubling of new deaths in two weeks, from around ten daily to 17 last week. But the number is still far below levels during the peak in January when nearly 1,250 people died every day.

Pakistan-origin man stabbed in Canada

WEB DESK

SASKATOON: Just weeks after a Pakistani family was murdered in Ontario, a Muslim migrant was attacked in a Canadian province with a knife by two unidentified assailants, local media reported. In the city of Saskatoon in the Saskatchewan province, Pakistani national Muhammad Kashif was harassed and stabbed on Friday by two attackers. StarPhoenix daily reported that Kashif, 32, was assaulted while he was returning to his home in the evening, wearing traditional Muslim clothing. He said the attackers stabbed him in the back as they shouted: "Why are you wearing this dress?" "Why are you here?" and "Go back to your country. I hate Muslims." They also shouted "And why do you have this beard?" before cutting off a part of Kashif's beard. He was later stabbed in the arm and had to get 14 stitches. "A third attacker might have been waiting for the first two in a nearby green car," Kashif said. An investigation was launched into the assault.

Petrol price to increase by Rs 6

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has suggested hiking the price of petroleum products in the country from July 1, sources informed media on Tuesday. The sources said that OGRA, in its summary to the Petroleum Division, has asked to increase the price of petrol by Rs6 and Diesel by Rs3. The Petroleum Division will make a final decision after consultations with Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Hajj pilgrims urged to get second jab

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: People who have received their Hajj permits for this year's pilgrimage should visit their nearest vaccine center to receive their second jab within 48 hours of the permit being issued, the Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has said on Tuesday. Just 60,000 people will be allowed to perform Hajj as registration for it was only open to citizens and residents of the Kingdom. The ministry's portal received more than 550,000 applications before registration closed last Wednesday. Pilgrims should either be fully vaccinated, have had one dose at least 14 days before Hajj, or be vaccinated after recovering from a coronavirus infection. The ministry urged people with permits to get vaccinated, assuring them that no appointment was needed, Arab News reported.

Punjab, KP announce vacations from July 1

LAHORE: Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday announced that schools in both provinces would break for summer vacations from July 1, while the Federal Directorate of Education said summer vacations in the capital would be observed from July 18 to August 1. Punjab Minister for Education Murad Raas, in a tweet, said that the schools in the province would go on summer vacations from July 1 to August 1. "During vacations, my request to all the children and their families is to follow SOPs issued by the government," the education minister said. Similarly, KP has decided to give summer vacations from July 1-11, during which primary and higher-secondary educational institutions will remain closed. The National Command and Operations Centre, during a meeting today, reiterated that federating units have the discretion of planning their own summer holidays in their respective educational institutions. - DNA