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PM praises police, agencies on exposing Indian network

Detailed News On Page-01

NAB adapts 'Accountability for All': Chairman

Detailed News On Page-08



Kane leads England into semi-finals

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Exams not to be postponed

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood has iterated that board exams for classes nine to 12 will take place across the country as per the schedules announced by the respective boards.

Speaking to reporters in Lahore on Saturday, Mahmood recalled that last year, exams were cancelled and all students were passed. However, this year, provincial ministers and all stakeholders had decided that grading would not happen without exams, he said.

Bilawal's plane makes emergency landing

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI, : A technical fault cropping up in Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's Karachi to Islamabad flight Sunday has forced it to make an emergency landing in Multan instead from where he's embarked on to travel the remaining distance by road.

The sources have confirmed that the PPP supremo Bilawal was also accompanied by senior party leaders including Saeed Ghani and Nasir Hussain Shah. Bilawal Bhutto is scheduled to launch electioneering in AJK tomorrow, insiders said.Flanked by other PPP leaders, Bilawal stayed at the airport for a while.

Pope Francis admitted for surgery

WEB DESK

ROME: Pope Francis has been admitted to hospital in Rome for scheduled surgery to treat a colon problem. Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said there would be more information after the surgery had taken place at the Gemelli University Hospital. Earlier on Sunday, the 84-year-old Argentine Pope addressed thousands of visitors in St Peter's Square. This is the first time the pontiff has been admitted to hospital since his election in 2013. In its statement, the Vatican said he was being treated for "symptomatic diverticular stenosis" of the colon.

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India behind Johar Town bomb blast

Linkages of Johar Town Blast leads to India agency RAW: Dr Moeed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Sunday said that the Indian establishment as well as government was fully involved in nurturing and supporting terrorist networks inside Pakistan.

Addressing a news conference, along with National Security Adviser Dr Moeed Yusuf and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Inam Ghani, he said, "Unfortunately, persistent terrorist incidents were being carried out in Pakistan, which time and again proved that Indian establishment and its government were fully supporting and sponsoring the terrorist network in Pakistan."

He said that after the arrest of Indian Terrorist Kulbhushan Sudhir Jadhav by the Pakistan forces, Pakistan got strong evidences of India's involvement in terrorist activities inside Pakistan. He said, "I appreciate Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), Military Intelligence (MI) and Punjab police for arresting the terrorists involved in the Johar Town Lahore blast within a short span time."

He said that the gang active inside Pakistan was arrested and busted with close

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Taliban seizes key Afghan districts

Taliban captures districts in Badakhshan and Kandahar provinces as Afghan troops flee into neighbouring Tajikistan

NEWS DESK

KABUL: The Taliban's march through northern Afghanistan gained momentum overnight with the capture of several districts from fleeing Afghan forces, several hundred of whom fled across the border into Tajikistan, officials said. More than 300 Afghan military personnel crossed from Afghanistan's Badakhshan province as Taliban fighters advanced towards the border, Tajikistan's State Committee for National Security said in a statement on Sunday. The Afghan troops crossed over

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PM discusses Afghan issue with Raisi

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday expressed concern at the worsening security situation in Afghanistan and cautioned that the latest developments could lead to serious repercussions for both Pakistan and Iran, resulting in an influx of refugees towards the bordering areas of the two countries.

The prime minister strongly underscored the imperative of a negotiated political solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. The prime minister called President-elect of Iran Seyed Ebrahim Raisi to congratulate him on his victory in the



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Italian visa scam: where the buck would stop?

Ansar Mahmood Bhatti



The Portuguese embassy staff in 2005 tried to hush-up the matter and did not report it to the headquarters for several weeks

THE Italian embassy visa scam that was unfolded recently has shaken the entire European system especially the Schengen visa regime. Stealing of over 1,000 visa stickers ostensibly is not an ordinary affair. The incident has put

the entire EU system in the dock. Since Schengen visa allows people to gatecrash into any member country without any check, therefore the member states are rightly worried about the possible misuse. Norway and Switzerland are not EU members but they are very much part of Schengen visa regime therefore they also have every reason to worry about this because a sizeable majority of Pakistanis is living in these countries, especially Norway that houses the largest migrant population from Pakistan.

When you have somebody in the member countries to take care of you then it becomes quite easy to disappear in those countries. The Italian authorities, according to available information, have already started investigating the matter. As per reports, the theft did not take place in few months. It was a continuous process going on since long. The matter came to fore when some months ago the embassy had a new ambassador and the deputy. Sources believe the new embassy bosses decided to unfold the matter instead to sliding it under the carpet. Further investigations are going on and a breakthrough is expected soon as the preliminary reports have identified the responsible persons including few Pakistani influential people.

There have been many other cases of theft of Schengen visas from various European embassies. In 1998 as many as 28 Schengen visas were stolen from the Portugal embassy in Islamabad. The thieves had also killed the security guard deputed on the duty. The Portuguese embassy was located at Margalla Road, at that time. It was the pre-9/11 era

therefore embassies were not maintaining huge security outside and even inside the embassies, as we can see nowadays. During those days even there was no diplomatic enclave. It used to be an open area where public transport was running everywhere. The fencing started long after the 9/11 incident took place. But, interestingly the second theft also took place in the Portugal embassy when in 2005 over 35 entry visas were stolen. This time it happened during the heightened security both within and without the mission.

Portugal's foreign minister at that time had said it had opened an urgent inquiry into the reported theft of 35 entry visas for passports from its embassy in Islamabad. The ministry had also informed its remaining partners in the European Union as well as Pakistani authorities of the theft, as it was done in the case of Italian visa theft. The Portuguese embassy staff in 2005 tried to hush-up the matter and did not report it to the headquarters for several weeks, but when the matter was highlighted in the press then, headquarters was taken on board. It appears as if the same thing happened in the Italian issue.

In the recent past, the Bosnian press wrote mind-boggling stories about a huge visa scam in Bosnian embassy in Islamabad. According to the Bosnian press as many as 3,000 visas were issued to mostly 'fake' applicants – a charge the Bosnian embassy officials have denied vehemently. This was the second major visa scam of Bosnian embassy. The first incident happened about 10 years ago when the then ambassador was called back for allegedly

issuing visas to fake applicants. Upon this happening, when I asked the then ambassador as to how it happened, he replied that he was trapped. A so-called pseudo journalist first approached him for interviews. He even offered him money to organize his national day receptions. He put him on the title page of the publication more than once. Then after a few days he came to his office with a list of so-called business delegation of a dozen people asking for visas for them. The ambassador said he issued visas and that delegation never came back. According to him the members of the delegation might have slipped to nearby European countries. I had penned down a series of articles in the past unmasking various mafias in Islamabad who first get close to the diplomats, invest in them and then use them for their nasty businesses. I will soon reproduce those articles for those who have just arrived in Islamabad. It will indeed help them keep a vigil against all such imposters; most of them are still around.

I had written that here in Pakistan a new mafia seems to have made inroads into our polity that may aptly be called "The Islo mafia". This unscrupulous business mafia, mostly comprising businessmen, business women, so-called media practitioners, real estate agents etc, is out to trap unwary diplomats. And then use their privileged positions for various purposes – acquiring visas being at the top of the list. This mafia adopts various innovative ways to trap their unsuspecting targets.

To be continued.....



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhary Fawad Hussain alongwith Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Security Division and Strategic Policy Planning Dr. Moeed W. Yusuf and Inspector General of Police Punjab Inam Ghani briefs the media persons at the PM Secretariat. – DNA

People had enough to eat in old Pakistan: Shehbaz

Says govt has failed to provide relief to masses; vows to continue struggle

BUREAU REPORT

SWAT: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif has said 'Old Pakistan' was better than 'PTI's New Pakistan' as the people had enough to eat in the past. Addressing the PDM power show in Swat Sunday, Shehbaz Sharif said the looting spree was on for the last three years of the incumbent government. "He (Prime Minister ImranKhan) is sitting in the palace of Bani Gala and does not know what's going on in Quetta, Swat and others parts of the country. He does not care for the poor



SWAT: PML N President Shehbaz Sharif addressing a rally in Swat. – DNA

problems," said Shehbaz. He said this is not Pakistan for which our forefathers gave a lot of sacrifices. He said the country

was facing the highest inflation of its history. He said the PTI had wasted

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Time for Imran to go packing: Fazl

DNA

SWAT: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said that Prime Minister Imran Khan is an unnecessary part of the country's politics, the time has come for him to leave. Addressing a rally in Swat, he said that the enthusiasm of the people had not diminished and they were still enthusiastic. Such slavery cannot be imposed on free people.

More doses of Chinese Sinopharm arrive

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A Sinopharm vaccine consignment carrying 700,000 doses from China has Sunday arrived in Islamabad making into a series of these shipments as Pakistan purchases them in a bid to inoculate masses. A PIA airplane has landed in Islamabad and the airport administration has handed it to the airline personnel so it can be stored in the PIA warehouse. These doses were bought from the Chinese company while another 600,000 doses will reach Islamabad 7 pm.

Positivity above 2% for fifth consecutive day

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Alarm bells have started ringing for Pakistan as the country, for the fifth consecutive day, has reported a coronavirus positivity ratio of over 2%. The uptick in the coronavirus cases arrives a few days after the country reported a decline in the number of cases on a daily basis, following which the National Command and Operation Center's (NCOC) allowed relaxations in business timings and other measures. The NCOC's daily report issued Sunday morning stated that as many as 29 more people lost their lives to COVID-19. The national death tally since the pandemic started has increased to 22,379. Currently, the positivity ratio stands at 2.57. This is the fourth day that more than a 1,000 new cases were reported and the fifth consecutive day with a positivity rate over 2%.

PM Imran to visit Gwadar today

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday will pay a day-long visit to Gwadar to review progress on different development projects and break ground for other mega projects.

During his visit, the prime minister accompanied by members of his federal cabinet is also expected to witness the signing of a number of Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) including implementation agreement 1.2 MGD desalination plant and solar generators grant for Balochistan. According to information available, the Prime Minister Imran Khan would be briefed on the ongoing development projects in the area where Prime Minister Imran Khan is also expected to interact with the authorities concerned and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) workforce.

Briefs

CM KP terms PDM's public gathering as flopped show

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has termed the public gathering of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) in Swat as a complete flopped show and said that deaf ear to PDM call clearly reflects their confidence in the policies of the incumbent government.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, the Chief Minister said that worst political opponents of the past who always blamed each other for plundering the resources of the country, have now united just to save themselves from ruthless accountability being carried by the incumbent government. He added that lack of public participation in the public meeting was clear message for PDM that not only Swat, rather the people across the province have outrightly rejected unjustified movement against the government. Mahmood Khan stated that like first phase, the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa once again rejected the anti-government movement of PDM. He said that the opposition alliance has already met its fate much earlier when two of its major component parties parted their ways from it. The Chief Minister said that PDM was an alliance of failed, rejected and corrupt politicians, who were trying to malign the government to avoid ruthless accountability. — APP

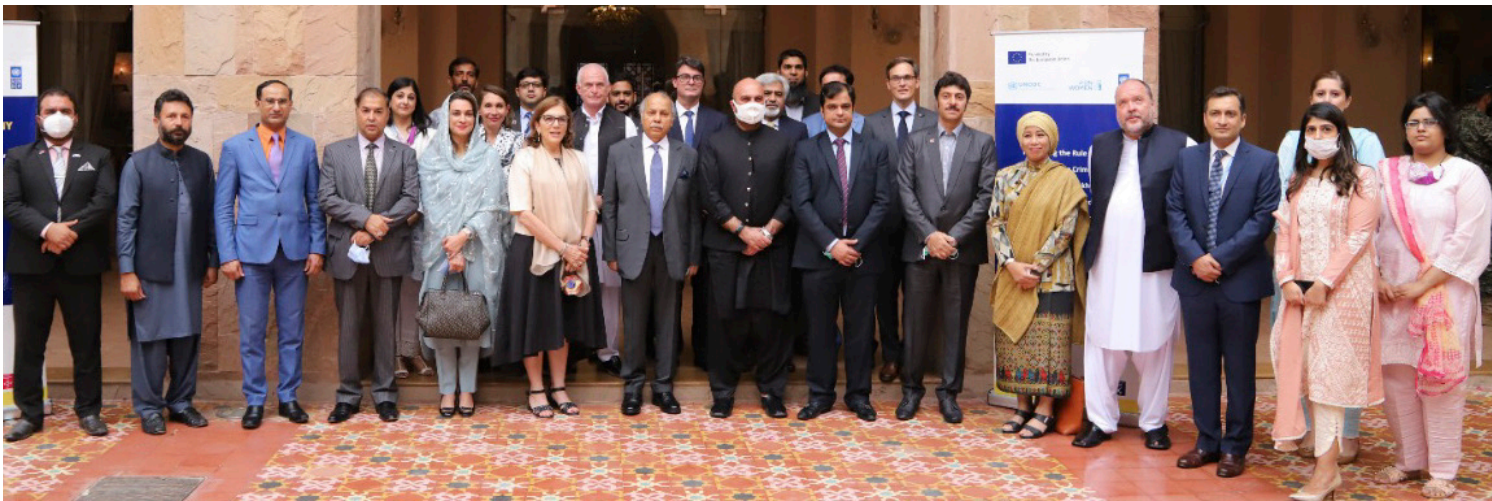
Minister for timely completion of projects

PESHAWAR: Provincial Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Parliamentary Affairs Akbar Ayub Khan on Sunday directed that all government departments should co-operate with each other for timely completion of developmental projects. He made these directions while addressing a joint meeting of the local heads of WSSC Mardan, TMA Mardan and Communications Department at the LG Secretariat Peshawar. The meeting took stock of the hygiene, sanitation and development schemes process in the area. The pace of work on the projects was also reviewed and necessary decisions were taken. Akbar Ayub Khan said co-ordination among the heads and officials of all departments was essential to ensure quality and timely completion of development schemes. He said sustainable development in the city or region would not be possible if the confidence of the people would not be restored. He said Mardan is the second largest populated city in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, adding, the development and beauty of this big city is equally indispensable. On the occasion, all the concerned officials assured full cooperation of each other in the implementation of the directives of the provincial minister and quality completion of the projects of public interest. — APP

SHOs reshuffled in four police stations

FAISALABAD: City Police Officer (CPO) Captain (Retd) Sohail Ahmad Chaudhry has reshuffled Station House Officers (SHOs) in four police stations of Faisalabad. A police spokesman said on Sunday that Sub-Inspector Khalid Mehmood was transferred from Sandil Bar police station and appointed as SHO Lundianwala police station, while Sub-Inspector Asif Nawab was transferred from Kotwali police station and appointed as SHO Sandil Bar police station. Similarly, Sub-Inspector Khalid Mehmood Kalyar was transferred from Police Lines and appointed as SHO Kotwali police station, whereas Sub-Inspector Ali Imran Chaudhry was transferred from Police Lines and appointed as SHO Jhang Bazaar. Meanwhile, Inspector Amir Waheed, SHO Jhang Bazaar police station, was punished on misconduct and transferred to the Police Lines, added the spokesman. — APP

EU launches a new Rule of Law programme in KP, Balouchistan



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Today, the European Union and its partners launched a programme that aims to promote the rule of law and enhance the criminal justice system in Pakistan, with a specific focus on the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan. Anchored in the vision that an enhanced and reformed justice sector is the only sustainable solution for addressing critical and systematic weaknesses in justice delivery, the programme spans from 2021 till 2025, and is financed with EUR20 million. Jointly implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the programme aims to support reform processes to ensure delivery of people-centered justice, enhance access to justice for all, particularly women and less

privileged/marginalized groups; and improve service delivery of the security sector in line with constitutional safeguards and international standards. The project will provide technical assistance to legal reforms and the Rule of Law roadmaps in KP and Balochistan. Special focus will be set on access to justice through free legal aid and alternative dispute resolution, as well as legal literacy for citizens. On the institutional side, the project will assist in upgrading facilities and processes to enhance citizen friendly service delivery. The launch event was held in a socially distanced setting, with many participants and key stakeholders attending virtually. Honourable Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Gulzar Ahmed graced the occasion as Chief Guest, along with Her Excellency Ms. Androulla Kaminara, EU Ambassador to Pakistan and Representatives of the three UN Agencies. Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Gulzar Ahmed thanked the EU

and UN agencies for their support and expressed his confidence in the programme. "I am certain that together, we will be able to enhance access to justice for all, particularly women, less privileged and the marginalized groups and improve service delivery. The Government of Pakistan will extend all its support to the programme, enabling it to achieve its goal." EU Ambassador to Pakistan. Ms. Androulla Kaminara thanked the UN agencies, provincial and federal government, and other important stakeholders for their support in strengthening the Rule of Law in Pakistan. "Inclusive access to justice for all is an important prerequisite for a peaceful and just society. Today's programme builds on the long-term commitment of the EU to improving the Rule of Law and access to justice for all in Pakistan. The new program is part of the priorities of the EU-Pakistan Strategic Engagement Plan 2019 and financed under the EU Multi-Annual Indicative Program 2014-2020. Both strategic documents

support the implementation of the Vision 2025 in the focal areas: rural development, education, good governance, human rights, and Rule of Law." Spokesperson to Government of Balochistan, Mr. Liaquat Ali Shahwani, thanked the EU and UN agencies for their continued support towards the justice system in Pakistan. "The Rule of Law programme is indeed an important milestone in advancing the provision of an enabling environment, peace, and security for the citizens of Balochistan and we are most grateful for this support." Finance Minister, Government of KP, Mr. Taimur Saleem Khan Jhagra, expressed the KP Government's appreciation for the programme, calling it a significant opportunity to address the various challenges faced by the province in securing citizen rights and access to justice. "The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has prioritized access to justice and strongly believes in the principle of "Leave No One Behind" in our develop-

ment agenda as well." Speaking at the occasion, UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Knut Ostby said "I commend the European Union's ongoing strategic support for key Rule of Law, security and justice sector institutions for strengthened citizen's access to justice. UNDP's work strongly hinges upon the support that key government institutions have extended to our programmes over the years. We feel privileged and honoured by this support. As we proudly partner with our sister UN agencies for inclusive and sustainable impact, our focus will be on taking forward the key lessons learned, on efficiently utilized resources, on inclusiveness and leaving no one behind. Being here today is a demonstration of our firm belief in rule of law, right to a fair trial, equality before law, as envisioned in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan." UN Women Pakistan Country Representative Ms. Sharmela Rassool stated that, "In Pakistan, women constitute of almost 50% of the

entire population. Yet they are not represented proportionately in receiving or delivering of basic and critical services including effective service delivery in the justice sector. UN Women is committed to deepening our efforts to ensure inclusion of women in formal justice delivery mechanisms in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan to ensure their rights are safeguarded for promotion of a fair, efficient, gender-responsive and inclusive society." UNODC Pakistan Country Representative Mr. Jeremy Milsom hailed the programme as a milestone achievement and reiterated that, "UNODC is committed to working as a strategic partner to the Federal and provincial Government of Balochistan, implementing and strengthening transformative reforms across the chain of rule of law institutions towards delivery of a free and fair justice for all, including vulnerable and marginalized groups to support inclusive, just and citizen-friendly rule of law for the people."

Country's economy growing: Farrukh Habib

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib has said country's economy is growing and the total volume of exports has reached thirty one billion dollars. Talking to newsmen in Faisalabad on Sunday, Farrukh Habib said despite Covid-19, the Federal Board of Revenue has collected a record net tax of 4732 billion rupees, forty one billion rupees more than the revised target of 4691 billion rupees. The State Minister said that Pakistan has received a total sixty billion dollars in the form of remittances and revenue from exports. The State Minister said government adopted prudent policies to control COVID-19 through sincere efforts and smart lockdown. He said that efforts are underway to build multiple dams and ten big water reservoirs in the country. The Minister of State for Information said that these initiatives will not only enhance water storage capacity but also ensure provision of inexpensive electricity to the masses. The increase was due to the trust of expats in the visionary and honest leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan as they were confident that now their money



would be spent in Pakistan and no one could pilfer it and again send it back to the western countries through black-marketing or money laundering, he added. About IT exports in 2013, he said that it was only 800 million dollars which jumped to 1000 million (1 billion) dollars in 2018 and now it is 2.1 billion dollars as the PTI government realized its importance and provided conducive atmosphere through supportive measures to this important sector, he said. Continuing, Farrukh Habib said that in 2018 dollar inflow was only 50 billion which now stood at 60 billion. "It is non-debt inflow and foreign loans are not included in it. In 2018, outflow of dollar was 68 billion while our income from this head was only 50 billion dollars. Now the inflow of dollar is 60.1 billion and its outflow is 60 billion dollars", he added.

"Our economy is now stable and we are managing our maximum expenditures from our own resources, he said and added that we are forced to borrow to payback installments of the loans acquired by the previous rulers".

About the development agenda of PTI, the state minister said that Prime Minister Imran Khan intended to introduce electronic reforms but the opposition was opposing it as it would expose their poor performance. Responding to a question about recovery of 33 billion dollars from the account of Asif Ali Zardari, he said that it indicated the volume of corruption of previous rulers. He said the opposition intended that all regulatory institutions should be closed down and they may be allowed to continue their loot and plunder unabated. About the recent speech of PM Imran Khan in the National Assembly regarding the return of American army from Afghanistan, he said that Prime Minister was representing the popular sentiments of public, took a bold stance that Pakistan would become a partner in constructive pursuits but would not be a part of war. Responding to a query about food security, the state minister said the PTI government was encouraging the agriculture sector.

Action against quacks continues

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad district retained the top position at the provincial level in also month of June while taking action against anti quackery campaign and in individual performance, Deputy District Health Officers of Tehsil Jaranwala and Tandlian-

wala, Dr. Kashif Mahmood and Dr. Ali Muhammad came first and second respectively in the province. According to the rankings of the Punjab Health Care Commission, 76 inspections were carried out in Faisalabad district to check the overall quacks during which challan of 75 clinics

for hygienic treatment and absence of qualified doctors in medical store clinics, 63 clinics were sealed and cases were sent to Punjab Healthcare Commission. District Health Officer Dr. Ata ul Moen said that in individual performance, DDHO Jaranwala Tehsil challaned 20 clinics and sealed, while

DDHO Tandlianwala challaned 20 clinics and 17 clinics were sealed and secured second position. DC Muhammad Ali congratulated the District Health Authority teams on their third consecutive major victory in the anti quackery campaign and hoped to continue serving in the same spirit.

Thank You



Sarmad Ali
President / Jang Group



Nazafreen Saigol
Secretary General/Dawn Group



**For Granting APNS
Membership to**

Islamabad POST
Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Former HC Abdul Basit's book launch at IoBM



STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: A Diplomat's Diary on Pakistan-India Relations and More is not a memoir but a critical account of what happened in Pakistan-India relations during my eventful stint in New Delhi as Pakistan High Commissioner", said H.E Mr. Abdul Basit. He was speaking at his book launch that was jointly organized by the Pakistan Council on Foreign Relations (PCFR) and the Institute of Business Management (IoBM) on Saturday, July 3, 2021.

While addressing veteran diplomats and corporate executives at IoBM, H.E Mr. Basit, former High Commissioner of Pakistan to India, shared insights into the Pakistan-India relations that always attract global attention. Present on the occasion were Mr. Talib Karim, President IoBM; Mr. Shahid Amin, former Ambassador and Chairman PCFR; and Mr. Ahsan Mukhtar Zubairi, Secretary General and CEO, PCFR. The vote of thanks was delivered by former Ambassador and Vice Chairman PCFR, Mr. Jamil Ahmed Khan (Sitara-i-Imtiaz).

DC chairs quality control meeting

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: The meeting of District Quality Control Board was held with Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ali in the chair. The medical store inspection reports of Drug Inspectors were reviewed in the meeting. The total 40 cases against medical stores found involved in different violations of Drug Act were examined during the meeting and hearing of pleas of medical store owners were made in this regard. After hearing, the meeting decided to refer the cases against 20 medical stores to the Drug Court. Moreover owner of some 14 medical store was given warning and 5 cases were adjourned till next meeting due to not appearing of medical stores owners and one FIR was registered for serious violation of drug act. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the performance of the Drug Inspectors and directed them for accelerating the drive against sale and manufacturing of spurious drugs.

Briefs

Zainab Alert App helps combat child issues

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Human Rights, in collaboration with Pakistan Citizens Portal, has launched Zainab Alert App in an effort to help and protect children abuse issues, an official of MoHR said here on Sunday. Talking to APP here, he said that the basic purpose of this App was to initiate a quick response in complaint lodging. It has connected the DPOs of each district to the system and the complaint directly reaches to them. The App keeps a track of the missing child cases and all the process taking place from preliminary examination to verification, registration of FIR and investigation. He said all these efforts were under one roof so that duplication can be avoided and maximum relief can be granted/provided to the citizens.— APP

BFA to get modern scientific lab for foods

ISLAMABAD: The Balochistan Food Authority (BFA) would get modern scientific laboratory with a cost of Rs 163.789 million to verify and monitor food business in the province and to ensure provision of hygienic food items to the general public. The present government has fully activated the Balochistan Food Authority, which has made it possible to provide hygiene and quality food products across the province, an official of the Balochistan government told APP here Sunday. He said that Balochistan government has already given the approval for provision of two mobile food testing labs to the BFA in Quetta and Khuzdar for food safety and quality control. With the provision of these credible labs, the Authority would be able to check and monitor all the packed and unpacked food items besides food standard of restaurants in the respective areas, he added. The official said that the Authority would be able to make sure its formulated standards, procedures and guidelines in relation to any aspect of food including food business, food labelling and food additives to specify appropriate enforcement systems. — APP

Pandemic affected polio eradication

ISLAMABAD: In 2020, efforts to eradicate polio were affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, when almost 40 million children in Pakistan did not receive polio vaccinations between April and June when all polio campaigns were suspended. According to United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) 2020 Annual Report, said that however, vaccination campaigns resumed in the summer. The office conducted a major midterm review of the country programme and assessed progress and challenges. Together, we reflected on our results framework and the best ways to accelerate results for children. — DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Pakistan to Morocco Hamid Asghar Khan in a group photo with senior journalist after a briefing. The ambassador briefed the media people about his initiatives regarding further promotion and strengthening of bilateral relations. He also talked about various avenues of cooperation between Pakistan and certain African countries. — DNA

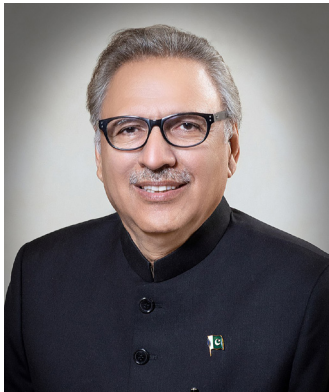
President rejects FESCO’s plea denying welfare grant

The President termed it a “very irresponsible attitude” on part of the FESCO for delaying the case of the complainant father who had been seeking due rights for his disabled child

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Sunday rejected a representation of Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) against its employee, who had been asking for a monthly welfare grant for his mentally-disabled son. The President termed it a “very irresponsible attitude” on part of the FESCO for delaying the case of the complainant father who had been seeking due rights for his disabled child. “Instead of trying to solve the issue, the matter is being delayed on this or that pretext,” the President wrote in his order and stressed that “the society,

especially the government agencies must show compassion for deprived segments of society”. Riaz Hussain, a retired employee of FESCO had applied a number of times to his department for the monthly welfare grant in respect of his mentally-disabled son, which was admissible to him, however no relief was extended to him. Feeling aggrieved, he approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib that passed the order dated 24.08.2020 stating that “the complainant was advised to provide requisite documents to the Agency for his redressal, moreover, the representative of the Agency informed that the grievance of the complainant would be redressed within 30 days



subject to provision of requisite documents”. Instead of fulfilling its obligation to provide relief to the complainant, FESCO filed a representation with the President assailing

the order of the Wafaqi Mohtasib dated 26.11.2020/24.08.2020. The President, in his decision, pointed out that the “maladministration” of FESCO had been established in view of the Agency’s undertaking to provide relief to the complainant and yet not providing redressal to the complainant. The Wafaqi Mohtasib also rejected the review petition of FESCO on the grounds that “From the scrutiny of record and discussion with both the parties, it was revealed that the complainant deserve relief as recommended by the concerned medical board, and the doctors of Punjab Government also certified that complainant’s son was suffering since birth”.

The FESCO later filed a representation with the President of Pakistan which he rejected on being “incompetent” and also time-barred. President Alvi in his written order expressing disappointment over the mishandling of the case said the “burden of the complainant’s mentally-disabled son should have been picked up easily and in a forthright manner”. He emphasized that it was an overall responsibility of the nation to be sensitive towards the sufferings of weak segments of the society. “We as a nation become weak ourselves, if we do not care for the weak within our body polity”, he wrote.

PTI committed to facilitate biz community

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Vice Chairman, Parks and Horticulture Authority, Malik Abid Hussain, on Sunday said the government of Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) was making all-out efforts to address issues faced by the businessmen community. Addressing an oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected body of Trader Service Group Tench Bhatta Rawalpindi as chief guest, the Vice-Chairman said, “We are involving the business community in various construction projects for the beautification of Rawalpindi city”. Every trader should plant at least one sapling nearby his shop or office to take part in the 10 billion Tree Tsunami campaign of Prime Minister Imran Khan, he commented. Malik Abid Hussain said it was the prime responsibility of everyone to make the environment clean.

One killed, other hurt in cross firing with police

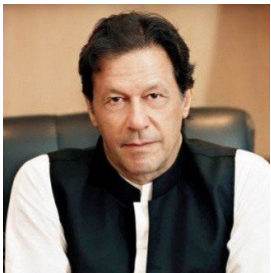
FAISAL MUNIR

ATTOCK: An alleged car lifter was killed while another was injured during shootout with police on Islamabad-Peshawar motorway (M-1) near Chach interchange in limits of Hazro Police station on Sunday. According to spokesman of Attock police Tahir Iqbal, on getting information about theft of a car from Hassanabadal, police altered the entry point of motorway. He said that the car spotted near Burhan interchange and police officials deputed there intercepted the car but the occupants opened fires on the cops deployed at the picket and spade away on motorway. He added that subsequently, Hazro police was alerted as the car occupants tried from Chach interchange, they were intercepted by Hazro police however on seeing the police party, the suspects opened indiscriminate firing at the police party which was subsequently retaliated.

PM Imran lauds PARC’s role in agriculture sector

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: During the farmers’ convention organized by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Prime Minister Imran Khan inaugurated the stalls set up by the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council for exhibition. Products and other items manufactured by PARC were displayed in the exhibition. On the occasion, the Prime Minister lauded the role of PARC in the agricultural sector. Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council Dr Azeem Khan while briefing the Prime Minister said that no attention was paid to remote and undeveloped areas before today. PARC came to the forefront, started the work to carry out value addition of products



from all the remote areas including Gilgit-Baltistan, ex-FATA, Tharparkar and others. Dr. Azeem Khan told the Prime Minister that Pakistan imports at approximately 590 million U.S dollar worth of tea annually while there is no competition for herbal teas from different parts of the country including thyme, olive, rosemary and chamomile. These are superfoods, we will take Pakistan forward by including it in tea exporting countries. While discussing about GB’s

development, the Chairman PARC said that the total area of Gilgit-Baltistan is 17.91 million acres in which the cultivated area is 214,977 acres, whereas 178,406 acres of cultivable is barren land. We are working on the value addition of all the herbs in Gilgit-Baltistan as per the vision of the present government and soon the products of these areas will not only be spread domestically but also exported. The Chairman also briefed that Hatcheries are being set up to develop trout fish and 3 million good offspring will be given to fish farmers every year. The number of trout farms here will be increased to 300. In addition, the cow in GB produces less milk. On the direction of Special Assistant, PARC is going to give 10 good breed bulls to

the people there. In NARC, sperms are being made only for Gilgit so that more milk can be obtained by improving GB’s cow breed. Discussing steps for FATA, Balochistan & Sindh with PM, the Chairman PARC expressed “we are working on fruit processing in former FATA, olive will also be cultivated there as much as possible. The cultivation of organic pulses along-with olive will be increased in Balochistan, processing / value addition of fruits and dried fruits will also be done”. Moreover, the land in the coastal areas of Balochistan and Sindh is ideal for cotton and oil palm cultivation. In these areas, 5 to 8 million acres of land is available for these two crops. By cultivation of palm oil in these areas, the import of oil will definitely be reduced.

Estd. 1860

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Ehsaas uses full budget in consecutive years

Work on the new Ehsaas survey has significantly been expedited all over the country to gather data about the socioeconomic status of households

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Since its launch on March 27, 2019, Ehsaas has fully consumed the budget allocations in last two financial years i.e. July 1, 2019- June 30, 2021. Overall, the entire Rs. 206.76 billion Ehsaas allocations for FY 2020-21 have been consumed for various social protection and poverty alleviation initiatives under Ehsaas. Similarly, Rs. 254.95 allocated for FY 2019-20 was fully disbursed and utilized in the said year. “Allocation for the Ehsaas program has been enhanced to Rs. 260 Billion for the fiscal year

2021-22”, said Dr. Sania. Hinged on more than 280 programs, initiatives and policy areas, Ehsaas aims at reducing inequality and alleviating poverty through a multi-sectoral approach. Under Ehsaas Kafaalat, more than seven million families have been enrolled till June 30, 2021 through the ongoing Ehsaas survey. Kafaalat includes monthly payments of Rs. 2,000, saving bank accounts for disadvantaged women across the country. Work on the new Ehsaas survey has significantly been expedited all over the country to gather data about the socioeconomic status of households. The survey is currently 95% percent

complete and will accomplish by July 31, 2021. Enrolment of new beneficiaries is dependent on the data from the new Ehsaas survey. Households missed in the door-to-door survey will be able to enroll themselves through Ehsaas Registration Desks that will open at Tehsil level after survey completion. Under the first phase of Ehsaas Emergency Cash in 2020, the government delivered Rs. 179.8 Billion as one-time emergency cash assistance to 14.8 million families at risk of extreme poverty. Currently, under the second phase of Ehsaas Emergency Cash, Rs.12, 000 is being provided to 12 million deserving households (including 4 million ad-

dditional deserving households). The purpose is to compensate affected households for unemployment caused by COVID-19 crises. To address stunting in children under two years of age, 50 Ehsaas Nashonuma Centres have been opened across 15 districts in the first phase of program. Besides, the primary education CCT program has brought 1.6 million primary school children into its fold from across all 154 districts of Pakistan. Children are provided conditional cash grants of Rs. 1,500 for boy child and Rs. 2,000 per quarter for girl child on attainment of 70% attendance in school.

Briefs

NAB seeks
Interpol's
help to bring
back Younus
Kidwai

DNA

RAWALPINDI: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Rawalpindi has decided to approach Interpol besides utilizing all other resources in order to bring back the alleged front man of Asif Zardari, Younus Kidwai, in fake bank accounts case.

The sources privy to the matter said that Younus Kidwai is blamed for receiving bribes and kickbacks allegedly for PPP President Asif Zardari.

The NAB report has shared that Kidwai used to launder money in the name of investments in construction projects as two stamps of fake bank accounts have also been recovered from his office.

Younus Kidwai, who has fled to Canada, according to a report is also known as Younus Memon and is declared absconder in five NAB references.

He is blamed for causing a loss of Rs1 billion to the Sindh Bank, embezzlement in amenity plots, and having a role in receiving kickbacks in place of Zardari and managing Park Lane accounts of the PPPP leader.

Surveillance
underway
to eradicate
dengue

RAWALPINDI: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) District Health Authority Dr Faiza Kanwal said that an effective micro plan had been devised to control the spread of dengue keeping in view the previous year's statistics.

The CEO told APP on Sunday that surveillance was carried out in those areas from where dengue patients were reported last year in the district. She informed that during indoor surveillance, larvae had been found at 5356 houses while during outdoor surveillance, larvae had been found at 696 sites since January 2021 and the required action had been taken there.

Dr. Faiza said that only two dengue positive cases have been reported in the district so far while the health department is on alert to eradicate the dengue besides tackling the prevailing wave of COVID-19. She added that Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to wipe out dengue virus are being implemented in letter and spirit. "Concrete efforts were in place to screen every nook and corner of the district so that dengue could not become an epidemic during this year", she said.

Dr. Faiza advised the residents to adopt precautionary measures and inform the department immediately if dengue larvae are found in their houses as the government alone cannot check the spread of dengue larvae. — APP

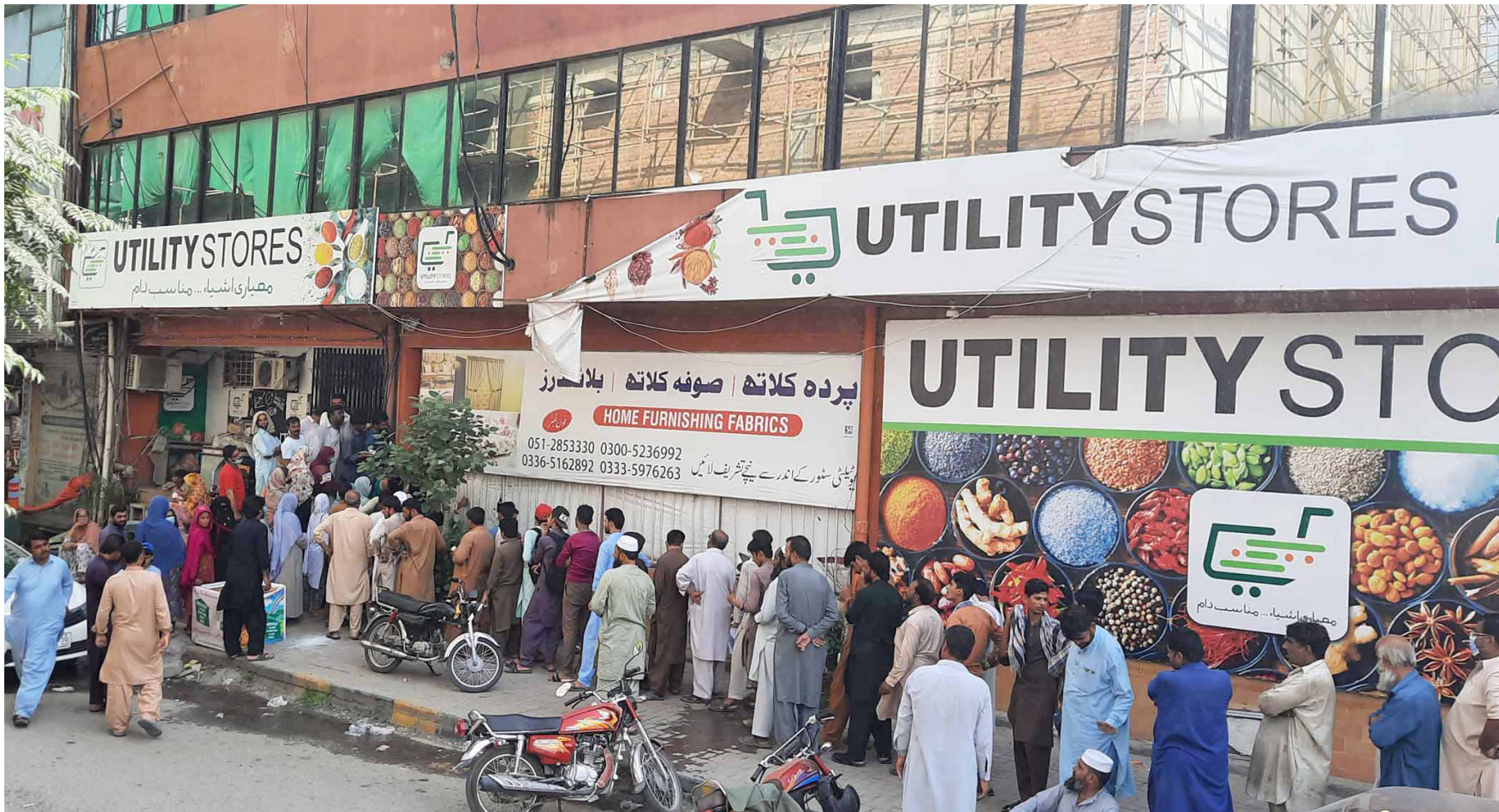
41 new
Covid cases
reported in
Rwp district

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: As many as 41 new patients were reported Covid positive during the last 24 hours in Rawalpindi district with twelve belonged to Rawal Town, eleven from Potohar town, twelve from Rawalpindi Cantt, two Taxila, three Kahutta, and one from Gujjar Khan.

Presently, 41 Coronavirus confirmed patients were admitted to various facilities of the city including 14 were admitted in Holy Family Hospital, 8 in Benazir Bhutto Hospital, 10 in Institute of Urology and 9 in Fauji Foundation Hospital, said the daily situation report issued by the District Corona Management Centre here Sunday. One patient was on a ventilator in critical condition, 7 stable and 33 were in moderate condition, the report said.

The District Health Authority updated that so far 777,918 people including 32,006 health workers and 745,912 senior citizens have jabbed themselves against the lethal coronavirus (COVID-19) across the district since the vaccination administering drive launched on March 10.



ISLAMABAD: People stand in long queue to get 'cheap' items outside a Utility Store in the Sector 9 Markaz. — DNA

ICCI calls for gender inclusive
policies to boost economic growth

He said that ICCI was working on the policy of equal wages for its male and female employees and stressed that all public and private institutions should adopt equal wage policies for both genders to promote gender equality

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) emphasized that the government should focus on gender inclusive policies and take strong measures to bring more women at workplaces in order to realize the actual economic potential of the country. He said that women were half of our total population and bringing them into the mainstream of the economy was very important to enhance their contribution in the economic development of the country. He said this while addressing as chief guest at the District Convention of Women Workers Alliance organized in collaboration with Sustainable Social Development Organization. Parliamentary Secretary Ms. Ghazala Saifi, DG Health Hassan Oroo, Executive Director Sustainable Social Development Organization Syed Kausar Abbas, Clinical Psychologist Ms. Sobia Khateeb, ASP Investigation Ms. Ayesha, ASP ITP Ms. Faryal, members of Women Workers Alliance, teachers, doctors, LHWs, lawyers, media



personnel, women workers, policymakers, entrepreneurs and experts of different fields attended the convention.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that as per World Bank's report 2019, women's participation in Pakistani workforce was just 22 percent while it was over 55 percent in most of the well-developed countries. He said that women participation in the labor force was 50

percent in Kuwait, 51 percent in Malaysia, 54 percent in Indonesia, 57 percent in Qatar and 61 percent in China. Therefore, it was very important for Pakistan to enhance women's participation in workplaces for boosting its economic growth. He said that according to an IMF report, Pakistan's GDP could be increased by up to 30 percent by empowering more women and increasing their

share in the workforce. It showed the importance of bringing women into the mainstream of the economy. He said that ICCI was working on the policy of equal wages for its male and female employees and stressed that all public and private institutions should adopt equal wage policies for both genders to promote gender equality. He said that ICCI has also taken many ini-

tiatives for the economic empowerment of women and provided facilitation & support to businesswomen and start-ups. He said that the Chamber will continue to take initiatives for bringing more women in the business field for their economic empowerment.

ICCI President said it was encouraging that Pakistan has enacted several laws to strengthen women's rights, including the National Policy for Development and Empowerment of Women, Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, and Criminal Law (Amendment) Act while there are further frameworks for women in the professional environment including the Gender Equality Policy Frameworks and Women Empowerment Packages and Initiatives. However, the government should take more policy measures to give an enhanced role to women in the national development by increasing their share in the national workforce. He said that the greater participation of women in the workforce would also bring greater diversity that would foster new ideas for production and management and boost aggregate productivity of the country.

Govt making efforts to
provide basic facilities

FAISAL MUNIR

ATTOCK: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam has said that government was making all-out efforts to ensure provision of basic facilities to the people living in rural areas and for the purpose, billions were being spent.

He said this while addressing a gathering after inaugurating gas supply to village Nawa and Dhok Jawanda. On the occasion, PTI focal person Khawar Abbas Bukhari and other notables were also present.

Malik Amin said that gas supply to these areas will not only facilitate people but will also help control pollution and deforestation. The SAPM said that more than Rs 2 billion will be spent on provision of gas facilities



to 14 villages of NA-55 Attock and 35 villages of NA-56 Attock.

He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has issued directives and now share from hydel profit of Ghazi Barotha Hydro Power Project will be given to Attock district on annual basis and said that this share will be in billions and will be a game changer for this district.

Amin Aslam said that 300 gas connections will be given to Dhok Jawanda

without any delay. He said that PTI does not believe in the politics of drains and culverts.

He said that three new universities and one mother and child hospital will be built in Attock for which funds had been allocated. Agricultural University was near to its completion and soon classes will be started for which Rs 400 million have been sanctioned, he added.

Malik Amin said, under the dynamic leadership of PM Imran Khan revolutionary steps were being taken for the prosperity of the people which include Kisan Cards and Insaf Health Cards. He assured the people that their genuine problems will be solved on priority. Focal Person PTI Attock Syed Khawar Abbas Bokhari also addressed the gathering and highlighted the achievements of the government.

CDA vows
to be more
interactive
with people

DNA

ISLAMABAD: CDA is all set to make the Organization more responsive to people and improve interactive mediums with public. In this context several initiatives are being launched in July and August 2021. Capital development authority to set up teams of citizens comprising traders, students and residents. These teams would carry out inspection of work done and report back through CDA website. These citizen volunteers will not only serve as a check on quality of work but also extend the outreach of management. A form has been developed which will be circulated and citizens will examine works according checklist. In addition to this the app "Let's fix Islamabad" will also be made functional by August 1, 2021 where people can snap and post any complaint related to Pot hole, curbstone condition, parks, streetlights.

No forced load
shedding across
country: Spokesperson

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Spokesperson Ministry of Energy on Sunday clarified that there was no forced load shedding across the country since the last 48 hours.

The spokesperson strongly refuted a news item published in a section of media on subject "8000mw-shortfall shows no signs of abating". He added that the story and figures reported were totally wrong and against the available accurate data. The spokesperson said forced load shedding has already come to an end almost 48 hours ago i.e Friday July 02, 2021, 5:00 pm onward, across the country as the power generation has increased due to increased gas supply to power plants, said a news release.

He said on July 02 (Friday), the Forced Load Management was less than 1000MW, clearly indicating there had never been 8000MW shortfall during more than last 72 hours.

The spokesperson added that instead of relying on self-accumulated data for calculating shortfall and not taking update from the Power Division, the news has miss reported the energy situation. He said due to extra-efforts even on July 03 (Saturday), 70 percent of re-gasification resumed from the Engro's Terminal which further increased to 80 percent till late night. This alone, the spokesperson added, proved that electricity shortage caused due to dry-docking was mitigated much earlier to the filling of the story. The spokesperson said all data and updates were also tweeted from verified accounts of Minister of Energy and Ministry of Energy.

It could have totally changed on the basis of the story if the data available with Power and Petroleum Divisions had been sought by the worthy correspondent.

UBG vows to utilize Pak's natural resources

Zubair Tufail said that Pakistan has the best water resources in the world and we are not making good use of these resources for producing cheap electricity by water

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Zubair Tufail, President, United Business Group Pakistan, has said that Pakistan is a rich country in all the resources provided by nature. We need to make Pakistan a prosperous and developed country by using these resources according to appropriate strategies and procedures. He expressed these views while addressing a dinner hosted by former National Assembly member Kanwar Qutbuddin in honor of Zubair Tufail President UBG and Zafar Bakhtawari Secretary

General UBG last night. He said that Pakistan has the best water resources in the world and we are not making good use of these resources for producing cheap electricity by water. We should produce electricity by water, wind and solar energy.

In his address, Zafar Bakhtawari, Secretary General of the UBG said that in our society, the businessman does not have that respect as was in the early Islamic society. Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (P.B.U.H), Hazrat Khadijatul Kubra and four Caliphs were also traders. We need to pres-



ent a positive image of the businessman in our society and bring the businessman forward in this society as a role model for the next generation which can make

Pakistan a prosperous and ideal society. Islamabad Chamber of Commerce President Sardar Yasir Ilyas has said that Pakistan can earn foreign

exchange by exporting mangoes, kinnows and other fruits. We should promote our agro technology in this regard. Pakistani embassies should hold exhibitions of mangos and kinnow all over the world.

In order to increase the production of wheat, rice, cotton, sugarcane and ghee in Pakistan, work should be done on urgent basis. He said that in the last 25 years, rich people from all over the world have invested in the UAE because there is no question asked for bringing capital to that country. UAE has become developed country because of its free cap-

ital movement policies. We should also adopt such policies to develop our country. We should give attractive incentives for the investors so that Pakistan can be made a prosperous and developed country.

Former Member National Assembly Kanwar Qutbuddin in his address said that United Business Group has elected dynamic and active leadership in the form of Zubair Tufail and Zafar Bakhtawari. It is a good initiative that will promote the unity and solidarity, which will solve the problems of business community.

PNCA music,
arts classes
to promote
music

ISLAMABAD: Director General Pakistan National Council of the Arts Dr. Fouzia Saeed on Sunday said PNCA music and arts classes were an effort to promote music of all genres and art crafts.

Talking to APP, Director General PNCA Dr Fouzia Saeed said annual music and arts classes were in full swing at PNCA under the supervision of professional musicians and artists.

She said different classes were arranged including singing, tabla, painting, calligraphy, photography, guitar, violin, rubab, keyboard, piano, flute, sitar, acting, and dance. Dr. Fouzia Saeed said any citizen could participate in these classes without any age bracket, adding that interested amateur artists should discover true potential as a musician or artist.

"We believe in giving musicians and artists the platform they need to grow and the inspiration they seek to realize their unique potential," she said.

Professional musicians and artists were conducting classes including senior Vocal/Tabla artists Ahmed Khan, Sarfaraz, Rubab player Adnan Haider, Violin expert Jahangir Sagar, Flute player Salman Adil, Sitar player Amir Hussain, Guitarist Sherry Bakhshi, Keyboard expert Yawar Hayat, Dance artist Azeem Haider, drawing and painting artist Faiza Shah, Acting Ustad Saferullah, Calligraphist Shabir Ahmed Zia and Photography expert Khalid Hussain. — APP

IRSA releases
250,800
cusecs water

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Sunday released 250,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 284,600 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1435.59 feet, which was 51.59 feet higher than its dead level 1386 feet. The water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 151,600 and 132,100 cusecs respectively.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1154.45 feet, which was 116.45 feet higher than its dead level of 1040 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 44,300 and 30,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 161,500, 142,400 and 35,000 cusecs respectively.

Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 35,400 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 19,800 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala.

Anti-begging
campaign
responsibility
of society

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Child Protection and Welfare Bureau (CP&WB), Sarah Ahmed has stressed upon the need for engaging all the stakeholders in the anti-begging drive terming it as the collective responsibility of all the concerned departments.

Talking to APP, the chairperson said that all the concerned institutions should play effective role against child begging for betterment of children.

She said the Bureau would work with all departments to prevent begging and ensure child protection, adding that all the departments should work closely with the Child Protection Bureau in this regard.

She said that the Bureau in consultation with all departments would develop a plan of action to address children's issues, adding that a child protection policy would also be formulated soon in collaboration with stakeholders. — APP

Flouting rules

IT seems as though the Punjab government has developed a liking for breaches in pre-established legislative processes. Within the last two months, five institutions have been set up through the sudden introduction of private member bills in the provincial assembly. Not only has this provoked the Higher Education Department but it has caused many officials to question the integrity of the provincial government.

The process for establishing a private university is lengthy and comprehensive because it goes through various stages of discussions and approvals at the local and federal level. This ensures that quality institutions are set up and that a strategy for frequent checks and balances is also engineered. Even after this, there is much to criticise about the state of higher education in Pakistan.

The only time private member bills are permitted is if the government is informed in advance and the law and education departments have been consulted for advice and the cabinet is taken along in confidence. Judging from the fact that the accreditation committee chairman resigned from his post and the Higher Education Minister, Raja Yassir Humanyun Sarfaraz threatened to leave as well, no regard was shown for the sanctity of legislative processes by the Punjab government.

The situation would be different if these private member bills were successful in creating educational institutes in the country. Instead, they have proved to be counterproductive as they are often put on hold on the directives of PM Imran Khan. Countless unrecognised institutions that cannot be integrated into the educational structure of the country are a result of this practice. If nothing else, the Punjab government should be wary of inconsistent and temporary initiatives that only stand to question its credibility. It must focus on pursuing change through the legal route.

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Vaccine rates

THE spread of the Covid-19 pandemic in Pakistan appears to be under control – though the infection rates are going up again – but this should not be a cause for any complacency or celebration. To date, only five percent of Pakistan's total population has received at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. For the eligible population, this ratio is around 10 percent which places Pakistan at one of the lowest ranks of countries where the pace of vaccination remains fairly sluggish. A disturbing fact is that the largest province of Pakistan which already lags behind other areas of the country in terms of health facilities, has vaccinated just three percent of its population eligible for the dose.

There have been thousands of cases in which people did not turn up for the second shot. This is happening due to multiple factors. One, the vaccination facilities are not yet available across the country in all districts. Even in urban areas people have to wait for hours at crowded vaccination centres before they get the shot. In rural areas long distances to the centres have made it hard for common people without transport to manage their vaccination.

Vaccine hesitancy is the result of unfounded propaganda which travels fast on the wings of rumours; whereas the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) has been claiming that vaccine acceptance is not a big issue. In neighbouring India that faced a much worse situation than Pakistan, at least 20 percent eligible population has benefitted from the vaccine; in Turkey this ratio is over 40 percent. Here we are not discussing the most developed countries of the world such as Israel and the UK where the ratio is over 65 percent and the US with 50 percent vaccination. All adults over 18 years of age are eligible, which makes Pakistan a country with 125 million such people. This is a big number and needs proper planning and better coordination before yet another wave becomes a serious threat.

Governance of the European Union-(Part 1)

Jean-Dominique Giuliani



Despite appearances public opinion has overwhelmingly rejected Euroscepticism. Opponents, even when successful - the 2005 referendums in France and the Netherlands - have not benefited politically and have often been rejected in turn. Brexit, its management and its aftermath have disavowed sovereignists. Nigel Farage's party, like the Alternative für Deutschland in Germany, was founded against the European Union and the euro, but is now looking for other causes, such as immigration

THE European Union has become part of the political landscape. Within the nations of the continent, integration is no longer criticised in principle, but it is so now in its conditions. The Union has established itself on paper. It must prove itself in reality. Yet its effectiveness in action is regularly challenged.

Thus, with regard to the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, the Commission has seen the main criticisms of slowness, bureaucracy and even lack of transparency focused on the European institutions, arguments which were already being levelled at it with regard to other policies such as competition or trade. This is the paradox of a European construction that is about to celebrate its 70th anniversary. It was on 18 April 1951 that the first European treaty was signed, the one establishing the European Coal and Steel Community. As it has become more and more accepted, it has been increasingly questioned. Its methods of action must adapt to a new era.

Within the Member States, the end of the 20th century was marked by vigorous institutional debates on the goals of integration. Federation, confederation, federalism or union of nation States were the concepts that for a long time opposed Eurosceptics and supporters of federalism.

Circumstances have made them obsolete in the main. Under pressure, European States have increasingly acted together to confront unprecedented crises. The emergence of new, fast-growing economic competitors has, for its part, changed the very foundations of certain policies.

The Member States have responded to these demands with new European steps forward. The public debt crisis gave rise to the embryo of a European Monetary Fund. The Common Diplomatic Service (EEAS) was created to bring national foreign policies closer together. Agencies, such as Eurojust, Eurojust and Frontex, were set up to meet new needs.

Finally, the euro has proved to be a consensual protector, with the European Central Bank deploying all its capacities and becoming the main federal economic policy tool for Europeans. Opposition to the European Union has become marginal, minority and residual. Few Europeans contest the very principle of integration and criticism now focuses on individual policies or even the absence of common policies.

Despite appearances public opinion has overwhelmingly rejected Euroscepticism. Opponents, even when successful - the 2005 referendums in France and the Netherlands - have not benefited politically and have often been rejected in turn. Brexit, its management and its aftermath have disavowed sovereignists.

Nigel Farage's party, like the Alternative für Deutschland in Germany, was founded against the European Union and the euro, but is now looking for other causes, such as immigration. Finally, the prospect of coming to power on the anti-system populist wave has calmed the anti-European ardour of extremist parties. The Italian Lega is participating in Mario Draghi's government, as is the 5 Star Movement. The French Rassemblement National accepts the euro, accepts the Schengen agreements and uses the European Court of Human Rights as a reference!

Emmanuel Macron has shown that you can win a presidential election under the European flag. Because campaigning against Europe is the assurance of closing any chance of winning an election. The European Union has become part of political normality and has imposed itself on national political worlds.

Opinion polls are more favourable to European integration including during the crisis. However, they also express high expectations, which are often reflected in negative opinions. The European dimension is demanded and hoped for, but the common institutions are also strongly criticised.

To further justify their failure to respect basic freedoms, authoritarian regimes in China, Russia or Turkey claim the relevance of their models by conducting a veritable smear campaign accusing the European Union of inefficiency. This propaganda must be taken seriously because the perception of the results of European policies has a direct influence on the citizens' feeling of belonging, or even pride of belonging to Europe. The adaptability of European policies as well as the responsiveness of the common institutions are often brought into question.

Competition, trade policy, consumer preference, lack of industrial policy - these are all issues to which the Union seems to have responded with the same arguments since its creation. The Union's traditional policies are struggling to evolve, even though the Commission has begun to review them. Much progress has been made in principle, but the implementation of European decisions remains a recurrent problem. Decision-making with 27 members has never been easy or straightforward, but it must be acknowledged that this difficulty has 'radiated' throughout the institutions.

The Council struggles to be ambitious and remains hampered by the unanimity rule. Above all, because of its essentially overly diplomatic functioning, it is burdened by a lack of trust between partners, who too often wish to focus solely on the defence of their "national interests" for reasons of domestic policy.

The Commission itself refrains from taking bold steps to avoid clashing head on with the Member States, whose administrations are responsible for the implementation of community decisions in the field. This caution reflects in its services and in the organisations which depend on it. Finally, the Parliament sometimes pursues objectives that have more to do with the balance between the political families that make it up, or even with its wish to impose itself on the other institutions. Its procedures are cumbersome and slow, both in the complex legislative process that guarantees parliamentary expression and in its relations with other institutions.

All these factors weigh on the speed of the institutions' response, to the extent that they are often interpreted as a failure, a lack of decision-making ability on the part of Europe. The Union's governance has become a recurrent problem. Subject to criticism that is sometimes inspired by foreign campaigns, and not easily understood by the uninitiated, it has become the main obstacle to Europe's development.

The European institutions have been built up gradually, through eleven treaties that have transformed and expanded their competences. They are now at the limit of their powers. From a simple "community of law", the Union has gradually become, with the agreement of the States, a common instrument of public policy, from which more and more is demanded. It has endeavoured to adapt to this, but its capacity for action remains limited by the treaties that one day will have to be updated. Everyone agrees on the difficulty of doing this, and which also is incompatible with emergency situations. The lack of a feeling of belonging to a real Union among citizens is an obstacle to many European developments and therefore to possible modifications of its treaties. To overcome this, it might therefore be

wiser to reverse the usual institutional reasoning and emphasise the perception of the effectiveness and visibility of European policies, thus opening the way for subsequent legal changes. A more pragmatic objective might be to restore confidence through showing the efficacy of European action. A more operational division of tasks would certainly prove more effective. The Union's external representation is shared between the Commission and the President of the European Council, the Treaty distinguishing between foreign policy and other policies. In reality, this division depends on the actors in office. José Manuel Barroso travelled the world, while Jean-Claude Juncker almost never went anywhere, with the exception of a successful negotiation with the American President. Just elected, Ursula von der Leyen went to the African Union headquarters with the laudable intention of marking the European priority for Africa. But the failure of her trip to Turkey on 6 April 2021 with Charles Michel shows that the Union exposes itself to risks when it is not able to ensure the unity of its external representation. Would it not be wiser for the President of the Council, assisted by the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, to take on more of a representative role, while the Commission concentrates on the Union's internal affairs? Wouldn't the Member States feel more involved in these trips made on their behalf and would the Commission have a problem with this if the High Representative is also its Vice-President, sitting in the College and therefore having its services and resources at its disposal?

Inter-institutional relations deserve a long explanation. The Parliament has gradually imposed a genuine European constitutional right outside the treaties through inter-institutional agreements negotiated with the Commission after each European election. It has thus conquered exorbitant rights over the Commissioners, such as the automatic and individual dismissal of those who no longer have its confidence. It draws some rather dramatic lessons from this in the famous 'hearings' prior to the appointment of Commissioners, which are sometimes politically motivated and often show little respect for the rights of the persons concerned.

The "trilogues", negotiations between the Parliament, the Council and the Commission, deserve some in-depth consideration. Rather than holding difficult three-way discussions, would it not be more effective for the European legislative power to agree on a text first, before deliberating with the Commission, which is the only one with the initiative to propose such a text? The Parliament should also pay more attention to its own representativeness. The Treaty stipulates that it shall propose to the Council, before each general election, a composition which takes account of the principle of degressive proportionality, i.e. proportionality tempered by the assurance that each State will send at least six Members to Parliament, and the constraint that the largest States may not designate more than ninety-six Members. However, to obtain a consensus within an assembly where the smallest are over-represented, Parliament has never had the wisdom to suggest any real increase in the representation of the large States. Its distorted representativeness leads it to adopt positions that are not in line with the majority of European citizens. Its legitimacy is also affected and contested, notably by the German Constitutional Court, and it also struggles to establish itself in the minds of Europeans.

—Courtesy Robert Schuman Foundation

What to make of the 'historic' G7 tax deal

Larry Beinhart



These findings are not unique to 2018. In 2020, according to Forbes, 55 of the Fortune 500, including Nike, FedEx, Netflix, Molson Coors, Levi Strauss and Starbucks (with a profit of \$4,774,000,000), paid no federal income tax

Earlier this month, the G7 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States) announced an "historic agreement" on international tax policies. It sets a minimum 15 percent tax rate for multinational entities. It intends to stop "the global race to the bottom" in corporate tax. Or at least, to slow it down.

Before anyone goes into "they're raising taxes" hysteria, the corporate tax rates of the G7 nations currently range from 19 percent in the UK to 32 percent in France. It's 21 percent in the US.

More significantly, this refers to "statutory" tax rates – the rate companies might pay in a world without creative accountants, expensive attorneys and lobbyists.

What do corporations actually pay in taxes? Good question. There are no good answers. Nobody knows and everybody lies.

Corporate taxes are no more public than private ones are. However, corporate statements include taxes paid and owed. At the end of 2019, the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) published a study titled Corporate Tax Avoidance in the First Year of the Trump Tax Law, providing a comprehensive overview of profitable corporations' effective tax rates in 2018. For the study, ITEP researchers examined Fortune 500 companies' financial filings and identified 379 companies that were profitable and that provided enough information to calculate effective federal income tax rates. They found that these companies paid "an average effective federal income tax rate of 11.3 percent" just a bit over half of that "statutory tax rate" of 21 percent. They also found that 91 of these companies, including Amazon, Chevron, Halliburton and IBM, did not pay any federal income tax at all. While an additional 56 companies "paid effective tax rates between 0 percent and 5 percent".

These findings are not unique to 2018. In 2020, according to Forbes, 55 of the Fortune 500, including Nike, FedEx,

Netflix, Molson Coors, Levi Strauss and Starbucks (with a profit of \$4,774,000,000), paid no federal income tax.

It is very significant that the tax breaks identified in the ITEP report "are highly concentrated among a few very large corporations". They also favour the richest individuals in the world. They're part of the rigged system that allowed Jeff Bezos to pay zero federal income taxes in 2007 and 2011, George Soros to pay none for three years in a row from 2016 to 2018 and Michael Bloomberg having a 1.30 percent true tax rate between 2014 and 2018.

So, will the G7 proposal, if it becomes an international deal, fix "effective" tax rates? It leans in that direction.

One of the big tax avoidance tricks – especially for really big companies – is to pretend that the business they're doing in a country with reasonable tax rates is actually taking place in a nation with lower than average tax rates. Imagine a product that is largely sold in countries like the US, Germany, and Japan, but the profits from this product are – using accounting tricks – moved to Ireland or Hungary.

If the G7 can bring the rest of the world into their minimum 15 percent tax system, it will begin to close the gap between the countries where goods and products are actually sold and those that advertise themselves as "hidey-holes".

Moreover, under the new G7 agreement, the "nations where the companies' products are consumed would have the right to tax 20 percent of profits above a margin of 10 percent". This could make it harder for large companies to avoid paying reasonable amounts of tax by "moving" their business to hidey-hole countries.

But large companies still have ways to avoid being affected by this provision.

For example, Amazon's profit margin was said to be 6.3 percent in 2020. That's fairly normal for "retail". (Please note, this refers to net profit margin. A ratio to revenues. Their gross profit margin, income from sales minus cost of production, is about 40 percent.) In 2020, Amazon's revenue was \$386bn, with a net income of \$21.33bn. But

with that 6.3 percent "profit margin" they'd escape the G7's provision.

The G7's proposed solution to this problem is to look at the companies' high net profit margin sectors – like Amazon's cloud computing services, up at around 30 percent – separately from the low margin retail operations. Tricky stuff indeed, but it shows awareness of the problems.

The G7's "historic agreement" on international tax policies is much more an idea than an agreement. The seven countries in the group cannot tackle this problem by themselves. The agreement needs much wider participation. The intent now is to take it to the G20. This group includes some of the world's most significant economies, such as China, India, Russia and Brazil. But in addition to reaching out, the G7 leaders also need to get this plan approved at home. Can the Biden administration, for example, get this agreement through a Republican Senate which has vowed to block anything and everything it does? The brief list above of super-billionaires not paying taxes might appear to have been a colourful detail. It's more than that. It's a statement about the contrast between making nice statements and actual conduct. Bezos, Soros and Bloomberg have all made statements in support of higher taxes on the rich and corporations. However, when it comes to action, they aggressively find ways to minimise what they pay, or preferably, avoid paying anything at all. The formula is clear: use the best accountants to navigate the laws and find the loopholes, spend lavishly on lawyers to fight to make that right, use lobbyists to write the laws in their favour and achieve non-enforcement when they're not.

The intentions of the G7 proposal are excellent. But companies, "hidey-hole" countries and the super rich will fight against these good intentions and for their profits every step of the way.

So what matters is not the intent of the G7 agreement, but its application. And that is still at least a few years in the future.

— Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Briefs

People had enough to eat in old Pakistan: Shehbaz

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billions of rupees during the construction of BRT Peshwar. "If BRT would have been constructed in my leadership, I could have made it much earlier than Lahore's," he said. "On behalf of ex-premier Nawaz Sharif and the Pakistan Democratic Movement, I promise you if we are elected, we will make KP better than Punjab. This is not just a promise, our record proved it, he stressed and added that he had been criticized by Imran Khan for giving laptops to students but now they were benefitting from those laptops. "Time is ripe to get rid of this government. If you do not oust the government with the power of your vote, then they (the PTI) will destroy the country," he further said. "Imran Khan says if the Kashmir issue is resolved, we do not need the atomic programme anymore. It's our defence," he said. The Pakistan Democratic Movement set into motion its public show of power in Swat Sunday, which is a part of a series of protest rallies against the government all across the country. PDM chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman leading a rally from Mardan arrived in Swat Sunday afternoon. He will rest for a while before proceeding to therally venue. As the leaders started to arrive at the venue, the PDM rally will be addressed by its convener JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif and others. Shehbaz Sharif, while leading a rally from Balakot, arrived at the Grassy Ground. The district administration did not allow the PDM to hold a public campaign due to Covid-19 social restrictions. Talking to a private television channel, PDM Chairman Maulana Fazl said that Swat rally was the biggest rally in the history of Pakistan and itwould leave a strong impact on the political landscape of Pakistan. According to PML-N spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb, PML-N President Shehbaz has already reached Swat. He will go to Balakot, from where he will lead a rally back to Swat. The PML-N leaders including Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Amir Muqam and Marriyum Aurangzeb are part of the delegation. The PML-N rally will march from Balakot, Malum Jabba soon from where it will reach the Grassy Ground for public meeting, Marriyum added.

RISJA celebrates sports Int'l journalism day

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: On the eve of International Sports Journalism Day, Rawalpindi – Islamabad Sports Journalists Association (RISJA) paying rich tributes to sports journalists to celebrate this day in a simple but impressive ceremony at Islamabad Tennis Complex. State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib was the chief guest while former Chief Selector Col. (R) Noshad, National Squash Player Farhan Mehboob, Cricketer Rohail Nazir, RISJA chairman Abdul Mahi Shah, President Ayaz Akbar, Secretary Arif Khan, Secretary Supreme Court Reporters Association Mohsin Ijaz and other personalities were also present on the occasion. The State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib speaking on the occasion



said that Rawalpindi Islamabad Sports Journalists Association played vital role for the promotion of sports and development of sports in Pakistan .The government will take sports towards

betterment, the role of sports reporters is very important in making stars. It is praiseworthy to see sports journalists even taking risk, reaching out to suffering athletes and trying to seek help for them. No doubt sports journalism is one of the most important parts of journalism and no one can ignore their utility in the society," he added. The Minister said that sports journalists had been given quota in the government-sponsored housing schemes. Later, Farrukh Habib presented a special shield to senior sports journalist Muhammad Fahim Anwar Khan for his 38 years of service in sports journalism. Along with cutting the cake on the occasion of International Sports Journalism Day. State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib also cut the birthday cake of RISJA senior member Abdul Qadir.

India behind...

From Page 01

coordination of Punjab police, Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and Military Intelligence. He also said that the arrest of terrorists involved in the Lahore bomb blast was successfully made due to close coordination among the police, CID, ISI and MI. "On the successful operation against terrorist, I congratulate all the agencies and police," he added. Fawad said that Pakistan had fought a war against terrorists and rendered unmatched sacrifices which were also acknowledged by the international community. He also felicitated Inspector General and his team for arresting the terrorists and added that the combine efforts had made it abundantly clear that India directly involved in the terrorist incidents.

PM praises...

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In another twitter handle, Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday urged the global community to mobilize its international institutions against India as the planning and financing of the heinous terror blast in Johar Town, Lahore had links with the Indian sponsorship terrorism against Pakistan. The prime minister also lauded the speedy investigation of Punjab police counter terrorism department, and the excellent coordination among all the civil and military intelligence agencies that led to unearthing and identifying the terrorists behind the blast and their international linkages. The prime minister posted "I instructed my team to brief nation on findings of Johar Town, Lahore blast investigation today. I appreciate the diligence & speed of Punjab Police's Counter Terrorism Dept. in unearthing the evidence & commend the excellent coordination of all our civil & mly (military) Intel (intelligence) agencies.

PM discusses...

From Page 01

presidential elections held on June 18, saying it 'was a manifestation of Iranian people's trust in his leadership, PM Office media wing said in a press release. Both sides emphasized the need to continue facilitating an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned inclusive political settlement. Prime minister Khan thanked Iran for its steadfast support for the just cause of Jammu and Kashmir. Expressing concern at the serious human rights situation in IIOJK and Palestine, the two leaders emphasized the need to resolve these long-standing disputes in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. The two leaders also expressed satisfaction at the upward trajectory of bilateral relations and agreed on further boosting existing cooperation, in particular in its economic dimension.

Army win national women handball title against Wapda

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Strong and star studded Pakistan Army won the 15th edition of National Women Handball Championship after defeating favourite Wapda by 27-24 at Kunj stadium Abbottabad. Army skipper Ayesha Dilshad showed her best skills with 17 goals to secure Army for the championship title while Nusrat Bano from Wanda scored 6 goals. During interval Wapda was leading with 13-12scores but after interval Army players including Ayesha Dilshad, Asma Altaf and Zobia Shehnaz played attacking game against defending champion to put them in pressure with closing final encounter 27-24goals. Higher Education Commission got the third place after beating Punjab by 9-3 goals.



Eight teams including champion Pakistan Army, HEC, Wapda, Punjab, KP, Balochistan, AJK and Sindh participated in the

championship. President Pakistan Handball Federation and Treasurer Pakistan Olympic Association Muhammad Shafiq was the chief guest of closing ceremony who distributed the shield and medals to participating teams.

Taliban seizes...

From Page 01

at about 6:30pm local time on Saturday. "Guided by the principles of humanism and good neighbourliness," the Tajik authorities allowed the retreating Afghan government forces to cross into Tajikistan, said the statement. Since mid-April, when US President Joe Biden announced the end to Afghanistan's "forever war", the Taliban has made strides throughout the country. But its most significant gains have been in the northern half of the country, a traditional stronghold of the US-allied strongmen who helped defeat them in 2001. The Taliban now controls roughly a third of all 421 districts and district centres in Afghanistan. Gains in northeastern Badakhshan province in recent days have mostly come to the armed group without a battle, said Mohib-ul Rahman, a provincial council member. He blamed Taliban successes on the poor morale

of troops who are mostly outnumbered and lacking supplies. "Unfortunately, the majority of the districts were left to Taliban without any fight," said Rahman. In the last three days, 10 districts fell to Taliban, eight without a fight, he said. Hundreds of Afghan soldiers, police and intelligence troops surrendered their military outposts and fled to the Badakhshan provincial capital of Faizabad, said Rahman. Even as a security meeting was being held early on Sunday to plot the strengthening of the perimeter around Faizabad, some senior provincial officials were leaving the city for the Afghan capital Kabul, he said. In late June, the Afghan government resurrected volunteer militias with a reputation of brutal violence to support the beleaguered Afghan forces but Rahman said many of the fighters in the Badakhshan districts put up only a half-hearted fight.

Lionel Messi inspires Argentina to a 3-0 win

GOIÂNIA: Lionel Messi scored a free-kick and set up two goals to inspire Argentina to a 3-0 win over Ecuador and set up a Copa America semi-final against Colombia. The 34-year-old forward provided assists for Rodrigo de Paul after 41 minutes and Lautaro Martinez late on. He then curled in a free-kick in injury time after Piero Hincapié was sent off for a foul on Angel di Maria. Last-four opponents Colombia beat Uruguay 4-2 on penalties following a goalless draw. "I've always said that individual prizes are secondary

- we're here for something else," said Messi, whose goal was his 76th for his country. "We have an objective and we're focused on that." Messi, who is a free agent after his contract with Barcelona ran out, could have given his side the lead early on but hit the post with a shot when through on goal. He added: "It was a hard match. We know how difficult an opponent they can be. The important thing is we've taken another step forward." Argentina, who have not won the Copa America since 1993, face Colombia. – APP

Euro 2020: Harry Kane leads England into semi-finals

SPORTS DESK

ROME: Harry Kane scored twice as a buoyant England cruised through to the semi-finals of Euro 2020 with a one-sided 4-0 win over Ukraine in Rome on Saturday. Kane ended a worrying international scoring drought by netting in the 2-0 last-16 defeat of Germany in midweek and he put England ahead inside four minutes on a sweaty evening in the Italian capital. Southgate's side then put



this quarter-final tie out of sight with two more goals early in the second half, one from Harry Kane before Kane netted again. Substitute Jordan Hender-

son got the fourth, and as Denmark lie in wait in the Wembley semi-final on Wednesday, England will be confident of going on to reach a first-ever European Championship final and even now claiming a first major international title since 1966. The draw here was kind for them, with Ukraine surely as weak an opponent as they could hope to face in a quarter-final, a stage at which they have lost to the likes of Italy and Portugal in recent European Championships.

Exploring the beauty of the Northern Areas

MUNAZA KAZMI

READERS must have heard the name of Hunza, as a paradise on earth, let me tell you it's more than what you are wondering. I would name it as a Hidden Treasure, The Magical, & Absolutely Incredible! Recently have come back to Islamabad from this wonderful fairy land, with suitcase full of magical moments & stories that I wish to tell the world. Moreover, it was my solo trip, which make it much more important to share, since I want to tell the communities around the world with much confidence that, it is Safe to visit Pakistan, even as a solo woman. Pakistan, a land blessed with vibrant landscapes; rivers, sands, lakes, snow-capped mountains, valleys, waterfalls, springs, glaciers and a lot more, moreover in great abundance. Hunza is one from the list. Hunza is a mountainous valley, situated in the northern part of Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan, bordering with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to the west and the Xinjiang region of China to the north-east. The valley is situated at an elevation of 2,438 meters, which make the topography and climate particularly

extreme. People of the area speak local languages such as Burushaski, Wakhi, and Shina, however, the native of the valley can speak English very well. The region has one of the highest literacy rates as compared to other similar districts in Pakistan due to the influence of His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan, whom most of the Hunzakuts follow as their spiritual leader. One my visit I found as much as girls going to schools as boys, also community is broad minded, hospitable and friendly. Likewise, you would witness women working as café owners, farmers and shop keepers as well. Much thanks to AKDN, that educated and empowered the community. I came to Hunza in the first week of March. Far before landing, I got the understanding that, what I have read about the region was nothing in front of what am watching. Snowcapped mountains, the blue sky, it's totally dreamlike. PIA landed on a beautiful tiny airport of Gilgit, it was much fun to see clear blue sky and huge rocks towering every sides of the airport. My first stay was at Gilgit Serena Hotel. An attractive and luxurious lush green hotel, encircled with huge mountains casting spell on

the viewer, with a scenic view of Rakaposhi world 6th highest peak from the Duman restaurant, and the hospitable staff. Next morning, I set for the journey with a guide to known paradise, here I would like to suggest the people who always ask questions about safety and security that, all you need is to book a reputable hotel and a travel-guide, as this will help you in knowing places and a sense of safety. Hunza is 2.5 hours away from Gilgit, the journey is as exciting, scenic and adventurous as one can imagine, and I was wondering, if the journey is that spellbinding, what about the destination. Reaching Hunza, I felt like the whole land is celebrating the Pink day! Since the roadside farms, trees and meadows, all were laden with pinkish white flowers. Before checking in to the hotel, I decided first to explore the celebrated Altit Fort that enjoy a history of 1,100 years and the surrounding 100-year-old heritage village and its civilization, that is renovated by Aga Khan Cultural Services Pakistan. It was extreme cold, which made my heads spinning, equally from the encircled road trip, thus I told my driver to take me straight to

Karimabad. I checked in to Hunza Serena Inn, immediately I was moved into the comfort of Deluxe Room, they served me with a hot cup of tea with some traditional biscuits that saved me from getting cold. The hotel offers a variety of tasty food, also you can order something that is not in the menu and it will appear in minutes. Later, the evening I spent switching off my mobile phone watching the mountains, in mountains, one feels seclude: secluded from word, from everything but the hospitable people and the love of nature. Early morning, I packed by bag to explore more of Hunza, my first stop was Baltit Fort. A fairy-tale-like fort built in the 8th Century BC on top of a hill overlooking Karimabad, is the most prominent landmarks in Hunza. Its majestic location, being surrounded by the snowy mountains, make this fort one of the most photogenic. In order to get to the fort, one will have to climb a steep road for 15 minutes through a local village before you will arrive at the fort where you will be able to get an unobstructed view of Karimabad and the valleys beyond. On a clear day, you can see Rakaposhi and Diran

peaks all the way from the fort. The local village around the fort is also worth exploring as well so be sure to spend some time and walk around the village. Later in the noon, I set off for Passu Cones & Glacier, the grandeur of Cones on very sight will enthralled your spirits. Meanwhile, on crossing Attabad Lake I become speechless by encountering the tranquility of emerald green water, with the background of huge mountains. The next spot was a sparkly frozen Passu lake, whose glittery crystals dragged me down the sloppy hill, and there I felt as a living character of The Arabian Nights: walking on water, really it felt magical, well Hunza itself is a magic. Late afternoon occurred as an adventurous journey of crossing Hussaini Bridge, known as the most dangerous bridge in the world. By now I was totally tired, however still I maneuvered myself up to a hill way for reaching Borith Lake, a gorgeous pond where you would discover a number of birds, and maybe yaks, also the locals are very hospitable, and they would love to host you. Having tea with the loving and hospitable host is all I have wanted.



Briefs

**'Combative'
Le Pen
re-elected
as head of
far-right**

PERPIGNAN: Marine Le Pen won re-election as head of France's far-right National Rally Sunday at a party congress, where she is seeking new impetus for her 2022 presidential bid after performing badly in regional polls.

The National Rally (RN), which had been tipped for strong gains in last month's regional elections, was left floundering after failing to win any of the 13 regions in mainland France.

The results raised questions about Le Pen's strategy of trying to detoxify her party's brand and position it as a more mainstream right-wing force.

But she faced no challenge for the party leadership, with her quest for a fourth term winning the backing of 98.35 percent of members in an online and postal ballot, RN announced on the second day of its congress in the southern city of Perpignan.

Addressing reporters, the 52-year-old trained lawyer said she felt "extremely combative" about her chances of winning the presidency on her third attempt.

"I have no doubts about what needs to be done for France," said Le Pen, who will use a keynote address later Sunday to rally party faithful for the 2022 campaign. — APP

**Four dead in
Cyprus' worst
forest fire in
decades**

FOREIGN DESK

VAVATSIKIA: A huge forest blaze in Cyprus has killed four people, destroyed homes and forced evacuations of villages as Greece, Israel and other countries deployed fire-fighting planes to the Mediterranean island.

The fire began Saturday afternoon and has swept through districts in the southern foothills of the Troodos mountains as the country grapples with a blistering heatwave.

"It is a tragedy," President Nicos Anastasiades said on Twitter, describing it as "the largest fire since 1974" when the island was divided after Turkey occupied its northern third.

The blaze had caused "loss of life" and destroyed property and forest lands, Anastasiades said, adding that "the government will provide immediate assistance to the victims and the families of the victims."

"We will not leave anyone abandoned in the destruction of the fire."

Firefighters were successful in bringing the main fire under control on Sunday morning, authorities said, while warning that strengthening winds could yet propel a resurgence.

Interior Minister Nicos Nouris said that four charred bodies were found outside the village of Odos in Larnaca district in what was the "most catastrophic fire since the founding of the Republic of Cyprus" in terms of material damage.

"Forensic examiners are going to the scene for identification," he told reporters on Sunday.

"All the indications support the fact that these are the four missing persons we have been searching for since yesterday," he said, adding that all four are thought to be Egyptian nationals.

**Indonesia
reports 555
new deaths**

JAKARTA: The COVID-19 cases in Indonesia rose by 27,233 within one day to 2,284,084 overall, with the death toll adding by 555 to 60,582, the Health Ministry said on Sunday.

According to the ministry, 13,127 more people were discharged from hospitals, bringing the total number of recovered patients to 1,928,274.

The virus has spread to all the country's 34 provinces. Specifically, within the past 24 hours, Jakarta recorded 10,485 new cases, West Java 4,458, Central Java 2,953, Yogyakarta 1,615 and East Java 1,468. — APP

Businessmen want cut in tax ratio on oil products

Mian Anjum Nisar calls for uninterrupted gas supply to industrial sector

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: While condemning the jump in rates of petroleum products, the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar has called for reducing tax ratio on oil products to support the trade and industry, as the government has been charging very high petroleum levy and sales tax on petroleum products. Calling for uninterrupted gas supply to the industrial sector, he urged the government to up-grade gas distribution and supply system to avoid losses.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, Mian Anjum Nisar, observed that with a view to improve the cash flow of businesses at this crucial time, the government will have to facilitate the industry through reduction in tax ratio on all items including the oil products, besides lowering the markup rate, as the country's economy is going through a challenging phase of post-Covid-19 pandemic.

He said that at a time when country's GDP ratio was very nominal amidst high cost of doing business, the industry needs maximum support and relief.

He said that the economy of Pakistan had severely affected by the Corona Virus disease (COVID-19), as the industries particularly the SMEs are striving to deal with the post-Corona economic crunch and need to get support. Instead of providing subsidies or waivers, it is unjust to overburden the industries with hike in cost of production. An increase in petroleum products costs will further weaken the economic environment which is already under threat on various fronts.

FPCCI former chief and BMP Chairman said the price of petrol was increased by Rs2 per litre and that of high-speed diesel by Rs1.44 per litre. The price of kerosene was increased by Rs3.86 per litre and that of LDO by Rs3.72 per litre, respectively.

He said that the high speed diesel is used mostly in the transport and agriculture sectors. Therefore,



any increase in its price will lead to inflationary impact. Kerosene oil price has also gone up, which is used in remote areas where liquefied petroleum gas is not available for cooking purposes. So, any increase in its price will have an impact on the life of the poor. The price of light diesel oil has also been hiked, which is used in industries.

Anjum Nisar said that oil prices and inflation are closely connected in a cause-and-effect relationship. As fuel rates move up, inflation, which is the measure of general price trends throughout

the economy, follows in the same direction upward. He said that inflation is on higher side due to the impact of government's economic policies of soaring fuel rates, enhancing power and gas tariff and depreciating the local currency.

BMP Chairman observed that business-friendly policies should be adopted as other neighboring countries of the region are giving to the industry. He said that sizeable cut in oil rates would certainly bring down the cost of doing business and our products would get their due share in the global market.

He called upon the government to address the key issues of the trade and industry, facilitate the economic growth along with improving tax revenue of the government. He said that the impact of COVID-19 has badly affected business and industrial sector, stressing the government to bring down GST in order to ease the difficulties of businesses.

He said that the move would reduce the cost of doing business, attract new investment, promote

industrialization and create new jobs. The FPCCI leader said that the government has made unprecedented increase in the ratio of tax, duty and Petroleum Levy ostensibly to earn billion of rupees in revenue.

He called for uninterrupted and low cost gas supply to the industrial sector, urging the government to up-grade transmission and distribution system to ensure continuous and smooth supply of electricity and gas. He urged the government not to tolerate any laxity towards up-gradation of gas and power transmission and distribution system, as any negligence could cause unbearable loss to the trade and industry. He said that the UFG of SNGPL reached around 11.9 percent and 16 percent of SSGC in financial year 2020-21 against the permissible limit of seven percent.

He said that gas and electricity are basic ingredients for the industrial sector and are must to keep the wheel of industry moving. He said that growth of local industry is a barometer of economy.

**UAE
criticises
OPEC+
output deal**

DUBAI: The UAE on Sunday criticised the current oil production deal among OPEC+ alliance members as "unfair", offering to extend the agreement only if its production is reviewed.

In a row that could put at risk the energy market's post-coronavirus recovery, the UAE's push to increase its production baseline is reported to have derailed last week's meeting of the alliance of oil-producing countries. The current deal "would prolong the UAE's unfair reference production baseline until December 2022, from the existing agreement end date of April 2022", the energy and infrastructure ministry said, quoted by state news agency WAM.

"The UAE is willing to extend the agreement further, if required, but requests that baseline production references be reviewed to ensure that they are fair to all parties as/when an extension is agreed to," Videoconference talks were held Friday between the 13 members of OPEC proper led by Saudi Arabia, followed by a technical meeting and discussions between the 23 members of OPEC+.

The wider grouping includes Russia, the world's second-largest oil producer. The hitch in discussions came "due to the UAE raising a last-minute objection to the Russian-Saudi Arabia deal reached earlier", according to analysts from Deutsche Bank.

"The UAE, which has raised its production capacity since 2018 when the individual baselines were set, insisted on having its baseline lifted by 0.6 million barrels per day (bpd) to 3.8 million bpd, thereby allowing them a unilateral production increase within the current quota framework," according to Ole Hansen from Saxobank.

**Malaysia
reports 6,045
COVID-19
cases**

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia reported 6,045 new COVID-19 infections, the Health Ministry said on Sunday, bringing the national total to 778,652.

Health Ministry Director-General Noor Hisham Abdullah said in a press statement that 20 of the new cases are imported and 6,025 are local transmissions.

Another 63 more deaths have been reported, bringing the death toll to 5,497. Some 5,271 patients have been released after recovery, bringing the total number of cured and discharged to 705,486 or 90.6 percent of all cases.

Of the remaining 67,669 active cases, 917 are being held in intensive care and 443 of those are in need of assisted breathing. — APP

**25 killed in
Myanmar
clashes**

YANGON: Twenty-five anti-junta fighters and civilians were killed during clashes with the military in central Myanmar, villagers said Sunday, as locals increasingly take up arms against the regime in the coup-racked country.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since a February coup that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's government, with 890 people killed in a junta crackdown on dissent, according to a local monitoring group.

In some areas civilians have formed "defence forces" to combat the State Administration Council, as the junta dubs itself, often using hunting rifles or makeshift weapons cobbled together from household items.

The central Sagaing region has been the site of multiple skirmishes between defence forces and the military, and on Friday fighting broke out in Depayin township.

Residents told AFP that military trucks entered their area and opened fire on a village near the jungle hoping to flush out members of the local defence force.

"We heard the shooting of artillery 26 times," said a villager, who added that anti-junta fighters tried to retaliate but could not fend off the attack.

"They shot everyone who they saw on the road and in the village. They did not just have one target," he said. Civilians were among the dead, he added. — APP

Governor Punjab enquires about health of Iftikhar

DNA

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Chaudhary Muhammad Sarwar Sunday called on President SAARC Chamber of commerce and Industry and Chairman United Business Group Iftikhar Ali Malik to enquire about the health.

He prayed for early recovery of his health. He said that entire nation especially whole of business community is proud of Iftikhar Ali Malik for rendering life long selfless meritorious services for the promotion of trade in the country besides safeguarding the interests of traders and corporate sector on priority. He said Iftikhar Ali Malik is national asset and unsung patriotic

hero of his community. Iftikhar Ali Malik expressed his gratitude to Governor for visiting him for enquiring his welfare which boosted his morale.

He informed the Governor that by the grace of Allah he didn't avail even a single penny perks, allowances, boarding and lodges during his tenures as Presidents Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Lahore Chamber, SAARC chamber and Director National Bank of Pakistan.

He further disclosed that his Guard Group of Industries is also running two state of the art charity hospitals in city for free specialised treatment of poor segments of the society.



ISLAMABAD: Saudi ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Maliki hosted a dinner in honor of Fawad Chaudhry, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Muhammad Hammad Azhar, Federal Minister for Energy. — DNA

Pakistan can copy China's success on zero emission: Wang

NEWS DESK

BEIJING: China has independently researched and developed green coal power including a Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) power station located in Tianjin.

As per a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Sunday, due to its difficulties, only a few western countries developed IGCC. As we are gradually completing the project, we'd love to share our research results, technologies, and devices with our iron brother," said Wang XiangPing, Vice President of Tianjin IGCC project.

Tianjin IGCC, a clean energy power generation demonstration project constructed by China HuaNeng Group (CHNG), was initiated in 2005 and put into operation on Nov 6th 2012. "IGCC is a fairly cutting-edge technology, and only a few Western countries have figured it out and kept it confidential. So CHNG has developed it independently and we already mastered the full range of technology now," Wang introduced.

Tianjin IGCC Power Station was put into operation in November 2012. With an installed capacity of 265,000 kilowatts, it is currently the most environment-friendly coal-fired power station adopting a two-stage pressurized dry coal gasifier and a batch of most advanced technologies. Through the devices and technologies, the waste gas produced by burning coal is filtered and purified into high-purity carbon dioxide, which is then captured and stored as industrial raw material.

CHNG's Tianjin IGCC project has been maturing and achieved a new stage of this technology. In 2018, the project ran for 166 consecutive days, breaking the world record, and in 2020, it was non-stop for the first time all year round.

BRI for common development and human rights protection

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a major platform for building a global community of shared future, and it is an initiative for common development and also for protecting human rights.

According to China Economic Net, this was stated in a white paper released by the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China.

The white paper titled "The Communist Party of China and Human Rights Protection - A 100-Year Quest" offers an insight into the CPC's practices and efforts in respecting and protecting human rights as the ruling party of the world's second largest economy marks its 100 anniversary.

For a hundred years, the CPC has committed itself to peaceful development and

common progress. China is firm in its international stance - to safeguard world peace and seek progress through cooperation, ensuring human rights with the benefits deriving from development, according to the white paper.

China has been an active participant in matters of international human rights, providing a Chinese contribution to global human rights governance and progress, and working with other countries to forge a global community of shared future, it added.

Belt and Road Initiative serves as one of the manifestations of China's endeavors to advancing human rights around the world. Upholding the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and pursuing open, green and clean cooperation, the Belt and Road Initiative

promotes policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity and targets high-standard, sustainable and people-centered goals. According to a World Bank study, the initiative could help lift 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty and 32 million people out of moderate poverty.

It could boost trade by 2.8 to 9.7 percent for the corridor economies, and by 1.7 to 6.2 percent for the world. Global real income could increase by 0.7 to 2.9 percent.

China is also striving to create a just and rational global environmental governance system driven by cooperation and mutual benefit, and eventually to build a community of harmony between humanity and nature, the white paper read.

Taking eco-environmental cooperation as a major element of Belt and Road co-

operation, it has launched a series of green action initiatives, and adopted such measures as green infrastructure construction, green energy, green transport and green finance, so as to deliver solid benefits to all peoples of the countries participating in the Belt and Road.

Besides, China has announced it will try to make its carbon dioxide emissions peak before 2030 and will strive to achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

Apart from the efforts in eco-environment protection, China has engaged itself actively in building a global community of health for all. It has helped recipient developing countries further improve their medical and healthcare provision, raise the standards of their disease prevention and control, and strengthen their capabilities in public health.

US\$90b exports potential in central Asia: Razak

DNA

KARACHI: Pakistan is going to sign trade agreements with Uzbekistan in July to explore over US\$90 billion exports potential in central Asia for achieving its unprecedented exports target of US\$35 billion set for the fiscal year 2021-22.

For the purpose of central Asia connectivity, Prime Minister Imran Khan is leaving for Uzbekistan on July 13, 2021. During his three-day visit (July 13 to 15), Pakistan and Uzbekistan will sign Transit and Preferential Trade Agreements said the prime minister's commerce adviser Abdul Razak Dawood in an exclusive talk with the members of the Karachi based Council of Economic and Energy Journalists (CEEJ) in Islamabad.

"Both countries have agreed to allocate dedicated space in Gwadar and Tashkent for establishing warehousing facilities to help each other in the transportation of goods to other regional countries," he said.

We have planned to transport goods under the TIR Convention because the first-ever truck from Uzbekistan reached Pakistan under the TIR Convention in 48 hours, he said.



"The government is contemplating offering loans to the transporters to update the country's dilapidated logistics network," he said.

As the tariff rationalization as an instrument of growth, the government has made products exports competitive in federal budget 2021-22 by rationalizing the tariff lines of over 4000 raw materials which is around 42 percent of total imported raw materials. The focus area for tariff rationalization was active pharmaceutical ingredient (API), poultry, engineering,

and textile. The tariff of packaging raw materials, iron and steel, agricultural products would also be rationalized in the next fiscal year, Razak informed.

Talking about the restructuring of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), he said that some 10 commercial counselors have been removed since September 2018, due to poor performance and now the officials in TDAP, who used to own country-based responsibilities, have been assigned product-based responsibilities to improve their

performances," he said.

"Under the Strategic Trade Policy Framework, the incentives are now linked with product diversification and now the exporters have to show more diversifications in their products to get more incentives from the government," Razak said. Pakistan has witnessed record-high exports of US\$25.3 billion, including \$15.5 billion in textile and \$2 billion in IT services in the fiscal year 2020-21, which were nearly \$4 billion higher than the US \$21.4 billion achieved in 2019-20.

While admitting the impact of the covid situation on the record-high exports, Razak is advocating a 'high-target, high-achievement approach', informing that the government has fixed US\$35 billion export target, including \$28 billion for goods and \$7 billion for services for the current fiscal year 2021-22.

"We know it would be a herculean task to achieve because the world is opening and everybody is going to get into the export market but everybody should move and try to make it achievable," he said.

Briefs

Emirates
suspends
Pakistan
flights

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The UAE's premier airliner Emirates announced on Saturday that it will be suspending flights from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka to Dubai till July 15, in line with its government's orders.

"In line with UAE government directives, Emirates will be suspending the carriage of passengers from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to Dubai until July 15, 2021," read a statement issued by the airline. Emirates also said it will not carry any passengers who have connected through Pakistan, Bangladesh or Sri Lanka in the last 14 days. "UAE Nationals, holders of UAE Golden Visas and members of diplomatic missions who comply with updated COVID 19 protocols are exempt and may be accepted for travel," said the statement.

Past rules
pushed
Punjab
under debt

DNA

SIALKOT: Special Assistant to Chief Minister (SACM) on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan has said that the past rulers pushed the Punjab province under Rs 1200 billion debt, but Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar was working hard to put the province on the road to prosperity. Talking to the media here on Sunday, she said that each penny of the development fund was being spent on public welfare projects according to Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision. She said that Punjab CM Usman Buzdar retrieved government lands from the land mafia and he was firmly standing against all other mafias. The SACM said that negative and baseless propaganda was being spread by the opposition about the chief minister's assets and vehicles. She said that the past rulers looted the national wealth ruthlessly and had ever done the politics of their personal gains. She said the CM Punjab was given a car by his father, saying that all assets of the chief minister were declared in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) record.

Pak Navy
establishes
free medical
camps

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy established free medical camps for the Kashmiri populace in far flung localities of Azad Jammu & Kashmir. In these medical camps over 3000 patients of Chilaabandi, Chikar and Bata Khundal Shahi were given free consultation, medicines and treatment. A dedicated team of Pakistan Navy specialised doctors comprising Medical Specialists, General Surgeons and Physicians examined the patients through latest diagnostic equipment. The patients were provided free medicines and minor surgical procedures were also carried out at the medical camps. Besides, the local community was also given medical related precautionary information related to common infections, preventive measures particular to COVID-19 pandemic, personal health, hygiene and sanitation of living areas. The Kashmiri people overwhelmingly welcomed and appreciated Pakistan Navy's initiative of establishing free medical camps in rural areas of AJ&K. They acknowledged PN's continued support for the just and legitimate struggle of Kashmiri brethren in IIOJ&K for their right of self-determination.

45 killed in Philippine
military plane crash

The four-engine plane crashed near a quarry in a lightly populated area, First Lieutenant Jerrica Angela Manongdo said

NEWS DESK

COTABATO: At least 45 people were killed and dozens injured Sunday when a Philippine military aircraft carrying troops crashed and burst into flames after missing the runway in the country's south, officials said. Nearly a hundred people, most of them recent army graduates, were on the C-130 Hercules transport plane which was trying to land on Jolo island in Sulu province around midday. Some of the soldiers were seen jumping out of the plane before it hit the ground and exploded into flames, said Major General William Gonzales, commander of the Joint Task Force-Sulu. It was one of the country's deadliest military aviation accidents. "This is a sad day but we have to remain hopeful," Gonzales said in a statement.

"We enjoin the nation to pray for those who are injured and those who have perished in this tragedy." Among the dead were 42 soldiers and three civilians, according to the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Forty-nine military personnel and four civilians were also injured and taken to hospital. Five members of the military are still missing. Photos of the crash site released by the Joint Task Force-Sulu showed



the damaged tail and the smoking wreckage of the fuselage's back section laying near coconut trees. Images published by local media outlet Pondohan TV on its Facebook page showed the wreckage engulfed in flames and a plume of thick black smoke rising above houses located near the site. Armed Forces Chief General Cirilito Sobejana said the aircraft was carrying troops from Cagayan de Oro on the southern island of Mindanao when it "missed the runway" as it

tried to land on Jolo. The plane tried to "regain power but didn't make it", he told local media. The four-engine plane crashed near a quarry in a lightly populated area, First Lieutenant Jerrica Angela Manongdo said. High school student Almar Hajiri Aki told AFP he was standing beside a road when he heard a "loud explosion" behind him. "I thought our house was hit," said the 21-year-old, who rushed with his neighbours to help pull soldiers from the wreckage.

Western Mindanao Command chief Lieutenant General Corletan Vinluan told agency the aircraft overshot the landing strip and broke into two, according to initial reports. Air force spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Maynard Mariano said the cause of the crash would be investigated, while armed forces spokesman Major General Edgard Arevalo told DZBB radio that it was being treated as an accident rather than an attack.

Pakistan
condoles with
Philippines

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday expressed deepest condolences at the loss of precious lives in the C130 crash in Jolo Sea, Southern Philippines. In a condolence message today, the Foreign Office spokesperson said, "Our thoughts and prayers are with families of the victims, the government and the people of the Philippines." He said that Pakistan wishes a quick recovery to those injured in the plane crash. Nearly a hundred people, most of them recent army graduates, were on the C-130 Hercules transport plane which was trying to land on Jolo island in Sulu province around midday.

Most of the passengers had recently graduated from basic military training and were being deployed to the restive island as part of a joint task force fighting terrorism in the Muslim-majority region. They were supposed to report for duty on Sunday, Gonzales said.

Vaccination
mandatory
at cattle
markets

ZUBAIR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday declared Covid-19 vaccination mandatory for all staff and traders at cattle markets in instructions issued by the body for the upcoming Eidul Azha holiday. The NCOC also urged the administration to provide hand sanitisers, masks and rapid antigen testing services on entry to the markets. It added that cattle markets must be set up outside cities and subject to compliance with Covid-19 standard operating procedures. The instructions said there was a "ban on buying and selling of animals inside the city". Separately, the NCOC statement also gave updates on Pakistan's inoculation campaign and said that more than 16.7 million vaccine doses had been administered. It added that "more than 830,000 vaccine [doses] were administered in June." It said that a team led by the director general of the NCOC also visited Gilgit-Baltistan to review the overall coronavirus situation and vaccination progress in the region. The delegation inspected vaccination centres in Gilgit, Shigar and Hunza and assured locals that the NCOC had decided to fully vaccinate the registered populations.

PPP using
resources
for vested
interest:
Kanwal

DNA

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNA Kanwal Shauzab on Sunday said that Pakistan People Party (PPP) utilized all resources for vested interest in the province of Sindh. Talking to private news channel, she said that PPP did not spend allocated budget for the welfare of the people and their tall claims proved as against actions. She said that PTI led government won elections in Gilgit Baltistan due to its performance, and expressed her hope that her party would form government after winning of AJK elections. Through electoral reforms, she said that all the candidates would be elected after free, fair and transparent process.

U.S. Embassy
launches 2021 AWE
Program in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: U.S. Embassy Minister Counselor for Public Affairs Ray Castillo welcomed more than 70 Pakistani women entrepreneurs to celebrate the launch of the first-ever Academy of Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) program in Pakistan. This U.S. Department of State program supports women worldwide in building their own enterprises. Its launch in Pakistan is part of an ongoing effort to empower Pakistani women to realize their economic potential and create conditions for increased stability, security, and prosperity for all Pakistanis. Pakistan's participation will build on ongoing support for women leaders and

raise the profile of local start-ups. Mr. Castillo lauded the accomplishments of young Pakistani businesswomen and spoke about the determination that all entrepreneurs need to succeed: "As your skills and confidence grow throughout this program, it is my hope that you can build your businesses based not on the views of nay-sayers, but on a well-grounded belief in yourself and belief in your abilities to adapt to changes in the market." With mentoring and guidance from established Pakistani entrepreneurs, AWE program participants will undertake a three-month, rigorous course of online study using the DreamBuilder platform developed by ASU.



ISLAMABAD: A view of lightning over the skies during rain that experienced the Capital. -- APP

FM regrets int'l community's
inaction against India

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Sunday once again condemned India's involvement in terrorist activities across Pakistan and said that had the international community taken timely notice of Pakistan's concerns, Lahore's Johar Town blast would have not taken place and innocent

lives would not have been lost. Qureshi's response came after intelligence gathered proved that the mastermind behind the Lahore blast was an Indian citizen, having clear links with his country's spy agency, RAW. Speaking to private news channel, the foreign minister said that he had earlier held a press conference alongside Adviser to the Prime Minister on National

Security Moeed Yusuf to express Pakistan's concerns against India's involvement in destroying the peace in Pakistan, not only through the provision of arms but also through the financing and training of terrorists. He said that India has also used Afghan soil to launch attacks in Pakistan from time to time. "We have said it before too, and now India's involvement in the Lahore blast

has strengthened our suspicions and have proved that whatever concerned we had [about India] were true," he said. "We still have concrete evidence that India is involved in terror financing." Qureshi went on to say that given the clear-cut evidence of India's involvement in terror financing, it is the duty of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to question why India is backing terrorist activities in Pakistan.

NAB to weed out corruption by
'Accountability for All'

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Justice @ Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB has said that corruption breeds poverty, undermines social and economic development of the country. NAB being the focal agency of Pakistan under United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is determined to weed out this scourge of corruption and to make Pakistan Corruption free by adopting "Accountability for All" policy. NAB being the apex anti-corruption agency and mandated to eliminate corruption, corrupt practices, is operating through a three pronged strategy of Awareness, Prevention and Enforcement. In order to eradicate this evil from society, it has consistently engaged all stakeholders and is incessantly combating this national menace with unflinching resolve through its multi-pronged strategy, which has started yielding remarkable results. In addition, NAB has played a role of torch bearer for other anti-corruption organizations by putting a maximum limit of 10 months for expeditious disposal of - white-collar mega corruption cases. In order to discourage money laun-



dering; it has established "Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML & CFT) Cell". This shows the Bureau's commitment and compliance towards the resolution of the international community. NAB is also the founding Chairman of the SAARC Anti-Corruption Forum and is a role model for SAARC countries. It is also pointed out that due to its strong resolve against corruption, the Bureau's endeavors have been appreciated and endorsed by different reputed national and international organizations like PILDAT, Mishal Pakistan, Transparency International, World Economic Forum that testifies people's confidence and trust upon NAB's performance. Similarly, having confidence in the impressive performance of NAB, China has

also signed a MoU with NAB to oversee CPEC projects being undertaken in Pakistan. He said that under Section-33 of NAO, 1999, NAB is mandated for awareness and prevention. Under NAB's Awareness and Prevention Strategy, NAB has engaged different Governmental, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society, and other segments of society to join hands with NAB's awareness and prevention drive to create awareness among the people, especially the youth, Universities/Colleges and schools students. In this regard a MoU with HEC has also been signed by NAB to create awareness among students against corruption as youth is considered a cutting edge in this fight. Due to this effective three pronged anti-corruption strategy, NAB since its inception, NAB has recovered an amount of Rs. 814 billion directly and indirectly while in the year 2020, it has recovered Rs. 323 billion directly and indirectly as per law. Beside this, currently 1273 references are under process in Accountability Courts. In addition, NAB's conviction ratio is about 66 percent, which is one of the best conviction ratios as compared to other sister organizations.

Estd. 1860

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